



THE CEO REPORT

BY JON O'MALLY

As we head into Easter, I hope your celebrations are filled with love, laughter and, of course, plenty of chocolate. The FCQ team has just wrapped up our Annual State Conference, held in Brisbane at the InterContinental Hotel, and we're now catching our breath after what was a very successful and memorable event.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who helped make the conference such a success.

To Rachael Taylor, Conrad Dwyer, Jill McKinlay and Isabella O'Mally – thank you for your hard work, long hours and dedication in planning and delivering such a fantastic event behind the scenes.

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A special thanks to Reece D'Alessandro, who once again did an outstanding job as MC. His professionalism and engaging delivery kept the program running smoothly and on time. Congratulations to Paul Holmes, recipient of the 2026 Jillian Fletcher Award. I'd also like to acknowledge fellow nominees Rose McGrath and Emma Annand – the work you each do is truly outstanding.

To the FCQ Committee members who supported staff during the conference, your time and effort were greatly appreciated and played an important role in making the event a success. I'd also like to give a special mention to our Chair, Rebecca Denny. We are fortunate to have such an engaging and capable leader in our sector. On a personal note, thank you for the support you continue to provide to both myself and the FCQ team.

A big thank you as well to our conference partners, particularly Westpac, our Platinum Partner. Member feedback has been very positive, and it was great to see strong engagement between exhibitors, partners and attendees throughout the event.

Many of us are feeling the pressure of heavy workloads, particularly in the current environment. Feedback from the conference highlighted how much members valued the opportunity to step away from their day-to-day work, reconnect with peers and stakeholders, and hear from presenters who continue to provide valuable insights to support our work.

FCQ will soon be sending out a survey to gather member input on the location for next year's conference. Your voice is important, so I encourage everyone to take the time to participate. Our government engagement work also continues. As mentioned at the conference, I encourage all Financial Counsellors and their agencies to connect with their local MPs and share what is happening in your communities – particularly around cost-of-living pressures, household debt and other financial challenges.

If you would like me to be involved in discussions with your local MP, please feel free to contact me on 0429 061 269 or via email at jon.omally@fcq.org.au to arrange a suitable time. In closing, it was great to see so many of you at the conference. I'm continually impressed by the warmth and support across our membership. We have a strong and growing community, and it's something we can all be proud of.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and stay safe.

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

A sincere thank you to all members who attended this year's conference in Brisbane. Your participation, engagement and ongoing support are what make these events so valuable and successful for our sector.

We would greatly appreciate your honest and constructive feedback on the conference and any training sessions you attended. Your input is essential in helping us shape the theme, content, and overall experience for future events. You should have received an email on Wednesday 1st with the SurveyMonkey links. If not please reach out to conrad.dwyer@fcq.org.au

Thank you again for your continued support and insights.

APRIL CPD TRAININGS & SECTOR MEETINGS

All registrations for trainings and meetings can be found on the FCQ Members' Portal - events Page.

Financial Rights Legal Centre: Credit Reporting Online e-learning video **CPD: 1 point Technical**

Julia Davis, Senior Policy & Communications Officer at Financial Rights Legal Centre has recorded a 30 minute [Credit Reporting video](#) designed for financial counsellors, community workers and advocates covering the basics about what a Credit Report is, what information it contains, why it is important and how best to help our clients with issues relating to their Credit Report. We have published this video on the Financial Rights' website. You can find it in [the Caseworker Resources section of our website](#).



Gender and Disaster Australia: Lessons in Disaster Training In-person Wednesday June 24 - Brisbane **CPD: 6 point Skills / Ethical**

Sharing early as this event fills up very quickly. Lessons in Disaster is a full days training that will help participants understand:

- The distinct experiences of women, men, and LGBTIQ+ people during disasters, How gender roles often expect men to protect and provide while women are expected to prioritise nurturing others at the expense of their own safety, That LGBTIQ+ people's needs are frequently overlooked in disaster situations, That applying a gendered lens at every stage of disaster leads to stronger and more inclusive communities in recovery. Tickets available from: [Lessons in Disaster Training - Brisbane June 24](#)

CBA Monthly FC Meeting **Tuesday 28th April 11:30am - 12:15pm** **CPD: 0 points**

Informal sessions to share your experience in advocating for CBA and Bankwest clients.

