



Ending homelessness
in Brisbane one person,
one family at a time

Campaign Outcomes
2014 – 2017

500 Lives 500 Homes is a community-wide collaborative effort to break the cycle of homelessness for families, young people and adults in Brisbane. The campaign began with a community-wide Registry Fortnight in March-April 2014, where we undertook to know each person who was homeless by name and survey their individual health, housing and support needs.

Findings and Outcomes for **Older People**

We surveyed

373

older people in Brisbane

We know
by name...



Who is homeless



Their health needs



Their housing needs



Their support needs

Of those
surveyed...



22% identified as female



78% identified as male



0% identified as transgender,
intersex or x



36% were sleeping rough



17% identified as Indigenous



3% identified as lesbian, gay,
bisexual or unsure



Average age was **58 years** and average time homeless was **4.7 years**

500lives500homes.org.au | micahprojects.org.au

Ph 07 3029 7000

info@micahprojects.org.au

Supported by



Health Needs Snapshot

Serious and often co-occurring health conditions add to daily challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness.

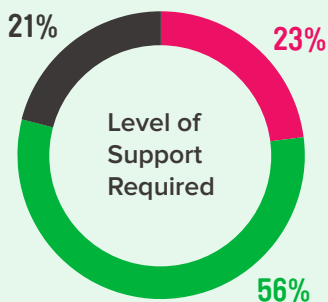


The following data was collected during the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign conducted from March 2014 – March 2017.

The data is based on 373 individuals aged 50 and over surveyed using the Vulnerability Index–Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).

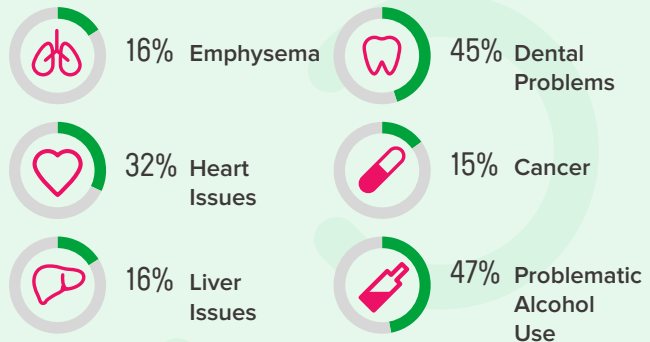
Prioritising and Matching

The VI-SPDAT enables needs to be determined using an acuity scale, which in turn enables us to appropriately triage for services that match those needs.

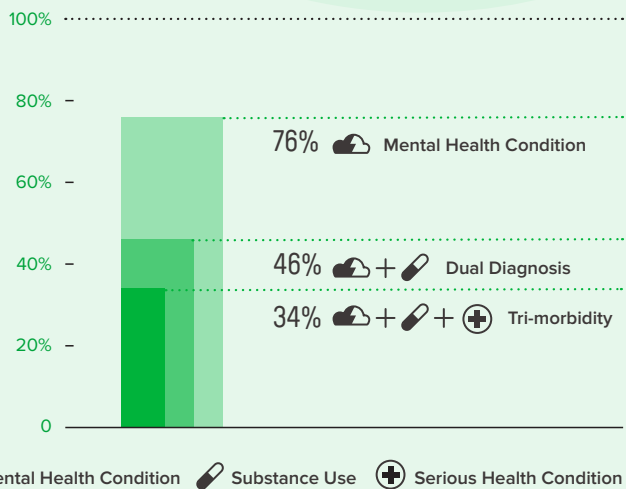
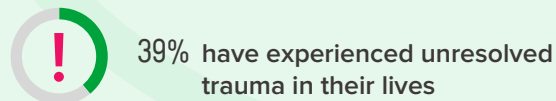


- Housing and long-term support (High Acuity)
- Housing and short-term support (Medium Acuity)
- Affordable Housing (Low Acuity)

Primary Health



Mental Health



Self-reported Emergency Services Usage

by 373 Individuals

534	Hospitalisations
679	Ambulance Transports
983	Presentations at Accident and Emergency
1,902	Interactions with Police



Indicative cost of homelessness to Queensland Systems

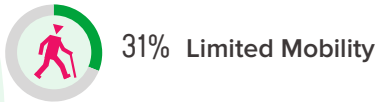
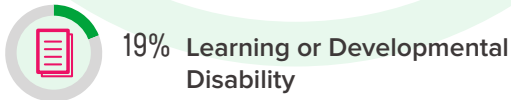
March 2014 – March 2017

\$5,224,288

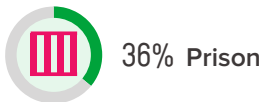
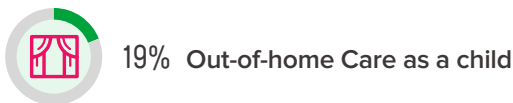
Health	Criminal justice
\$4,762,102	\$462,186

Emergency Service Figures based on six-month snapshots collected during the 500 lives 500 homes Campaign (2014-2017). Costs for inpatient hospitalisation and A&E visit derived from the efficient pricing approach introduced with the National Health Reform Act 2011 (Cth), as implemented by the (Queensland) Department of Health (2013) for the 2013-2014 financial year. Cost for ambulance transport taken from gross actual costs per incident reported in Department of Community Safety 2012/2013 Annual Report.

