

A place to call home – QDN’s housing vision and principles

QDN’s interest in housing & actions to date

QDN members have identified housing as the number one challenge facing people with disability across the state. Our members want 2016 to be the year of “housing solutions”, with government, public, private and community stakeholders working together to achieve inclusive, accessible and affordable housing for Queenslanders with disability – a place truly to call home. As such, over the next few months QDN wants to work with other government and community stakeholders to explore solutions to members’ key housing issues.

To facilitate this work, QDN has developed four key housing principles which reflect our collective vision for housing for Queenslanders with disability, going forward. The vision and principles build on previous housing policy work that QDN has done and are informed by, and complement, a range of initiatives other stakeholders are also currently undertaking in this area.

The vision and principles were developed at a QDN members’ forum convened on 3 December, 2015, International Day of People with Disability. At this forum 21 QDN members nominated to become QDN Housing Champions who take the lead in promoting QDN’s housing platform to key stakeholders to bring about change.

QDN’s housing vision

QDN believes people with disability have the same right as other citizens to have housing options and choices available to them that are inclusive, accessible, safe and affordable.

The vision reinforces that the living situations of people with disability should be similar to those on offer to the general community. QDN believes people with disability have the right to establish homes that are their own private spaces and reflective their individual personal tastes and choices that embody a place to call home.

To make the vision a reality QDN has developed four key principles, detailed below, to guide the provision of housing across the public and private sectors, going forward.

Housing Principles

QDN’s four Housing Principles are based on international human rights conventions and treaties to which Australia is a signatory, the National Disability Strategy and the core National Disability Insurance Scheme principles of choice, control and economic and social participation. They cover rights, choice, inclusion and control.

Rights: People with disability have the right to access quality housing and are assisted to exercise their rights when needed.

Choice: People with disability choose where, how and with whom they live.

Inclusion: People with disability access appropriate housing which enhances independence and social and economic participation in family and community life.

Control: Management of housing is kept separate from the provision of support.

Applying the principles to the four key housing areas

QDN has started examining what “a home” would look like when applying the 4 principles to the planning, design and construction of social, marginalised, private rental and home owner housing. Over the next few months we will continue to work with our QDN Housing Champions, allies and government and community stakeholders to progress this work.

- Social housing (public, community and social enterprise housing)
- Marginalised Housing (group homes, supported accommodation facilities, long stay health facilities, aged care facilities and institutionalised housing)
- Private housing – rental
- Private housing - home owner/ builder

Where to from here?

QDN calls upon government, private and community sector housing stakeholders to support our vision and 4 principles and to work with us to guide positive housing solutions for people with disability so Queenslanders with disability have rights, choice and control in regard to their housing futures.

Post the Griffith Housing Symposium QDN and our 21 Housing Champions will continue to progress work around this important topic. We ask stakeholders to work collaboratively with us so we can shift the focus from housing discussions to housing solutions.

**Queenslanders with Disability Network,
10 February, 2016.**