

Housing First the way forward

According to Karyn Walsh, CEO of local community organisation Micah Projects, “By housing and supporting one person, one family at a time, we can continue to make progress towards our goal of ending homelessness in Brisbane.”

Ms Walsh points to the outstanding success of the local community campaign 500 Lives 500 Homes, which is celebrating a special milestone: 400 new households created for people who were previously experiencing homelessness or were vulnerably housed, including nearly 300 children, since the campaign started just over two years ago.

To build on that success, Micah Projects and the 500 Lives 500 Homes partner agencies are launching a new initiative tomorrow, Tuesday 9 August: the ‘**Housing First: A Roadmap**’.

As well as representatives from the partner agencies, there will also be a number of people attending who have been successfully housed and supported in maintaining their tenancy for lengthy periods of time, who will share their stories of how permanent, secure housing has turned their lives around.

The keynote speaker will be Rosanne Haggerty, President and CEO of US-based Community Solutions. Rosanne is an internationally recognised leader in developing innovative strategies to end homelessness and strengthen communities.

In 1990 Rosanne founded Common Ground Community, a pioneering initiative in the development of supportive housing and research-based practices that end homelessness.

Karyn Walsh stresses the importance of identifying the gaps in the supply of affordable housing in Brisbane, and the ongoing need to match housing, health and support services for the most vulnerable including children, families and individuals.

“Homelessness is a public health issue, too,” said Ms. Walsh. “Brisbane as a city is growing in prosperity, but many people experience poverty, ill-health and exclusion from the housing market.

“We need to keep working with government and the private sector to create more affordable and supportive housing in this city.”

AGENDA:

10 am – 10.45 am

TRANSFORMING THE USA’S RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

Learn how the 100K Homes and Zero: 2016 campaigns are ending homelessness – one community at a time. Rosanne Haggerty of Community Solutions USA

10.45 am – 11 am

PRESENTATION OF THE HOUSING FIRST ROADMAP FOR BRISBANE

11 am – 1 pm

HOUSING FIRST CELEBRATION & BBQ LUNCH

MORE INFORMATION:

Karyn Walsh, CEO Micah Projects 0413 619 785

Kerrod Trott, Media Liaison 0412 029 663