# 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: 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.
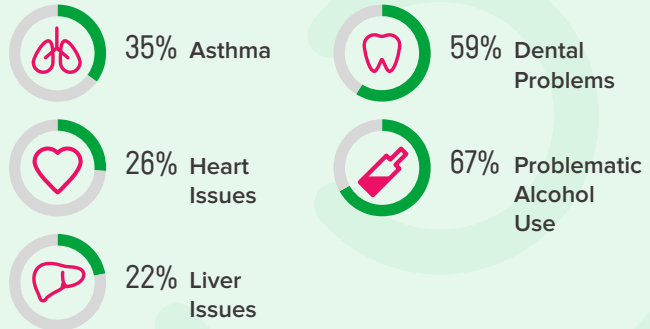
**Level of Support Required**

9%
43%
48%
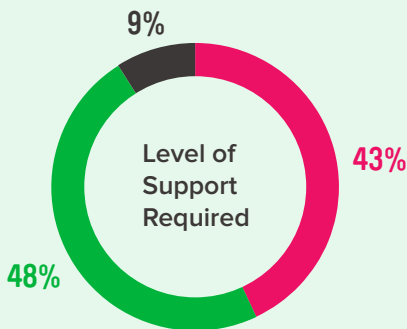
- ■ Housing and long-term support (High Acuity)
- ■ Housing and short-term support (Medium Acuity)
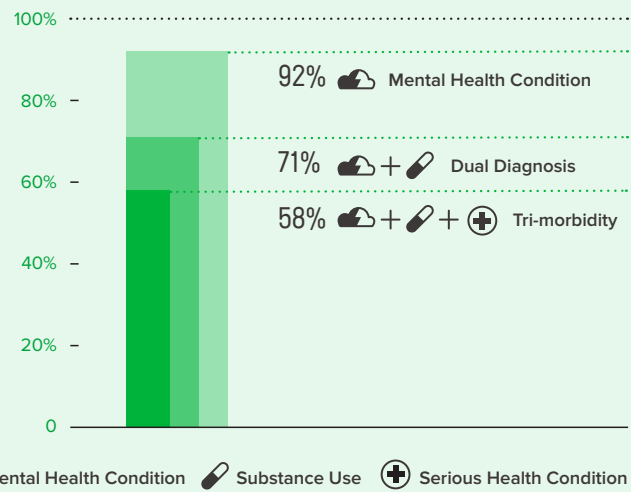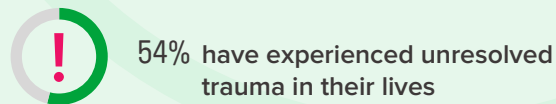- ■ Affordable Housing (Low Acuity)

# Health Needs Snapshot

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

## Primary Health

35% Asthma

26% Heart Issues

22% Liver Issues

59% Dental Problems

67% Problematic Alcohol Use

## Mental Health

54% have experienced unresolved trauma in their lives

92% Mental Health Condition

71% Dual Diagnosis

58% Tri-morbidity

Mental Health Condition    Substance Use    Serious Health Condition

## Self-reported Emergency Services Usage

**by 664 Individuals**

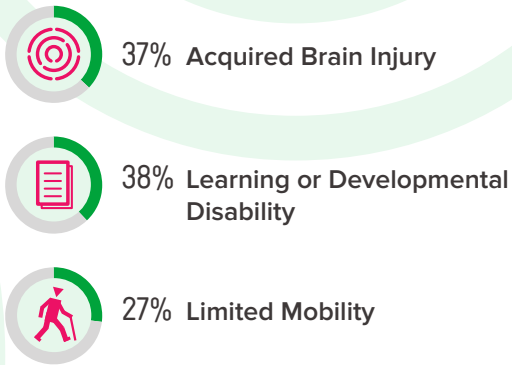| | |
|---|---|
| 1,072 | Hospitalisations |
| 1,696 | Ambulance Transports |
| 2,259 | Presentations at Accident and Emergency |
| 7,938 | Interactions with Police |

