



Ending homelessness
in Brisbane one person,
one family at a time
500lives500homes.org.au

Projects like 500 Lives 500 Homes can't survive without funding certainty from the Commonwealth Government

8 December 2016

In the lead up to tomorrow's COAG meeting, the [500 Lives 500 Homes](#) campaign partners are calling for funding certainty from the federal government to end homelessness.

The coalition of 35 government and non-government organisations have this week announced that Brisbane is 500 households closer to ending homelessness for women, children, young people and individuals. Through the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign, these organisations have collectively housed 507 households, including 179 families with 384 children since the campaign's launch in April 2014.

The partners believe that ending homelessness is about **Housing First** and working together as a collaborative. The campaign has now reached this goal, four months ahead of schedule. Karyn Walsh, Micah Projects CEO, said: "This milestone has been the result of an unprecedented effort to work closely across many government and community organisations."

The announcement comes during [UN Women's 16 days of activism against gender-based violence](#). 500 Lives 500 Homes coordinator Maria Leebeek said: "We know that over 80% of the families housed were mothers presenting with their children. It is a relief to know that so many families will have a place to call home this Christmas."

These efforts are anchored around the key principle of Housing First, which emphasises that a homeless individual's or family's primary need is to obtain stable housing, and other issues affecting the household can be addressed once housing is obtained. In Brisbane, campaign partners have documented their efforts in a [Housing First Roadmap](#) which partners are continuing to apply with every new individual and family as they present.

"Homelessness is caused by many factors. Ending homelessness can be achieved when government and community work together and the Housing First Roadmap outlines the success factors needed," said Ms Karyn Walsh.

The 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign partners are calling on the federal government to work with them, to end homelessness through the continuation of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), so they can continue to build on their success and end homelessness.

For more information or comment, contact Karyn Walsh 0413 619 785.

500 Lives 500 Homes - a coalition of NGOs partnering with the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council

www.500lives500homes.org.au

Ph 07 3029 7000 | 500lives@micahprojects.org.au

facebook.com/500lives500homes | [#500lives](https://twitter.com/500lives)