

Unlocking systems
to end homelessness

BRISBANE ZERO

The Brisbane Zero campaign is a community based project to build public support for ending homelessness.

Brisbane Zero aims to know people who are sleeping rough by name, helping us make visible those who are often unseen. Our goal is for homelessness to be rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Brisbane Zero acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians of the Greater Brisbane area: the Turrbal people, the Jagera people, the Ugarabul people, the Yuggera people and the Elders both past and present on whose land we walk, work and live. We recognise that sovereignty of their land was never ceded.

Brisbane Zero is supported by the Ellen Whitty Fund and Queensland Department of Housing.

Vulnerability Index Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

The **VI-SPDAT** is a screening tool used to identify the needs of a person or family with children experiencing homelessness. It helps match them with appropriate support services and housing options using a Housing First Framework.

The tool provides a score indicating the level of acuity (vulnerability) of a person or family. Using information collected and shared with their consent, we can understand their homeless history, housing, health, and support needs, which can be used alongside service coordination. This assists services matching housing vacancies with the needs of potential tenants, providing referrals for services and healthcare.

Individual Adults

This data is a snapshot of the individual adults surveyed using the VI-SPDAT by participating Brisbane Zero Regional Members during the 2022-23 financial year.



325

Individual adults experiencing homelessness were surveyed



26%

identify as First Nations



Average total years living on the streets or emergency accommodation



63%
Male



34%
Female

3%

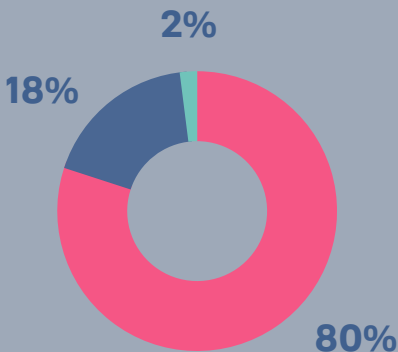
Other gender or not stated



44 years old
was the average age

Vulnerability Levels

The VI-SPDAT enables support needs to be determined using an acuity scale, identifying the kind of housing and support people require to live more safe, stable and productive lives.



- 80% need Supportive Housing: safe, stable, and affordable housing with embedded healthcare, community and other support services.
- 18% need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing with short-term support services.
- 2% need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Health Needs Snapshot (n=325)

People experiencing homelessness have high levels of health vulnerability in comparison with the Australian general population.

The following data represents the complexity of the health needs of the 325 Brisbane Zero individuals surveyed.



91%
(295)

At least ONE Mental Health Condition

Comparison with the national general population: **20%**¹

Trauma Experienced	78%	255
Depression Diagnosed	77%	249
Anxiety Diagnosed	71%	231
PTSD Diagnosed	51%	166



76%
(248)

At least ONE Chronic Health Condition

Comparison with the national general population: **47%**²

Dental Problems	61%	197
Dehydration Experienced	38%	125
Asthma	34%	110
Heat Stroke Experienced	5%	85



35%
(114)

At least ONE type of Disability

Comparison with the national general population: **18%**³

Intellectual Disability	29%	93
Physical Disability	20%	64
Mental Health Condition	15%	50



68%
(222)

Substance Use
Alcohol & Other Drugs

Comparison with the national general population*: **16%**⁴

Problematic Substance Use	20%	64
Substance Use led to Homelessness	15%	50

*Illicit use of drugs in the last 12 months, people aged 14+ in Australia.

Health Needs Snapshot (n=325)

A significant prevalence of diverse chronic conditions and morbidity is observed among people experiencing homelessness, presenting high rates (65%) of two or more long-term conditions in comparison to the general Australian population (25%).⁵



65%
(212)

Dual Morbidity
(Mental Health +
Substance Use)



53%
(173)

Tri-Morbidity
(Mental + Physical Health
+ Substance Use)

Service Utilisation Snapshot (n=325)

People experiencing homelessness often become frequent users of hospitals, ambulance, crisis accommodation and other emergency support services.

