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: **Rough Sleeping**

We surveyed **786** people who were rough sleeping in Brisbane

We know by name...

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

Of those surveyed...

- **23%** identified as female
- **76%** identified as male
- **1%** identified as transgender, intersex or x
- **14%** under 25 years of age
- **26%** identified as Indigenous
- **7%** identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or unsure

Average age was **39 years** and average time homeless was **5.1 years**

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

The data is based on 786 individuals sleeping rough 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.
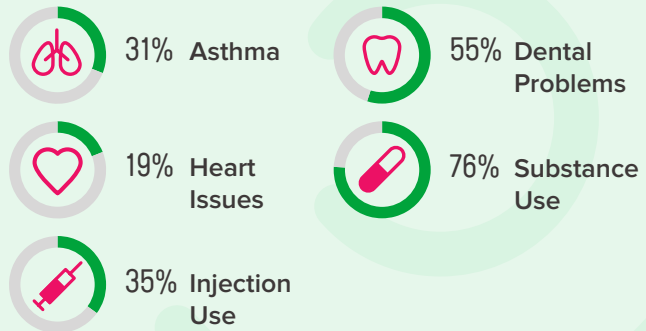
Level of Support Required

6.4%
46.3%
47.3%
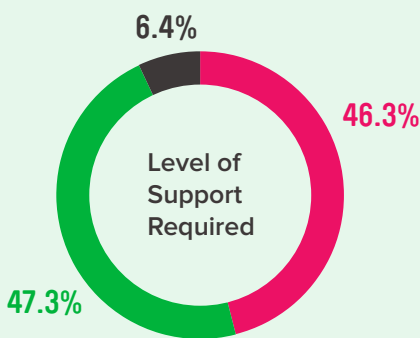
- ■ Housing and long-term support (High Acuity)
- ■ Housing and short-term support (Medium Acuity)
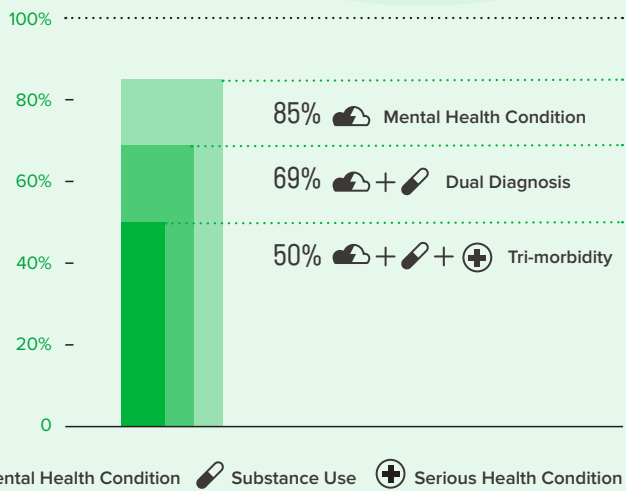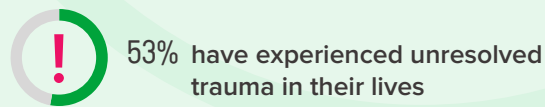- ■ Affordable Housing (Low Acuity)

Health Needs Snapshot

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

Primary Health

31% Asthma

55% Dental Problems

19% Heart Issues

76% Substance Use

35% Injection Use

Mental Health

53% have experienced unresolved trauma in their lives

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0

85% ☁ Mental Health Condition

69% ☁ + 💊 Dual Diagnosis

50% ☁ + 💊 + ⊕ Tri-morbidity

☁ Mental Health Condition   💊 Substance Use   ⊕ Serious Health Condition

Self-reported Emergency Services Usage
by 786 Individuals

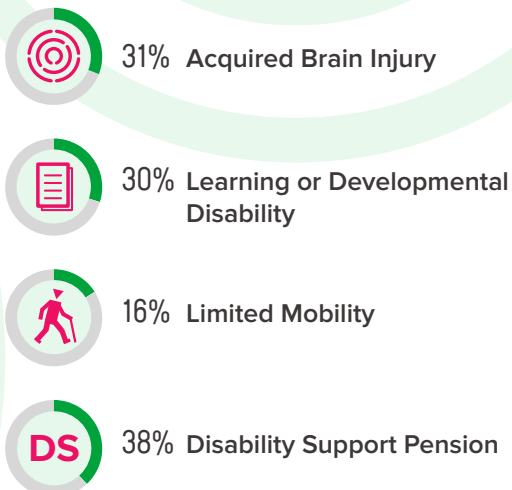|	
1,067	Hospitalisations
1,531	Ambulance Transports
2,195	Presentations at Accident and Emergency
23,236	Interactions with Police