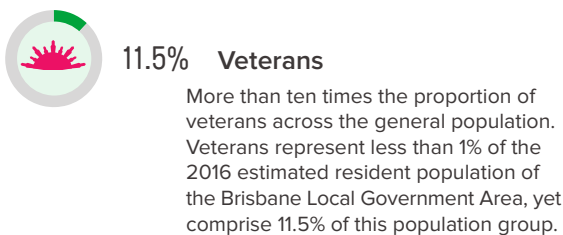
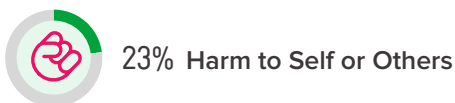
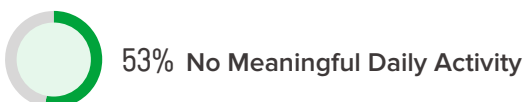
Disability



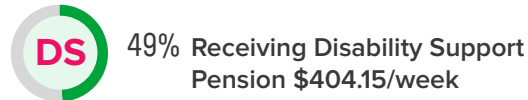
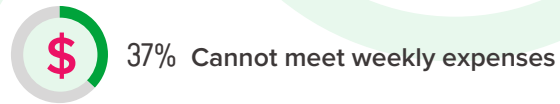
Institutional History



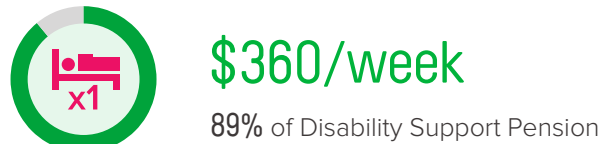
Inclusion and Community Support



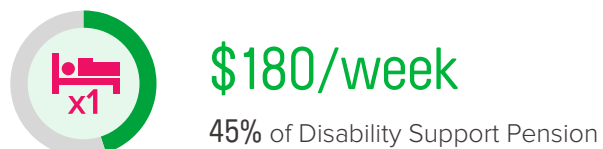
Housing Affordability



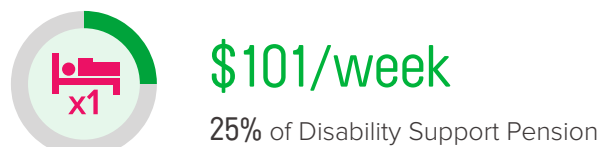
One-bedroom unit in Brisbane



One-bedroom unit in cheapest suburb



Public housing



Sources

Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs. (2016). *Veteran Profile by LGA – September 2016*. Available at https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/publications/datastatistical/LGAprofile/LGAs_Sep16.pdf [Accessed 13 April 2017]

Department of Human Services. (2017). *Centrelink Payments and Services*. Available at www.humanservices.gov.au [Accessed 11 April 2017]

Parsell, C., Petersen, M., Moutou, O., Culhane, E., and A. Dick. (2015). *Brisbane Common Ground Evaluation: Final Report*. Institute for Social Science Research: St Lucia.

Queensland Government Statistician's Office. (2016). *Estimated resident population by local government area (LGA), Queensland, 2006 to 2016p*. Available at <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/erp-lga-qld/index.php> [Accessed 13 April 2017]

Residential Tenancies Authority. (2017). *Median rents quarterly data*. Available at www.rta.qld.gov.au [Accessed 11 April 2017]



580 individuals and families

permanently housed through the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign (2014–2017)

Within seven weeks of initial contact Patricia was offered permanent housing in a Department of Housing seniors unit. "It's as good as winning the lottery. I've got it as long as I need it. I couldn't be any happier," Patricia.

Photography: Craig Holmes.

Homelessness is solvable

We must connect people experiencing homelessness with long-term housing as quickly as possible and with no preconditions. Known as **Housing First**, this approach has propelled campaign successes and forms the basis of a community-driven action plan to eliminate homelessness in the city of Brisbane. (See *Housing First: A roadmap for ending homelessness in Brisbane* at micahprojects.org.au/resources/publications)



Access to suitable and permanent housing

PLUS



Support matched to personal circumstances

Ending Homelessness...

involves...

1. Preventing first time or episodic homelessness
2. Responding to crises as they occur in the shortest possible time
3. Sustaining tenancies

by using 5 strategies...

1. Know who's there and what they need
2. Implement coordinated entry system
3. Line up supply
4. Keep people housed
5. Integrate health

across the full life course.

Antenatal Infancy and Parenting Childhood Youth Adulthood Old Age

For more information on how you can be a part of Brisbane's Housing First journey, contact Micah Projects: karyn.walsh@micahprojects.org.au

Document Author: Janelle Kwong; Contributing Author: Ross Westoby, Innovation, Performance and Evaluation Unit, Micah Projects

Citation Reference: Micah Projects. (2017). *500 Lives 500 Homes Findings and Outcomes for Older People*, Brisbane, Queensland



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.