



RTA supports homeless Queenslanders through Lady Bowen Trust grant

4 August 2011

The Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA) has provided a capital grant of \$1 million to the Lady Bowen Trust to assist with housing support for homeless people.

The Lady Bowen Trust was established in 2006 by the Queensland Government with joint capital funding of \$1.5 million each from the then Department of Housing and the RTA. The trust works with charitable organisations, providing funds for practical and tailored support for Queenslanders experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

RTA General Manager Fergus Smith said, "This additional capital funding will generate income for the trust, providing long lasting support for some of the most vulnerable people in Queensland's residential accommodation sector."

Lady Bowen Trust Board of Advice Chair Darryl Seccombe OAM said the funds from the RTA will assist the trust to significantly expand its activities.

"It is wonderful that the RTA has announced this generous capital grant to the Lady Bowen Trust during National Homeless Persons' Week when as a community we recognise that there is significant work still to be done to ensure every Queenslander has safe, secure accommodation," Mr Seccombe said.

"This generous contribution from the RTA will enable the Lady Bowen Trust to expand its support in the future and help more people throughout Queensland to achieve sustainable housing."

Funds granted by the Lady Bowen Trust have assisted families and individuals by addressing individual circumstances and the barriers preventing them from achieving sustainable housing.

Lady Bowen Trust funds have assisted organisations throughout Queensland, including the Australian Red Cross, Brisbane Youth Service, Lifeline Community Care and Mission Australia's Roma House.

- ends -



RTA background information:

The Residential Tenancies Authority is a state government statutory body that makes a positive difference to Queensland's residential rental sector.

The RTA provides tenancy information, bond management, dispute resolution, investigation, policy and education services.

Lady Bowen Trust background information:

- The Lady Bowen Trust is an independent charity dedicated to assisting Queenslanders who are homeless and who have complex individual needs to achieve stable and secure housing.
- The trust aims to help those who are experiencing chronic homelessness to achieve genuine, positive and lasting outcomes through targeted financial support.
- The Trust operates independently of government, with the Public Trustee of Queensland acting as Trustee.
- A voluntary Board of Advice provides counsel to the Trustee and reports on performance.

Examples of the use of Lady Bowen Trust funds include:

- a young homeless family had been living in very over-crowded conditions, couch-surfing between friends and relatives. Assistance from the Lady Bowen Trust enabled them to move into accommodation and live independently as a family for the first time.
- a family experiencing ongoing homelessness in a regional centre. Lady Bowen Trust funds assisted the family to return "home" where they have access to extended family support and accommodation.
- a person who recently lost employment due to sickness and was facing homelessness was granted Lady Bowen Trust funds, used to support a plan to save the tenancy.
- a person who had significant mental health issues and was isolated from family and community support systems was granted funds, used to save his tenancy and link him with appropriate supports.

Lady Bowen Trust contact: Darryl Seccombe OAM 3252 2433

RTA Media contact: 3046 5121 / 3046 5656