



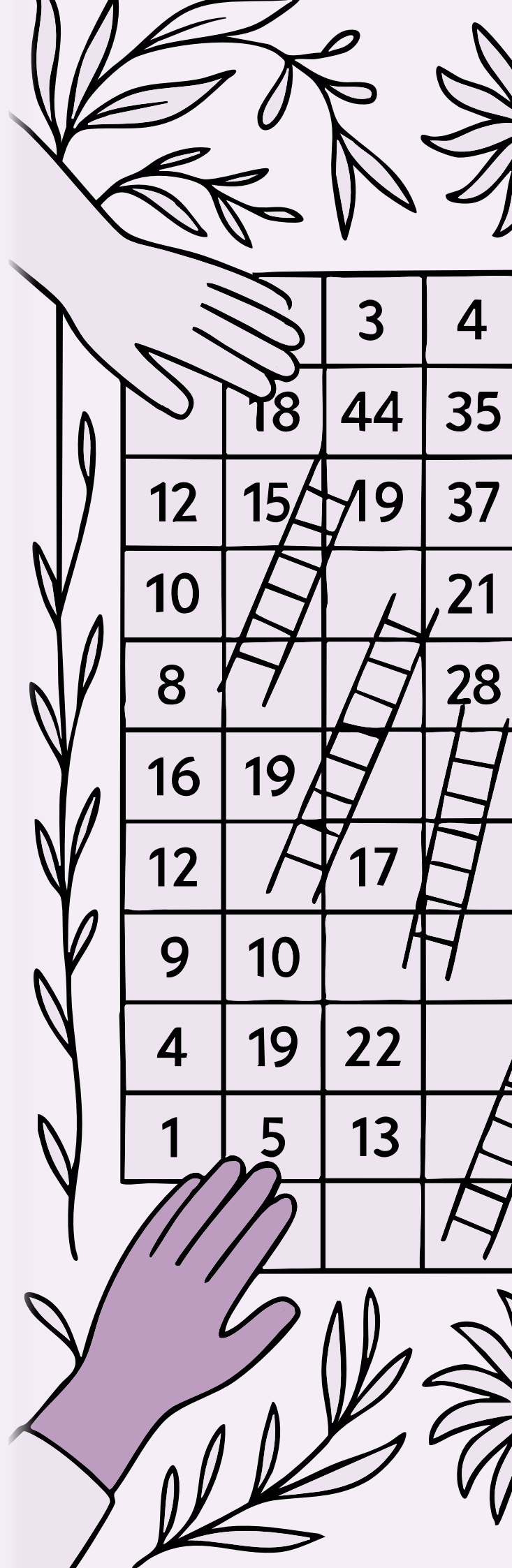
17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FORUM  
ON WOMEN & HOMELESSNESS

# ALL LADDERS, NO SNAKES

*Transforming intergenerational  
disadvantage into multi-  
generational opportunity*

- 🕒 Thursday 7 August 2025  
9 AM – 1.30 PM
- 📍 Gardens Theatre,  
QUT Gardens Point Campus

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### Homelessness isn't just a moment of crisis.

For many women and families, it's a cycle. One that can trap generations in disadvantage, trauma and instability. It shouldn't be a game of chance, media soundbites or political point-scoring. Every family deserves the opportunity to climb towards a brighter future, and avoid the potential slides into deeper disadvantage.

With **"All Ladders, No Snakes"** as our theme, this year's 17th Annual Women and Homelessness Forum focuses on breaking the cycle of intergenerational homelessness. Together with leaders from across the housing, education and social services sectors – and with the voices of women with lived experience front and centre – we'll explore how to dismantle systemic barriers and build lasting, multi-generational opportunities.

We'll unpack the real power of early intervention, the role of trauma-informed care, and the critical link between secure housing, education and employment. Most importantly, we'll spotlight how tailored, wraparound support can help women rewrite not just their own stories, but the future stories of their children.

*With homelessness rates in Queensland sitting 22% above the national average, the time for action is now.*

**"All Ladders, No Snakes"** doesn't just reference the treasured children's game of Snakes and Ladders – it's our collective pledge to replace systemic barriers with rungs of opportunity, ensuring every family climbs toward a future of choice, hope and opportunity.

The 2025 Forum on Women and Homelessness is proudly supported by



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*We know lasting change happens when we work together.*

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# ALL LADDERS, NO SNAKES

TEA, COFFEE AND NETWORKING

8.15 – 9.00 AM

## Welcome and Opening

### Welcome and housekeeping

9.00 AM

*Rachel Mealey, ABC Journalist & Presenter*

### Welcome to Country

*Aunty Deb Sandy*

### Address

*Victoria Parker, CEO, The Lady Musgrave Trust*

## READING

## Lived Experience: Through Their Eyes

9.20 AM

A powerful opening reading from a young woman with lived experience of intergenerational disadvantage and the transformative role of housing and support. She will share her experiences as a child, mother and family member who is committed to stopping the cycle of disadvantage.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

## All Ladders, No Snakes: The System, The Struggle, The Solution

9.30 AM

**Intergenerational disadvantage isn't accidental. It's the result of systemic failures that trap families in cycles of trauma and housing insecurity.**

This panel will unpack how those "snakes" take hold – and spotlight the "ladders" that help women and children climb out. From housing-first approaches to trauma-informed, two-generation support models, we'll explore practical, proven strategies that disrupt adversity and change life trajectories.

