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 **Young People**

We surveyed **364** young people in Brisbane

We know by name...

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

Of those surveyed...

53% identified as female

45% identified as male

2% identified as transgender, intersex or x

30% were sleeping rough

22% identified as Indigenous

13% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or unsure

Average age was **19 years** and average time homeless was **2.1 years**

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

The data is based on 364 individuals aged under 25 years 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.
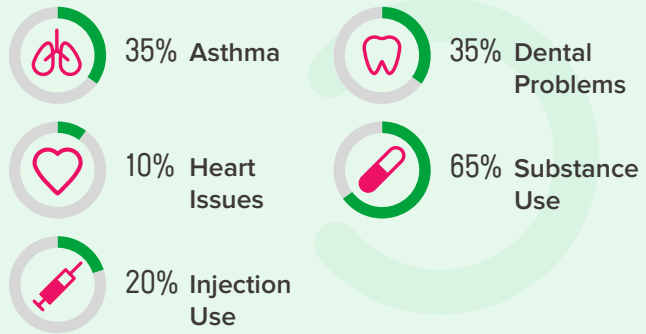
Level of Support Required

18%
38%
44%
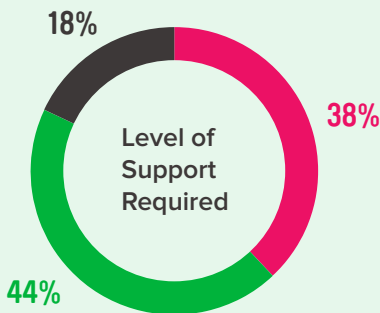
- Housing and long-term support (High Acuity)
- Housing and short-term support (Medium Acuity)
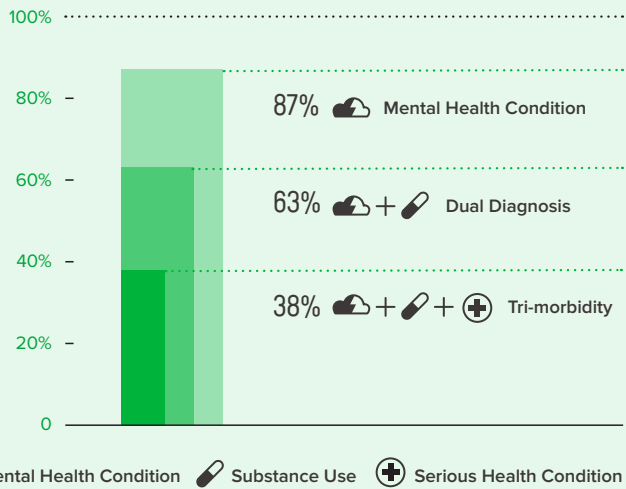- Affordable Housing (Low Acuity)

Health Needs Snapshot

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

Primary Health

35% Asthma

35% Dental Problems

10% Heart Issues

65% Substance Use

20% Injection Use

Mental Health

54% have experienced unresolved trauma in their lives

33% admitted against will to hospital for mental health reasons

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0

87% Mental Health Condition

63% + Dual Diagnosis

38% + + Tri-morbidity

Mental Health Condition   Substance Use   Serious Health Condition

Self-reported Emergency Services Usage
by 364 Individuals

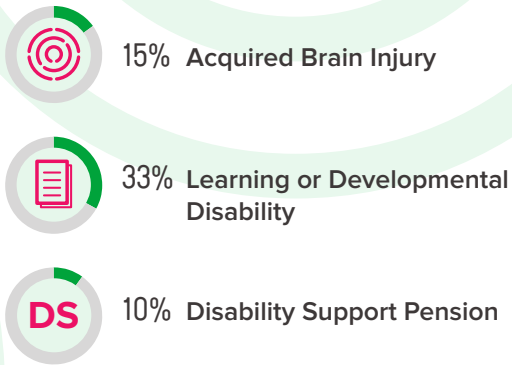| 371	Hospitalisations
446	Ambulance Transports
703	Presentations at Accident and Emergency
4,671	Interactions with Police

