



Ending homelessness  
in Brisbane one person,  
one family at a time

Campaign Outcomes  
2014 – 2017

**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 **Families with a Parent aged ≤24**

We surveyed

parents aged 24 or under from **255** families  
with **270** accompanying children under 18

We know  
by name...



Who is homeless



Their health needs



Their housing needs



Their support needs

Of those  
surveyed and  
counted ...

### Parents surveyed

**255** young parents surveyed

**92%** identified as female

**71%** were sole parents

**34%** identified as Indigenous

### Children counted

**270** accompanying children counted

**47** additional children not accompanying parents

**1.2** children (on average) under 18 in each family

**91%** of accompanying children were aged 0 to 5 years



Average age of parents was **21 years**. Average age of children was **2 years**.  
Average time families were homeless was **1.7 years**.

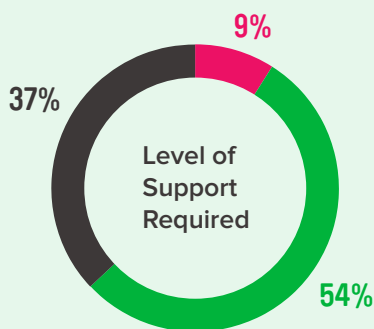
The following data was collected during the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign conducted from March 2014 – March 2017.

The data was based on 255 families, with a head of household aged under 25 years, surveyed using the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).

Many survey respondents identified one or more family members impacted by poor physical and/or psychosocial health. The families are identified below.

### 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.

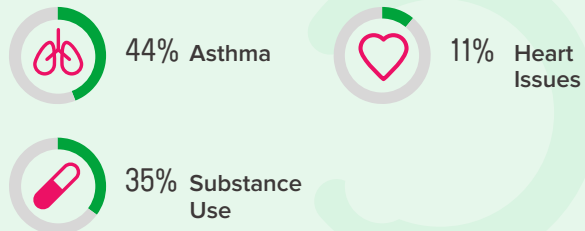


- Housing and long-term support (High Acuity)
- Housing and short-term support (Medium Acuity)
- Affordable Housing (Low Acuity)

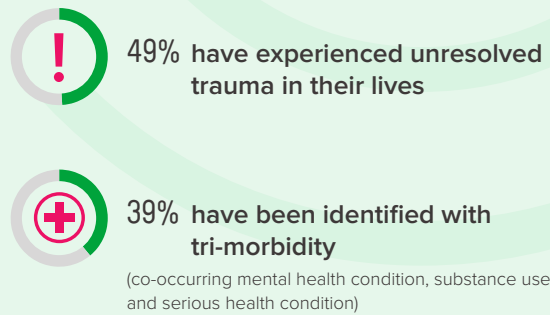
## Health Needs Snapshot

When faced with homelessness, parents are often unable to access healthcare and support for every family member that needs it.

### Primary Health



### Mental Health



### Potential out-of-home-care costs

for number of children (47), not living with their family for a one-year period, for the 255 young families surveyed during 500 Lives 500 Homes, March 2014 – March 2017



**\$2,526,903**

Indicative costs due to actual placement and duration not confirmed.

**Out-of-home care figures** from Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. (2017). *Report on Government Services 2017*. Productivity Commission: Canberra

### Self-reported Emergency Services Usage

by 255 Young Families

204	Hospitalisations
245	Ambulance Transports
430	Presentations at Accident and Emergency
492	Interactions with Police

### Indicative cost of homelessness to Queensland Systems

March 2014 – March 2017

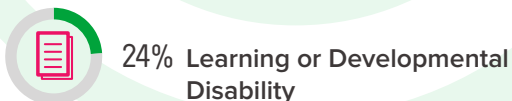


**\$2,030,966**

Health	Criminal justice
\$1,911,410	\$119,556

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.

