



LEONA

“I have been a single parent with five children. All my children are settled and are getting along in life. Three of my children have successfully completed tertiary education. I am currently blessed with two lovely grandchildren. I worked for 23 years as a Teacher/Trainer before retiring.

Approximately three and a half years ago I became homeless with my adult daughter. At that time my daughter and I were in a co-tenancy arrangement with a relative who basically evicted us in the most difficult of circumstances. I was duped out of my life savings, my dignity and my home. The pressure of this situation over time was causing severe health conditions. When our situation seemed hopeless and after many attempts at self-help, I contacted Micah Projects who immediately assisted us with overnight motel accommodation and then rapidly negotiated a two bedroom transitional property with a community housing provider.

During this period, with the support of Micah Projects, we reconnected with the health system and GP's to get our health under control. We gradually experienced some emotional healing in the safety

of a temporary home. Then we were under threat when the transitional housing option came to an end. Again with the assistance of Micah Projects and the Department of Housing and Public Works my daughter and I were allocated permanent housing with onsite support at Brisbane Common Ground.

In this safe space, with discreet support available when needed, my daughter and I have truly experienced emotional and physical healing, safety and permanent housing security. My daughter has successfully re-entered university life and is due to complete her degree this July. As a mother and a 68 year old person I now live with dignity in a supportive environment. I feel I can go forward and take the next steps in my life. I offer my deepest gratitude to all the Micah and Brisbane Common Ground people who helped to turn our lives around.”

Extract from Leona's speech at the launch of **Home for Good** - the Queensland Government's initiative to break the cycle of homelessness for some of Brisbane's most vulnerable people.

Photo of Leona in her unit by Katie Bennett, Embellysh, June 2013.