SECTOR VACANCIES

Financial Counsellor & Capability Worker

UnitingCare

Mackay

Full Time

We are seeking a **Financial Counsellor** to join our Financial Resilience and Wellbeing Service—a free, confidential service supporting individuals and families experiencing financial hardship, stress, anxiety, mental health challenges, and gambling harm. In this role, you will support those accessing the service to create positive and practical outcomes. The Financial Counsellor provides professional financial counselling services, assisting individuals and families experiencing financial difficulties.

[Apply here](#)

We are seeking a **Financial Capability Worker** to join our Financial Resilience and Wellbeing Service—a free, confidential service supporting individuals and families experiencing financial hardship, stress, anxiety and mental health challenges. In this role, you will support those accessing the service to create positive and practical outcomes. The **Financial Capability Worker** works with clients and the community on a one-on-one basis as well as in group settings to ease the hardship of people in financial difficulty or crisis by helping people build longer-term capability to budget and manage their money better and make informed choices.

[Apply here](#)

Financial Counsellor

Tenants QLD

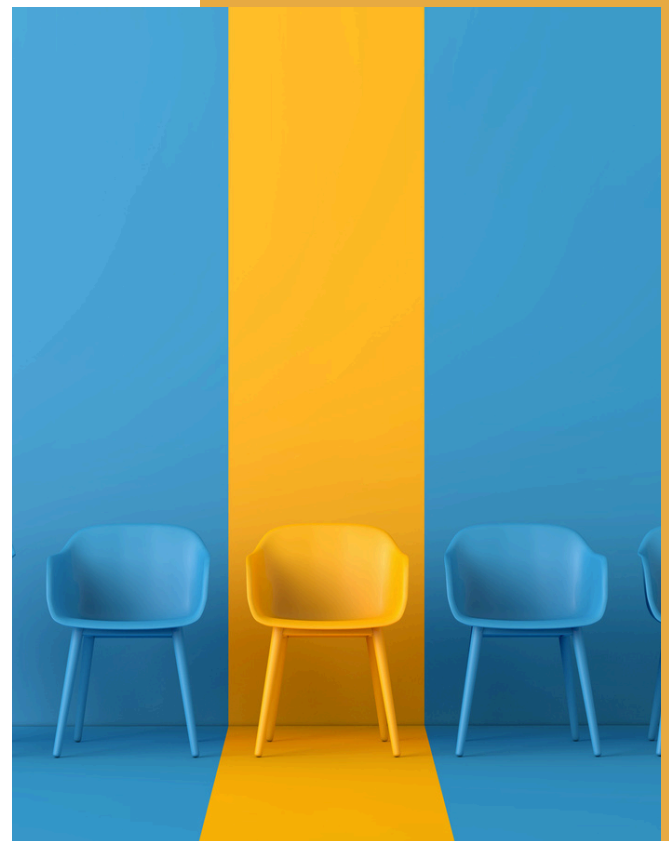
Flexible Locations

Full Time

We are looking for a competent financial counsellor, with a strong commitment to social justice, to extend our range of tenant advisory services for Queensland residential renters.

The Financial Counsellor will deliver financial counselling services from within TQ, working closely with a second Financial Counsellor. By using our established offices statewide, they will support renters facing financial challenges.

If you would like further information, please feel welcome to contact Julie Bartlett on (07) 3832 9447 or email: mail@tenantsqld.org.au using the subject line: Financial Counsellor.



Get in touch!

*Got a vacancy or role available at your agency?
Promote with FCQ through the newsletter,
members email group and our socials!*

2026 JILLIAN FLETCHER GALA DINNER

OUT OF THIS WORLD...