In the last 6 months...

86%
(281)

**have used at least ONE
of these Emergency
Services**

74%	240	have used a Crisis Service
58%	190	have presented at Emergency
53%	173	have had Police Interaction
45%	145	have taken an Ambulance

Indicative Cost of Service Utilisation⁶

The following table outlines the costs associated with people experiencing homelessness accessing the service system across Queensland per night.

Hospital (Admitted Patient)	\$/per night	1,088.00
Emergency Department	\$/per presentation	740.00
Ambulance	\$/per service	540.49
Prison	\$/per night	342.28
Watch House	\$/per night	286.00
Homelessness Services Support	\$/per day	39.87
Emergency Accommodation	\$/per night	200.00⁷

Institutional History (n=325)

Individuals exiting care arrangements, such as those transitioning from healthcare settings (including hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and aged care facilities) and young people exiting out-of-home care (such as foster care and residential care facilities), often face heightened vulnerability to homelessness.⁸

51%

(166)

have been in at least
ONE of these
Institutions

Institutional Care as an Adult	32%	104
Watch House or Prison	26%	85
Institutional Care as a Child	19%	63
Youth Detention	15%	48

Safety and Risks (n=325)

People experiencing homelessness often find themselves exposed to risks and harmful behaviors that significantly impact their well-being and safety.

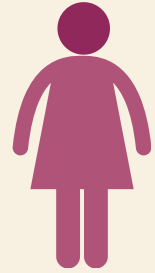
86%	280	At Risk of Harm
66%	215	At Risk of Violence
56%	181	Homelessness Caused by a Relationship Breakdown
34%	112	Unresolved Legal Issues

References

- 1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) [Chronic conditions and multimorbidity](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 2 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) [Chronic conditions and multimorbidity](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 4 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) Alcohol, tobacco & other drugs in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 5 Vallesi, S., Tuson, M., Davies, A., & Wood, L. (2021). [Multimorbidity among People Experiencing Homelessness-Insights from Primary Care Data](#). International journal of environmental research and public health, 18(12), 6498.
- 6 Productivity Commission (2023) [Report on Government Services 2023](#), Australian Government.
- 7 Emergency Accommodation Expenses (2022) [Recovery expenses](#), Queensland Government.
- 8 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2021-22](#), AIHW, Australian Government.

Individual Women

This data is a snapshot of the individual women surveyed using the VI-SPDAT by participating Brisbane Zero Regional Members during the 2022-23 financial year.



109

Individual women experiencing homelessness were surveyed



26%

identify as First Nations



Average total years living on the streets or emergency accommodation



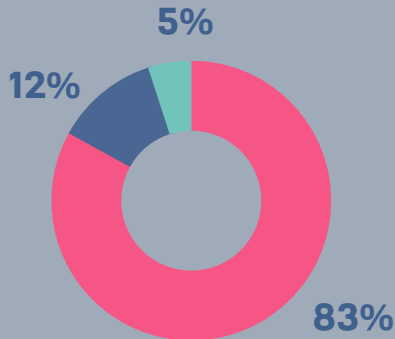
5%
(5)

were pregnant at the time of the survey



44 years old was the average age

Vulnerability Levels



The VI-SPDAT enables support needs to be determined using an acuity scale, identifying the kind of housing and support people require to live more safe, stable and productive lives.

- 83% need Supportive Housing: safe, stable, and affordable housing with embedded healthcare, community and other support services.
- 12% need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing with short-term support services.
- 5% need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Health Needs Snapshot (n=109)

People experiencing homelessness have high levels of health vulnerability in comparison with the Australian general population.

The following data represents the complexity of the health needs of the 109 Brisbane Zero individual women surveyed.