### Facilitated by:

*Aimee McVeigh, CEO, QCOSS*

### Panelists:

- *Cindy Barden, Founder, Lil Bug Love*
- *Fiona Caniglia, CEO, Q Shelter*
- *Dr Michael Fotheringham, Managing Director, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)*
- *Sue Pope, CEO, Common Ground*

## PANEL DISCUSSION

# The Transformative Power of Home

10.15 AM

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

**A home is more than a roof over your head. It's the first rung on the ladder to stability, safety and opportunity.**

This session will explore how secure, affordable housing, combined with trauma-informed, wraparound support, can break the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage. Through lived experience, frontline insights and research, we'll unpack how the right environment helps families build lasting change.

### Facilitated by:

*Lou Baker, Senior Manager, Young Women, Families and Safe Relationships, Brisbane Youth Service*

### Panelists:

- *Tamika Bennett, Youth Advocate, Youth Advocacy Centre*
- *Kim McAlonan, Acting Area Manager – Cairns Housing Service Centre, Department of Housing and Public Works*
- *Laura Mahoney, Acting CEO, Launch Housing Victoria*
- *Victoria Parker, CEO, The Lady Musgrave Trust*

## MORNING TEA

10.45 AM

## PANEL DISCUSSION

# A Future Built on Hope: Education as an Early Intervention

11.15 AM

**Education is one of the most powerful ladders out of disadvantage – especially when it starts early and meets families where they are.**

This session will explore how schools, early learning centres and community hubs can act as safe havens and springboards for women and children facing adversity.

Through trauma-informed practice and real-world examples from Logan, Ipswich and specialist homelessness services, we'll unpack how early and sustained intervention can break the cycle of inherited disadvantage and build pathways to hope, connection and opportunity.

### Facilitated by:

*Dr Lyra L'Estrange, Senior Lecturer, QUT School of Education*

### Panelists:

- *Luke Baker, Manager, FamilyLinQ*
- *Carolyn Curry, Wellspring Children and Families Hub Coordinator, Micah Projects*
- *Corinne Harper, Young Families Connect Program Manager, Ipswich State High School*
- *Stephanie Blunt, Head of Wellbeing, Y School*
- *Caitlyn Wheatley, Youth Worker, Y School*

## PRESENTATION

# Climbing Together: State-by-State Insights and Innovations for Women's Housing

11.50 AM

**Women's homelessness looks different in every state, but the gendered drivers behind it are consistent and urgent.**

This session will unpack new national research from Australians Investing In Women (AIIW), exploring the specific needs, gaps and solutions identified during their recent cross-country consultation tour.

We'll highlight the power of gender-informed housing models, including Viv's Place – Australia's first permanent supportive housing project for women and children escaping family violence – and the Cornelia Program, which provides safe accommodation for pregnant women experiencing homelessness.

Expect practical, evidence-based insights on why targeted investment matters now more than ever.

### Facilitated by:

*Rachel Mealey, ABC Journalist & Presenter*

### Speakers:

- *Laura Mahoney, Acting CEO, Launch Housing Victoria*
- *Dr Kate Raynor, Director, Centre for Equitable Housing, Per Capita Victoria*

## PANEL DISCUSSION

# What's the Size and Shape of Your Ladder?

12.30 PM

**What does success really look like for women with lived experience, service providers and funders?**

This session will unpack how we measure impact at every level, from individual goals to system-wide outcomes. We'll explore how to track meaningful, long-term change, collect and use longitudinal data, and create flexible success measures that reflect different pathways and personal definitions of progress.

Together, we'll consider what an industry-wide success framework could look like, and how we can build ladders that are strong, scalable and built for lasting impact

### Facilitated by:

*Julie Saunders, CEO, Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) Queensland*

### Presenters:

- *Tamika Bennett, Youth Advocate, Youth Advocacy Centre*
- *Katie McDonald, Evaluation, Implementation and Innovation Manager, YFS*
- *Corin Moffatt, Co-CEO, Foyer Foundation*
- *Rebecca Roberts, Lead Partner, Strategy and Business Design, Deloitte Queensland*
- *Paulina Tapia, Coordinator, Brisbane Zero*

## Closing

*Rachel Mealey, ABC Journalist & Presenter*

1.10 PM



# Thank You

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