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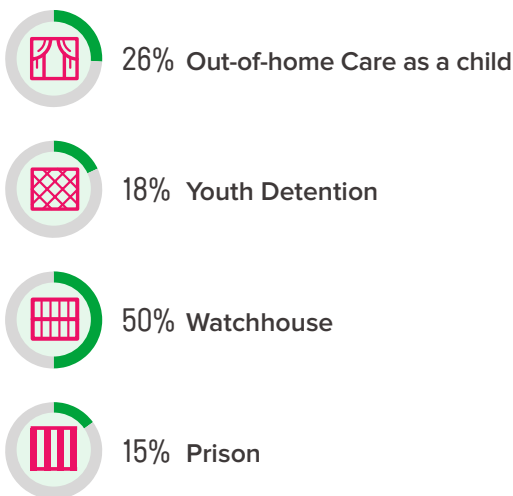**March 2014 – March 2017**

$4,464,205

Health	**Criminal justice**
$3,329,152	$1,135,053

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.
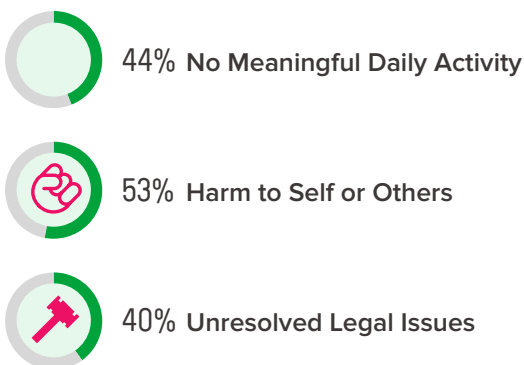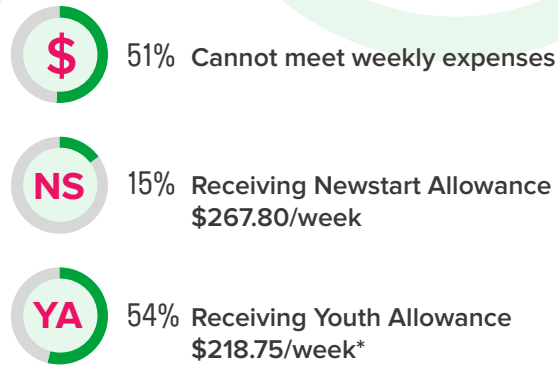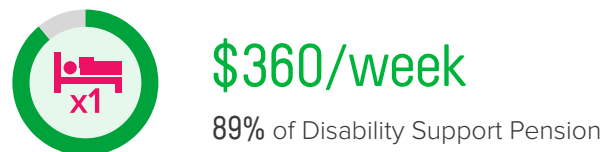
Disability

- 15% Acquired Brain Injury
- 33% Learning or Developmental Disability
- 10% Disability Support Pension

Institutional History

- 26% Out-of-home Care as a child
- 18% Youth Detention
- 50% Watchhouse
- 15% Prison

Inclusion and Community Support

- 44% No Meaningful Daily Activity
- 53% Harm to Self or Others
- 40% Unresolved Legal Issues

Housing Affordability

- 51% Cannot meet weekly expenses
- 15% Receiving Newstart Allowance $267.80/week
- 54% Receiving Youth Allowance $218.75/week*

One-bedroom unit in Brisbane

x1 $360/week

89% of Disability Support Pension

One-bedroom unit in **cheapest suburb**

x1 $180/week

67% of Newstart Allowance

Public housing

x1 $67/week

25% of Newstart Allowance
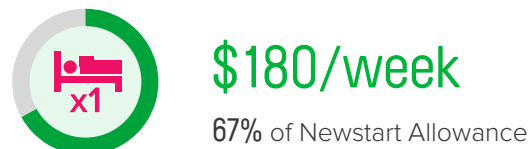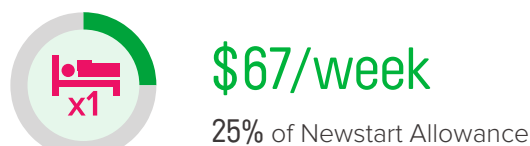
$55/week

25% of Youth Allowance

* Based on maximum Youth Allowance for single individuals aged 18 or older with no children and living away from parents home

Sources

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]

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 **=** **86 young people** 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