92%
(100)

At least ONE Mental Health Condition

Comparison with the national general population: **23%**¹

Trauma Experienced	85%	93
Depression Diagnosed	76%	83
Anxiety Diagnosed	74%	81
PTSD Diagnosed	56%	61



83%
(90)

At least ONE Chronic Health Condition

Comparison with the national general population: **30%**²

Dental Problems	58%	63
Asthma	41%	45
Dehydration Experienced	39%	42
Heat Stroke Experienced	28%	31



41%
(45)

At least ONE type of Disability

Comparison with the national general population: **25%**³

Intellectual Disability	26%	28
Physical Disability	23%	25
Mental Health Condition	17%	19



65%
(71)

Substance Use
Alcohol & Other Drugs

Comparison with the national general population*: **11%**⁴

Problematic Substance Use	54%	59
Substance Use led to Homelessness	21%	23

*Illicit use of drugs in the last 12 months, females aged 14+ in Australia.

Health Needs Snapshot (n=109)

A significant prevalence of diverse chronic conditions and morbidity is observed among people experiencing homelessness, presenting high rates (63%) of two or more long-term conditions in comparison to the Australian female population (23%).⁵



63%
(69)

Dual Morbidity
(Mental Health +
Substance Use)



56%
(61)

Tri-Morbidity
(Mental + Physical Health
+ Substance Use)

Service Utilisation Snapshot (n=109)

People experiencing homelessness often become frequent users of hospitals, ambulance, crisis accommodation and other emergency support services.

In the last 6 months...

88%
(62)

**have used at least ONE
of these Emergency
Services**

73%	80	have used a Crisis Service
57%	62	have presented at Emergency
53%	58	have had Police Interaction
39%	42	have taken an Ambulance

Indicative Cost of Service Utilisation⁶

The following table outlines the costs associated with people experiencing homelessness accessing the service system across Queensland per night.

Hospital (Admitted Patient)	\$/per night	1,088.00
Emergency Department	\$/per presentation	740.00
Ambulance	\$/per service	540.49
Prison	\$/per night	342.28
Watch House	\$/per night	286.00
Homelessness Services Support	\$/per day	39.87
Emergency Accommodation	\$/per night	200.00 ⁷

Institutional History (n=109)

Individuals exiting care arrangements, such as those transitioning from healthcare settings (including hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and aged care facilities) and young people exiting out-of-home care (such as foster care and residential care facilities), often face heightened vulnerability to homelessness.⁸

49%

(45)

have been in at least
ONE of these
Institutions

Institutional Care as an Adult	25%	27
Watch House or Prison	22%	24
Institutional Care as a Child	16%	17
Youth Detention	7%	8

Safety and Risks (n=109)

People experiencing homelessness often find themselves exposed to risks and harmful behaviors that significantly impact their well-being and safety.

87%	95	At Risk of Harm
74%	81	At Risk of Violence
62%	68	Homelessness Caused by a Relationship Breakdown
35%	38	Unresolved Legal Issues

References

- 1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) [Chronic conditions and multimorbidity](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 2 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2020-2022), [National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing](#), ABS Website.
- 3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 4 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) Alcohol, tobacco & other drugs in Australia, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 5 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) [Chronic conditions and multimorbidity](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 6 Productivity Commission (2023) [Report on Government Services 2023](#), Australian Government.
- 7 Emergency Accommodation Expenses (2022) [Recovery expenses](#), Queensland Government.
- 8 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2021-22](#), AIHW, Australian Government.

Families

This data is a snapshot of the families with children surveyed using the VI-SPDAT by participating Brisbane Zero Regional Members during the 2022-23 financial year.



212
Families with children experiencing homelessness were surveyed

30%
identify as First Nations

11%
Male
Heads of Household

88%
Female
Heads of Household

3
Years
Average total years living on the streets or emergency accommodation

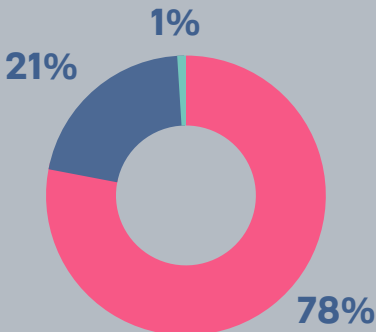
44 years old
was the average age

# Children per Family	# of Families
1	67
2	47
3	14
4+	19
Unknown	69

Age Group of Children	# Children
0-4 years	118
5-12 years	123
13-17 years	44
Unknown Age	5

Vulnerability Levels

The VI-SPDAT enables support needs to be determined using an acuity scale, identifying the kind of housing and support people require to live more safe, stable and productive lives.