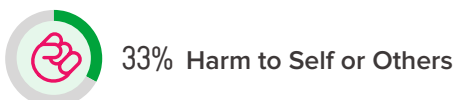
## Disability



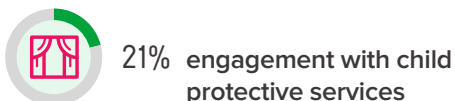
## Institutional History



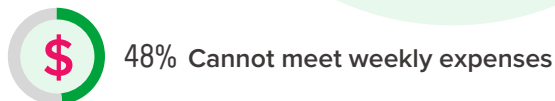
## Inclusion and Community Support



## Child protective services

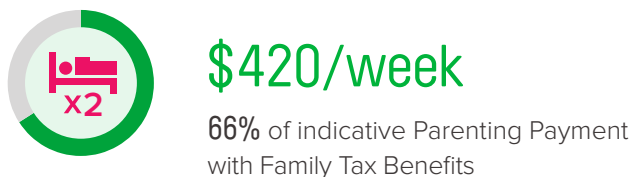


## Housing Affordability

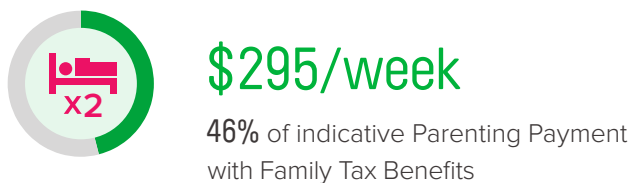


Indicative Parenting Payment with Family Tax Benefits = \$635/week.\*

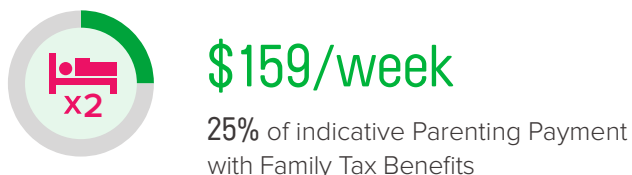
Two-bedroom unit in Brisbane



Two-bedroom unit in cheapest suburb



### Public housing



### Education

Estimated annual cost of public preschooling in metropolitan Queensland can reach **\$2,470** per child.

\*Indicative Parenting Payment and Family Tax Benefits based on a single-parent family with two children aged 0 - 5 years.

### Sources

Australian Scholarships Group. (2017). *ASG's Education Costs Estimates*. Available at [https://www.asg.com.au/doc/default-source/Media-Releases/planning-for-education-index-2017/asg\\_edcosts\\_schoolcosts\\_2017\\_qld\\_metro.pdf?sfvrsn=2](https://www.asg.com.au/doc/default-source/Media-Releases/planning-for-education-index-2017/asg_edcosts_schoolcosts_2017_qld_metro.pdf?sfvrsn=2) [Accessed 22 April 2017]

Department of Human Services. (2017). *Centrelink Payments and Services*. Available at [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au) [Accessed 11 April 2017]

Parsell, C., Petersen, M., Moutou, O., Culhane, E., and A. Dick. (2015). *Brisbane Common Ground Evaluation: Final Report*. Institute for Social Science Research: St Lucia

Residential Tenancies Authority. (2017). *Median rents quarterly data*. Available at [www.rta.qld.gov.au](http://www.rta.qld.gov.au) [Accessed 11 April 2017]



**26%** reduction in homelessness

for families with a young parent aged under 25 years, surveyed through the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign (2014–2017)

“My life has had a lot of bumps and challenges, but everything I’ve gone through has made me a stronger person.

I now tell people in trouble that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I’ve seen it myself. Asking for help is not a failure. Sometimes you just need help, so don’t be afraid to ask,” Rebecca.

Photography: Craig Holmes.

## 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](http://micahprojects.org.au/resources/publications))



Access to suitable and permanent housing



Support matched to personal circumstances



**66 young families** permanently housed through the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign (2014–2017)

## Ending Homelessness...

involves...

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](mailto:karyn.walsh@micahprojects.org.au)

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