



Building Better Homes

A National Building Code
for All Australians

Queenslanders lose if liveable housing standards are undermined

October 18, 2024

Queenslanders will be worse off if politicians buckle under construction industry pressure to water down or abandon commitments to make new housing accessible for people for disability and older Australians, the Building Better Homes campaign said today.

The Building Better Homes campaign – a coalition of peak bodies and organisations working to ensure the mandatory accessibility standards in the 2022 National Building Code are properly implemented in every state and territory – is calling on the Miles Government and Liberal National Party to maintain and strengthen Queensland’s adoption of the Livable Housing Design Standards.

The Head of Policy and Communications at the Summer Foundation, Jessica Walker, said the Queensland Government had enacted the standards a year ago but had since introduced a series of exemptions and delayed some aspects of the rollout.

“We know that governments are under huge pressure from the building industry to abandon these common sense commitments, despite the fact modelling has shown that accessibility by design makes economic sense,” she said.

"These standards are not a lot to ask — they simply require developers to include things like a step free shower and level entry to the home."

The Australian Building Codes Board estimates the additional cost to implement the minimum accessible design standards is between \$2,900 and \$4,400 per home, depending on the type of dwelling. This is significantly less than the cost of modifying a home for accessibility after construction.

“The Miles Government has shown leadership in adopting and commencing the rollout of the Livable Housing Design Standards,” Ms Walker said.

“If re-elected, we encourage the Miles Government to implement the standards without exemptions, and to effectively monitor and publicly report on their implementation.

“We also call on the LNP to make its position on the continued adoption and proper implementation of the standards clear before the state election on 26 October.”

Ms Walker said that failing to increase accessible housing stock would continue to force people into specialist disability housing or aged care rather than a home of their own.

“Capitulating to building industry pressure to water down the state’s commitments would represent an absolute failure of the government’s responsibility to cater to the needs of ageing Queenslanders and people with disability,” she said.

“Forcing people into specialist disability housing or aged care can greatly impact their quality of life, and also increases cost pressures on the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the aged care system.

“Queenslanders deserve to live and age in place with their families and communities and full adoption of the standards is the key to making that happen.”

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