- 78% need Supportive Housing: safe, stable, and affordable housing with embedded healthcare, family and children support services.
- 21% need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing with short-term family and children support services.
- 1% need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Health Needs Snapshot (n=212)

People experiencing homelessness have high levels of health vulnerability in comparison with the Australian general population.

The following data represents the complexity of the health needs of the 212 Brisbane Zero families surveyed.



87%
(185)

At least ONE Mental Health Condition

Comparison with the national general population: **20%**¹

Trauma Experienced	76%	161
Anxiety Diagnosed	72%	153
Depression Diagnosed	67%	141
PTSD Diagnosed	50%	105



54%
(115)

At least ONE Chronic Health Condition

Comparison with the national general population: **32%**²

Dental Problems	49%	103
Asthma	46%	98
Dehydration Experienced	30%	63
Heat Stroke Experienced	18%	39



32%
(68)

At least ONE type of Disability

Comparison with the national general population: **18%**³

Intellectual Disability	25%	53
Physical Disability	13%	27
Mental Health Condition	5%	11



30%
(63)

Substance Use
Alcohol & Other Drugs

Problematic Substance Use	26%	56
Substance Use led to Homelessness	5%	10

Health Needs Snapshot (n=212)

A significant prevalence of diverse chronic conditions and morbidity is observed among people experiencing homelessness, presenting higher rates of two or more long-term conditions in comparison to the general Australian population (25%).⁴



29%

(61)

Dual Morbidity
(Mental Health +
Substance Use)



45%

(95)

Tri-Morbidity
(Mental + Physical Health
+ Substance Use)

Service Utilisation Snapshot (n=212)

People experiencing homelessness often become frequent users of hospitals, ambulance, crisis accommodation and other emergency support services.

In the last 6 months...

90%

(191)

**have used at least ONE
of these Emergency
Services**

78%	165	have used a Crisis Service
50%	106	have presented at Emergency
46%	98	have had Police Interaction
36%	76	have taken an Ambulance

Indicative Cost of Service Utilisation⁵

The following table outlines the costs associated with people experiencing homelessness accessing the service system across Queensland per night.

Hospital (Admitted Patient)	\$/per night	1,088.00
Emergency Department	\$/per presentation	740.00
Ambulance	\$/per service	540.49
Prison	\$/per night	342.28
Watch House	\$/per night	286.00
Homelessness Services Support	\$/per day	39.87
Emergency Accommodation	\$/per night	200.00 ⁶

Indicative Cost of Service interaction across the Child Protection System ⁸

The following table outlines the costs associated with families experiencing homelessness and engaging with the Child Protection System in Queensland.

Cost per report to child protection	\$/per report	204.00
Cost per notification	\$/per notification	830.00
Cost per child receiving generic family support services	\$/per child	1,902
Cost per child receiving intensive family support services	\$/per child	7,260
Cost per child receiving protective intervention and coordination services	\$/per child	10,255
Homelessness Services Support	\$/per day	39.87
Provision of out-of-home care	\$/per night	295.00

Institutional History (n=212)

People experiencing homelessness often find themselves exposed to risks and harmful behaviors that significantly impact their well-being and safety.

27%

(57)

have been in at least
**ONE of these
Institutions**

Institutional Care as a Child	10%	22
Watch House or Prison	10%	22
Institutional Care as an Adult	8%	16
Youth Detention	5%	10

Safety and Risks (n=212)

Families with children experiencing homelessness often find themselves exposed to risks and harmful behaviors that significantly impact their well-being and safety. Sleeping in overcrowded environments or in emergency accommodation, such as couch surfing or substandard motels, which makes them vulnerable to various health and safety risks, including domestic and family violence.

