Street To Home Nurses lead the

way in **Healthcare Cost Savings**

Homeless to Home Healthcare After-Hours Service

(Homeless to Home Healthcare) integrates nurses with homeless outreach teams to provide healthcare to homeless and vulnerably housed individuals while also ending their homelessness.

KEY FINDINGS

- Homeless to Home Healthcare works it improves people's health, ends their homelessness and saves hospitals money.
- Once people move into permanent housing, coordinated health and mental healthcare continues as a crucial element in preventing their return to homelessness.
- The model delivers better results for homeless people and the public at large than traditional approaches, and it does so at a fraction of the cost. Fewer than 20 percent of evaluated healthcare models achieve this outcome, making this service value for money and improving quality of life for vulnerable people in Brisbane.

A report undertaken by **Professor Luke Connelly** BA(Econ) MEconSt, PhD (Qld), **An Economic Evaluation of the Homeless to Home Healthcare After-Hours Service** evaluates a Brisbane-based health and housing model. This service (Homeless to Home Healthcare) integrates nurses with homeless outreach teams to provide healthcare to homeless and vulnerably housed individuals while also ending their homelessness.

The report's key finding is that Homeless to Home Healthcare works - it improves people's health, ends their homelessness and saves hospitals money. Stated differently, the report reveals that the financial cost of permanently and proactively addressing the health and housing needs of Brisbane's homeless people is far lower than the financial cost of doing nothing.

The rationale behind Homeless to Home Healthcare is simple: by combining mobile healthcare with assertive homeless street outreach, teams can make it easier for homeless people to get the care they need while simultaneously helping them to escape the streets permanently. The goal is to create a single, mobile access point for after-hours housing and healthcare services in order to end homelessness and

address poor health at the same time. More than 225 people have moved from homelessness to permanent housing since the model began operating at the beginning of April 2012, and 110 of those have drawn on the essential healthcare services provided by the Homeless to Home Healthcare Nurses. Once people move into permanent housing, coordinated health and mental healthcare continues as a crucial element in preventing their return to homelessness.

By virtually every measure, the report identifies Homeless to Home Healthcare After-Hours Nursing Service as a strong success:

Expensive hospital usage declined substantially among participants during the evaluated period:

- Inpatient hospital admissions decreased 37 percent
- Visits to the Emergency Department (ED) decreased by 24 percent.

Hospital costs for participants dropped dramatically during the evaluated period:

- Inpatient costs dropped by 39 percent, and ED costs dropped by 25 percent
- After including the cost of administering Homeless to Home Healthcare After-Hours Nursing Service (~\$503,000 per annum), combined inpatient and ED costs dropped by approx. 30 percent
- In this study of 1369 individuals, net health system saving alone was estimated between \$6.45 million and \$6.90 million per annum due to these reductions.

Health-related quality of life improved among participants during the evaluated period:

 By helping people address quality of life inhibitors like anxiety and improperly managed chronic disease, Homeless to Home Healthcare measurably improved quality of life.

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For a **copy of the report** (after 16 May 2014) please visit www.micahprojects.org.au/resources/publications PO Box 3449, South Brisbane Q 4101

Spending \$503,000 and proactively addressing the health and housing

needs of Brisbane's homeless people **has saved** the Queensland Public Health System between \$6.45 - \$6.9 million*.

*In a Brisbane study with 1369 individuals

\$6.45 - \$6.9 million saved

Street To Home Nurses lead the way in Healthcare Cost Savings...

Homeless to Home
Healthcare After-Hours
Service improves people's
health, ends their
homelessness and saves
hospitals money.

\$503,000 per annum was the cost of integrating after-hours nursing services (in a Brisbane study with 1369 individuals)

THE RESULTS:

\$503,000 spent

EXPENSIVE HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS DECLINED

Inpatient hospital admissions decreased by 37% and visits to the Emergency Department decreased by 24%

HOSPITAL COSTS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY

Inpatient costs **dropped by 39%** and Emergency Department costs **dropped by 25%**

IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

HOUSING + HEALTHCARE







110

1,259

1,369