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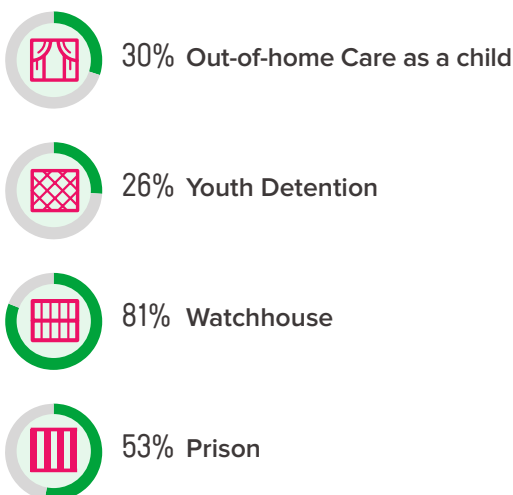**March 2014 – March 2017**

$15,705,198

Health
$10,058,850

Criminal justice
$5,646,348

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.*
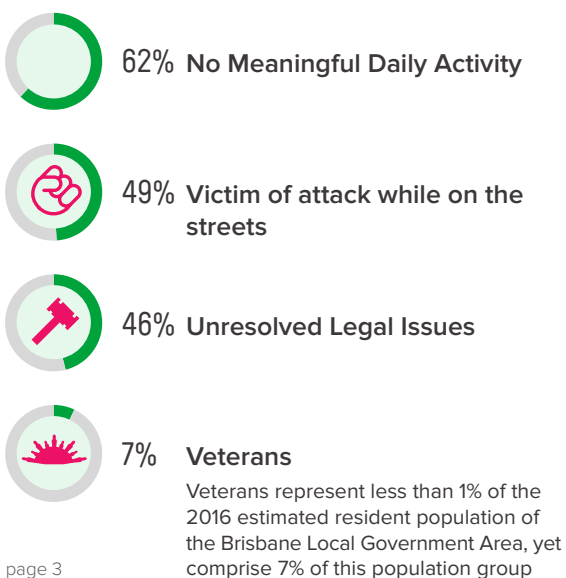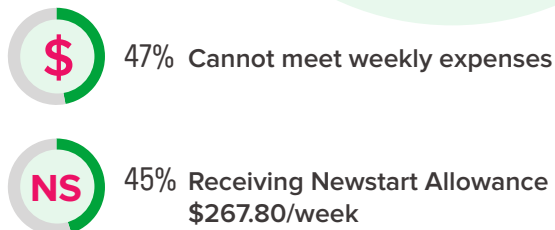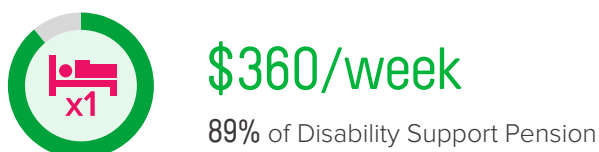
Disability

31% Acquired Brain Injury

30% Learning or Developmental Disability

16% Limited Mobility

38% Disability Support Pension

Institutional History

30% Out-of-home Care as a child

26% Youth Detention

81% Watchhouse

53% Prison

Inclusion and Community Support

62% No Meaningful Daily Activity

49% Victim of attack while on the streets

46% Unresolved Legal Issues

7% Veterans
Veterans represent less than 1% of the 2016 estimated resident population of the Brisbane Local Government Area, yet comprise 7% of this population group

Housing Affordability

47% Cannot meet weekly expenses

45% Receiving Newstart Allowance $267.80/week

One-bedroom unit in Brisbane

$360/week
89% of Disability Support Pension

One-bedroom unit in **cheapest suburb**

$180/week
67% of Newstart Allowance

Public housing

$101/week
25% of Disability Support Pension

$67/week
25% of Newstart Allowance
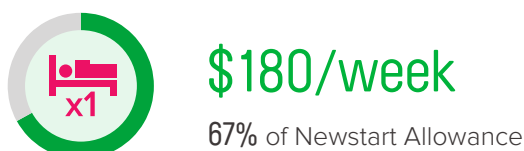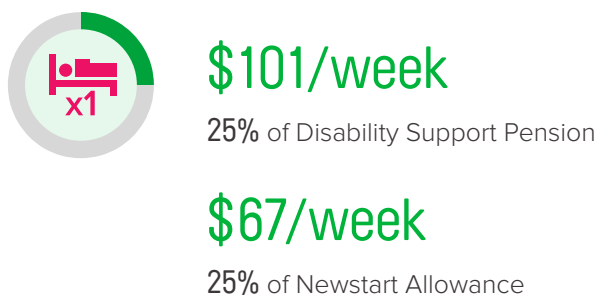
Sources

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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]

32% reduction in rough sleeping

identified through the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign (2014–2017)

Megan, Inclusive Health Registered Nurse with Max, in Brisbane city during 500 Lives 500 Homes Registry Fortnight, April 2014.

Photography: Patrick Hamilton.

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 **=** **254 individuals who were rough sleeping** 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