72%	153	At Risk of Harm
64%	136	Homelessness Caused by a Relationship Breakdown
61%	130	At Risk of Harm
21%	44	Unresolved Legal Issues

Family Unit (n=212)

When a family experiences homelessness, there can be negative and diverse consequences for the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of any children involved, causing trauma, disruption to schooling, social networks and family relationships.

Homelessness impacting engagement with children	69%	146
Homelessness causing isolation from family supports	63%	134
Adults in the family have changed over in past 6 months	44%	94
Child has experienced trauma or abuse in past 6 months	38%	80
Children been separated from mother to live with a family member or friend in the past 6 months	28%	59

References

- 1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) [Chronic conditions and multimorbidity](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 2 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2020-21), [National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing](#), ABS Website.
- 3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 4 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2020-2022), [National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing](#), ABS Website.
- 5 Productivity Commission (2023) [Report on Government Services 2023](#), Australian Government.
- 6 Emergency Accommodation Expenses (2022) [Recovery expenses](#), Queensland Government.
- 7 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2021-22](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 8 Productivity Commission (2023) [Report on Government Services 2023](#), Australian Government.

Sole Parenting Women

This data is a snapshot of the sole parenting women surveyed using the VI-SPDAT by participating Brisbane Zero Regional Members during the 2022-23 financial year.



150

Sole Parenting Women experiencing homelessness were surveyed



28%

identify as First Nations



7%
(10) were pregnant at the time of the survey

2.5
Years

Average total years living on the streets or emergency accommodation



35 years old
was the average age

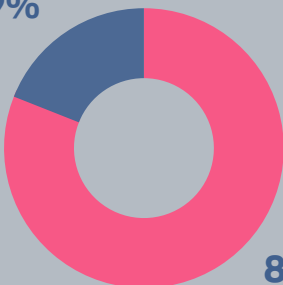
# Children per Family	# of Families
1	49
2	36
3	13
4+	10
Unknown	42

Age Group of Children	# Children
0-4 years	85
5-12 years	82
13-17 years	30
Unknown Age	5

Vulnerability Levels

The VI-SPDAT enables support needs to be determined using an acuity scale, identifying the kind of housing and support people require to live more safe, stable and productive lives.

19%



81%

- 81% need Supportive Housing; safe, stable, and affordable housing with embedded healthcare, community and other support services.
- 19% need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing with short-term support services.

Health Needs Snapshot (n=150)

People experiencing homelessness have high levels of health vulnerability in comparison with the Australian general population.

The following data represents the complexity of the health needs of the 150 sole parenting women Brisbane Zero families surveyed.



85%
(128)

At least ONE Mental Health Condition

Comparison with the national population of sole parenting: **16%**¹

Trauma Experienced	81%	122
Anxiety Diagnosed	71%	107
Depression Diagnosed	65%	97
PTSD Diagnosed	47%	71



50%
(75)

At least ONE Chronic Health Condition

32% National general population comparison ²

Dental Problems	45%	67
Asthma	41%	61
Dehydration Experienced	29%	43
Heat Stroke Experienced	18%	27



27%
(32)

At least ONE type of Disability

18% National general population comparison ³

Intellectual Disability	21%	32
Physical Disability	11%	16
Mental Health Condition	5%	8



25%
(38)

Substance Use
Alcohol & Other Drugs

Problematic Substance Use	22%	33
Substance Use led to Homelessness	4%	6

Health Needs Snapshot (n=150)

A significant prevalence of diverse chronic conditions and morbidity is observed among people experiencing homelessness, presenting higher rates of two or more long-term conditions in comparison to the Australian general population (25%).⁴



25%
(38)

Dual Morbidity
(Mental Health +
Substance Use)



41%
(62)

Tri-Morbidity
(Mental + Physical Health
+ Substance Use)

Service Utilisation Snapshot (n=150)

People experiencing homelessness often become frequent users of hospitals, ambulance, crisis accommodation and other emergency support services.