## Indicative cost of homelessness to Queensland Systems

**March 2014 – March 2017**

# $12,237,630

**Health** $10,308,696

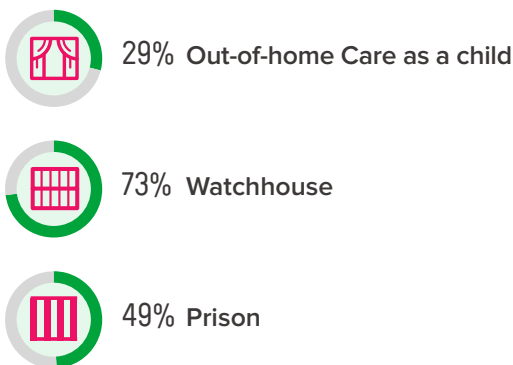**Criminal justice** $1,928,934

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.*
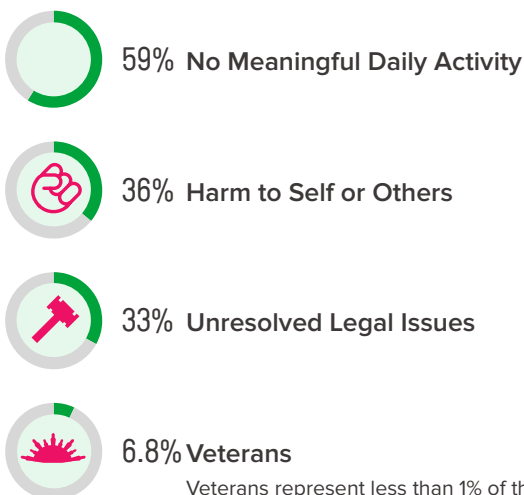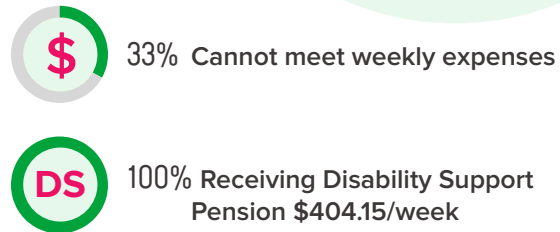
## Disability

37% **Acquired Brain Injury**

38% **Learning or Developmental Disability**

27% **Limited Mobility**

## 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**
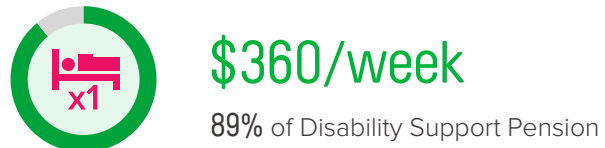
33% **Unresolved Legal Issues**

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.
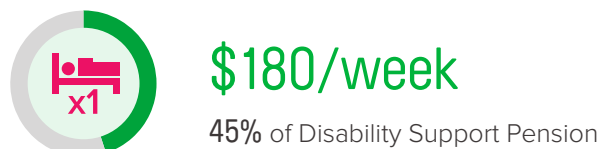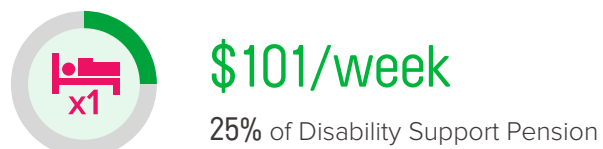
## Housing Affordability

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

**Sources**

Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs. (2016). *Veteran Profile by LGA – September 2016*. Available at https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/publications/datastatistical/LGAprofile/LGAs_Sep16.pdf [Accessed 13 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.

Queensland Government Statistician's Office. (2016). *Estimated resident population by local government area (LGA), Queensland, 2006 to 2016p*. Available at http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/erp-lga-qld/index.php [Accessed 13 April 2017]

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

# 580 individuals and families

permanently housed through the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign (2014–2017)

"Sarah and the team are not just housing workers. They helped me with my finances, gave me food when I needed it, and ... helped me get my life back on track. I'm looking forward to new beginnings," Chrissy.

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

**PLUS**

Support matched to personal circumstances

## 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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Citation Reference: Micah Projects. (2017). *500 Lives 500 Homes Findings and Outcomes: Disability*, Brisbane, Queensland