500 LIVES 500 HOMES

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 ≥25**

We surveyed parents aged 25 or over from **608** families with **1,253** 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

- **608** parents surveyed
- **78%** identified as female
- **76%** were sole parents
- **25%** identified as Indigenous

Children counted

- **1,253** accompanying children counted
- **287** additional children not accompanying parents
- **2.5** children (on average) under 18 in each family
- **40%** of accompanying children were aged 6 to 12 years

Average age of parents was **36 years**. Average age of children was **8 years**. Average time families were homeless was **1.5 years**.

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

The data was based on 608 families with a head of household aged 25 years or over, 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.
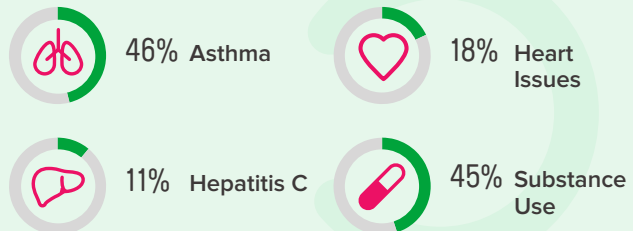
Level of Support Required

18%
28%
54%
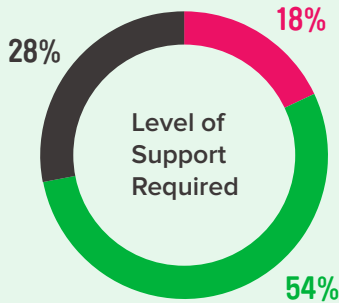
■ Housing and long-term support (High Acuity)

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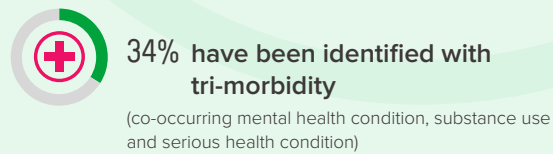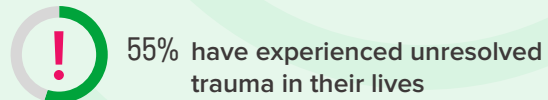
■ Affordable Housing (Low Acuity)

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

46% Asthma

18% Heart Issues

11% Hepatitis C

45% Substance Use

Mental Health

55% **have experienced unresolved trauma in their lives**

34% **have been identified with tri-morbidity**

(co-occurring mental health condition, substance use and serious health condition)

Potential out-of-home-care costs

for number of children (287), not living with their family for a one-year period, for the 608 families surveyed during 500 Lives 500 Homes, March 2014 – March 2017

$15,430,239

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 608 Families

463	Hospitalisations
594	Ambulance Transports
1,048	Presentations at Accident and Emergency
1,711	Interactions with Police

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.*
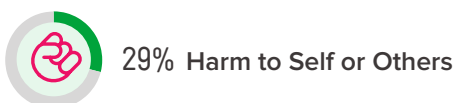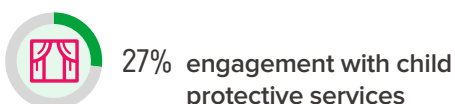
Indicative cost of homelessness to Queensland Systems
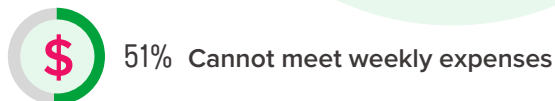
March 2014 – March 2017

$4,912,925

Health
$4,497,152

Criminal justice
$415,773

Disability

33% Learning or Developmental Disability

14% Limited Mobility

Institutional History

19% Out-of-home Care as a child

44% Watchhouse

20% Prison
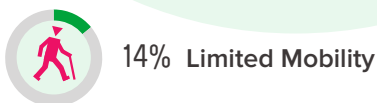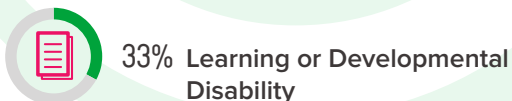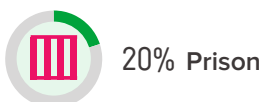
Inclusion and Community Support

53% No Meaningful Daily Activity

21% Disrupted School Attendance

29% Harm to Self or Others

24% Unresolved Legal Issues

Child protective services

27% engagement with child protective services

Housing Affordability

51% Cannot meet weekly expenses

60% Receiving Parenting Payment or Newstart Allowance

Indicative Parenting Payment with Family Tax Benefits = **$703/week.***

Three-bedroom unit in Brisbane

$500/week

71% of indicative Parenting Payment with Family Tax Benefits
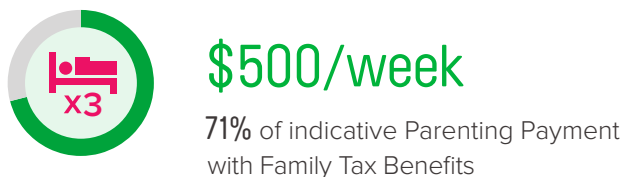
Three-bedroom unit in cheapest suburb

$340/week

48% of indicative Parenting Payment with Family Tax Benefits

Public housing

$176/week

25% of indicative Parenting Payment with Family Tax Benefits
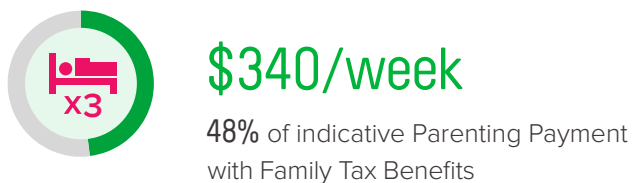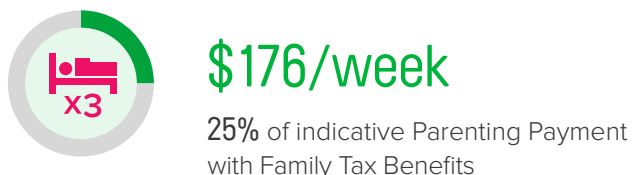
Education
Estimated annual cost of public primary schooling in metropolitan Queensland can reach $2,779 per child.

*Indicative Parenting Payment and Family Tax Benefits based on a single-parent family with three children aged 6 - 12 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 [Accessed 22 April 2017]

Department of Human Services. (2017). *Centrelink Payments and Services*. Available at 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 [Accessed 11 April 2017]

23% reduction in homelessness

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

"They helped us move the few possessions we had, and thanks to financial donations from a business they were able to buy the furniture and appliances we needed to make a start. We got a fridge, a washing machine and clothes dryer and a bed for every member of the family. It was like Christmas," The Parsons Family.

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)

Access to suitable and permanent housing

+

Support matched to personal circumstances

=

141 adult 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

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