In the last 6 months...

90%
(135)

**have used at least ONE
of these Emergency
Services**

79%	119	have used a Crisis Service
50%	75	have presented at Emergency
49%	73	have had Police Interaction
36%	54	have taken an Ambulance

Indicative Cost of Service Utilisation⁵

The following table outlines the costs associated with people experiencing homelessness accessing the service system across Queensland per night.

Hospital (Admitted Patient)	\$/per night	1,088.00
Emergency Department	\$/per presentation	740.00
Ambulance	\$/per service	540.49
Prison	\$/per night	342.28
Watch House	\$/per night	286.00
Homelessness Services Support	\$/per day	39.87
Emergency Accommodation	\$/per night	200.00 ⁶

Indicative Cost of Service interaction across the Child Protection System⁸

The following table outlines the costs associated with families experiencing homelessness and engaging with the Child Protection System in Queensland.

Cost per report to child protection	\$/per report	204.00
Cost per notification	\$/per notification	830.00
Cost per child receiving generic family support services	\$/per child	1,902
Cost per child receiving intensive family support services	\$/per child	7,260
Cost per child receiving protective intervention and coordination services	\$/per child	10,255
Homelessness Services Support	\$/per day	39.87
Provision of out-of-home care	\$/per night	295.00

Institutional History (n=150)

People experiencing homelessness often find themselves exposed to risks and harmful behaviors that significantly impact their well-being and safety.

31%

(21)

have been in at least
ONE of these
Institutions

Watch House or Prison	9%	13
Institutional Care as a Child	7%	11
Youth Detention	5%	7
Institutional Care as an Adult	4%	6

Safety and Risks (n=150)

Families with children experiencing homelessness often find themselves exposed to risks and harmful behaviors that significantly impact their well-being and safety. Sleeping in overcrowded environments or in emergency accommodation, such as couch surfing or substandard motels, which makes them vulnerable to various health and safety risks, including domestic and family violence.

74%	111	At Risk of Harm
69%	103	At Risk of Violence
69%	103	Homelessness Caused by a Relationship Breakdown
19%	29	Unresolved Legal Issues

Family Unit (n=150)

When a family experiences homelessness, there can be negative and diverse consequences for the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of any children involved, causing trauma, disruption to schooling, social networks and family relationships.

Homelessness impacting engagement with children	69%	103
Homelessness causing isolation from family supports	62%	93
Adults in the family have changed over in past 6 months	49%	74
Child has experienced trauma or abuse in past 6 months	41%	61
Children been separated from mother to live with a family member or friend in the past 6 months	27%	41

References

- 1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Australia's children, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 2 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2020-21), [National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing](#), ABS Website.
- 3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [People with disability in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 4 Vallesi, S., Tuson, M., Davies, A., & Wood, L. (2021). [Multimorbidity among People Experiencing Homelessness-Insights from Primary Care Data](#). International journal of environmental research and public health, 18(12), 6498.
- 5 Productivity Commission (2023) [Report on Government Services 2023](#), Australian Government.
- 6 Emergency Accommodation Expenses (2022) [Recovery expenses](#), Queensland Government.
- 7 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [Specialist homelessness services annual report 2021-22](#), AIHW, Australian Government.
- 8 Productivity Commission (2023) [Report on Government Services 2023](#), Australian Government.

The Brisbane Zero data collaboration includes the following current regional members and collaborators:

3rd Space

ATSICHS

Anglicare

Brisbane Youth Service

Churches of Christ Housing Services

Communify

Community Plus QLD Inc

Drug ARM

Encircle

Foots Prints Community

Institute for Urban Indigenous Health

Kyabra Community Association Ltd

Micah Projects

Mission Australia

Murri Watch

The Salvation Army

Sero4

Silky Oaks

UnitingCare



CHECK OUT
OUR PROGRESS!
SEE OUR LIVE DATA
DASHBOARD.

Unlocking systems
to end homelessness



brisbanezero.org.au

brisbanezero@micahprojects.org.au