

Rein to launch homeless initiative

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THERESE Rein will launch a new housing and homelessness organisation in Brisbane today.

The prime minister's wife is patron of the Australian Common Ground Alliance, which seeks to end long-term and cyclical homelessness.

Common Ground Queensland will provide a solution to end homelessness for the most vulnerable and chronically homeless in Queensland, organisers say.

"On any night in inner city Brisbane 2070 people experience homelessness," a spokeswoman for the Common Ground Alliance said.

"This includes 288 people sleeping rough, 1325 people in boarding houses, 190 people in crisis accommodation and 267 staying with friends or family.

"Recent census data indicates an alarming 60 per cent increase in people sleeping rough in inner city Brisbane," the spokeswoman said.

"Common Ground Queensland's vision is to complement existing services by working in partnership with community, government, business and philanthropy to create permanent homes integrated with support for individuals and families who are homeless in Queensland."

Ms Rein will be joined by federal Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek and Queensland's Minister for Communities Karen Struthers at the launch.

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