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: **Disability**

We surveyed **664** people living with disability and experiencing homelessness in Brisbane.

We know by name...

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

Of those surveyed...

- **29%** identified as female
- **71%** identified as male
- **<1%** identified as transgender, intersex or x
- **44%** were sleeping rough
- **21%** identified as Indigenous
- **8%** identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or unsure

Average age was **43 years** and average time homeless was **5.4 years**.
The following data was collected during the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign conducted from March 2014 – March 2017.

The data is based on 664 individuals living with a disability who were 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

- 35% Asthma
- 59% Dental Problems
- 26% Heart Issues
- 67% Problematic Alcohol Use
- 22% Liver Issues

Mental Health

- 54% have experienced unresolved trauma in their lives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Needs Snapshot</th>
<th>Primary Health</th>
<th>Mental Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious Health Condition</td>
<td>92% Mental Health Condition</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Condition</td>
<td>71% Dual Diagnosis</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Use</td>
<td>58% Tri-morbidity</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Health Condition</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Self-reported Emergency Services Usage

by 664 Individuals

1,072 Hospitalisations
1,696 Ambulance Transports
2,259 Presentations at Accident and Emergency
7,938 Interactions with Police

Indicative cost of homelessness to Queensland Systems

March 2014 – March 2017

$12,237,630

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

- **37%** Acquired Brain Injury
- **38%** Learning or Developmental Disability
- **27%** Limited Mobility

### Housing Affordability

- **33%** Cannot meet weekly expenses
- **100%** Receiving Disability Support Pension $404.15/week

#### One-bedroom unit in Brisbane

- **$360/week**
  - 89% of Disability Support Pension

#### One-bedroom unit in cheapest suburb

- **$180/week**
  - 45% of Disability Support Pension

#### Public housing

- **$101/week**
  - 25% of Disability Support Pension

### Institutional History

- **29%** Out-of-home Care as a child
- **73%** Watchhouse
- **49%** Prison

### Inclusion and Community Support

- **59%** No Meaningful Daily Activity
- **36%** Harm to Self or Others
- **33%** Unresolved Legal Issues
- **6.8%** Veterans

Veterans represent less than 1% of the 2016 estimated resident population of the Brisbane Local Government Area, yet comprise 6.8% of this population group.

### 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)

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: Disability, Brisbane, Queensland

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