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 **Adult Individuals**

We surveyed 1,467 adult individuals in Brisbane

We know by name...

- Who is homeless
- Their health needs
- Their housing needs
- Their support needs

Of those surveyed...

- 28% identified as female
- 71% identified as male
- 1% identified as transgender, intersex or x
- 20% identified as Indigenous
- 46% were sleeping rough
- 6% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or unsure

Average age was **43 years** and average time homeless was **4.3 years**
The following data was collected during the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign conducted from March 2014 – March 2017.

The data is based on 1467 individuals aged 25 years or 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.

### Health Needs Snapshot

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

#### Primary Health

- 30% Asthma
- 54% Dental Problems
- 24% Hepatitis C
- 71% Substance Use

#### Mental Health

- 51% have experienced unresolved trauma in their lives

#### Self-reported Emergency Services Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalisations</td>
<td>1,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Transports</td>
<td>2,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations at A&amp;E</td>
<td>3,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactions with Police</td>
<td>24,449</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

### Indicative cost of homelessness to Queensland Systems

- Health: $17,666,496
- Criminal justice: $5,941,107

Total: $23,607,603
Disability

- 30% Acquired Brain Injury
- 21% Limited Mobility

Institutional History

- 24% Out-of-home Care as a child
- 18% Youth Detention
- 73% Watchhouse
- 45% Prison

Inclusion and Community Support

- 55% No Meaningful Daily Activity
- 34% Harm to Self or Others
- 35% Unresolved Legal Issues
- 6.7% Veterans

Veterans represent less than 1% of the 2016 estimated resident population of the Brisbane Local Government Area, yet comprise 6.7% of this population group.

Housing Affordability

- 45% Cannot meet weekly expenses
- 43% Receiving Disability Support Pension $404.15/week
- 40% Receiving Newstart Allowance $267.80/week

One-bedroom unit in Brisbane

- $360/week (89% of Disability Support Pension)

One-bedroom unit in cheapest suburb

- $180/week (67% of Newstart Allowance)

Public housing

- $101/week (25% of Disability Support Pension)
- $67/week (25% of Newstart Allowance)

Sources


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)

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

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