

BRISBANE ZERO HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT

Unlocking systems
to end homelessness

**BRISBANE
ZERO**

FIRST NATIONS INDIVIDUALS

1 JULY 2024 - 30 JUNE 2025



Across Brisbane there are individuals with unique experiences, strengths and challenges experiencing homelessness. They often don't have a safe place to sleep and limited access to services and support. Street homelessness is the most visible form of homelessness, but it is not the only and not the biggest form of homelessness.

This data snapshot provides information about **First Nations individuals on the Brisbane Zero By-Name List** experiencing homelessness in Brisbane. We thank these individuals for their participation and treat the information they have shared with us with respect and dignity.

615

First Nations individuals experienced homelessness at some point during last year, **244** were women

265

identified as homeless for the first time

18

returned to homelessness from a permanent house

110

cycled through homelessness



25% of the **Brisbane Zero By-name List** identify as **First Nations**.



2% of the Brisbane population identify as **First Nations**.



73 (12%)

First Nations people were housed

542

(88%) still require permanent housing

348 individuals became disengaged for various reasons

This data only includes the people who have chosen to appear on the By Name List, we know this data could be much higher.

Making Human Experiences Visible within the System: There is hope



Damien* is a 63-year-old Aboriginal man who has spent years cycling in and out of homelessness—moving between rough sleeping, short-term accommodation, and brief tenancies. Over at least six years without stable housing, his physical and mental health were significantly impacted. He needed a safe, permanent home to manage his health—and the right supports in place to stay housed.

In 2023, Damien lost his tenancy. He didn't have NDIS supports during that time, which may have contributed to the loss. The Brisbane Zero Collaboration joined efforts to develop a strategy for First Nations people over 45 to focus on the specific needs of older First Nations people. Service providers within the Brisbane Zero Collaboration joined efforts to understand Damien's needs, and coordinate access to suitable housing and supports. In late 2024, Damien moved into permanent home. With supports now wrapped around him, he has a safe, stable foundation that gives him a better chance to manage his health and stay housed.

*The name has been changed for privacy and confidentiality purposes. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

Brisbane By-Name List

The By-Name List helps us to identify every person sleeping rough (on streets, in parks, tents, cars, or cycling through motels and emergency accommodation) in Brisbane, their needs and the support services required.

First Nations individuals identified through the By-Name List

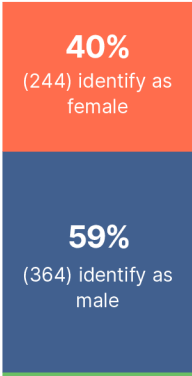
615

First Nations individual adults experienced homelessness at some point during the past year, **244** women

327 (53%) slept rough at some point during the last year, on the streets, in parks, tents, or cars

41 years 2 months

Average age, Individuals



1%
(7) identify as gender diverse

74 First Nations individuals housed

47% (34)	Public Housing
27% (20)	Community Housing
14% (10)	Private Rental
4% (3)	Permanent Boarding
3% (2)	Supportive Housing
5% (4)	Other



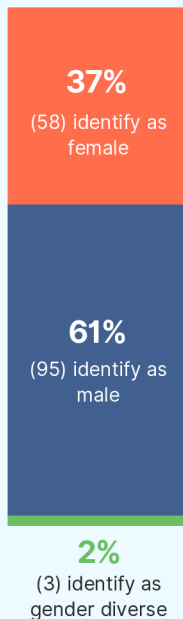
First Nations individuals surveyed

First Nations individuals on the By-Name List were surveyed using the Australian Homelessness Vulnerability triage Tool (AHVTT). The tool aims to help homelessness services to match housing and support for the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in their community. Based on people's disclosed information, it helps to provide the right housing, healthcare and community services for individuals, youth, and families.

First Nations individuals surveyed

156 First Nations individuals experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness

42 years, average age



History of Housing & Homelessness

4 years 2 months average of last time they had a **permanent place to live**

62% (96) **sleeping rough** at the time of the survey

58% (91) **left or lost housing due to violence** in the home

33% (51) have **experienced living in a foster or group home**

61% (95) have **experienced discrimination** when seeking housing or supports

40% (61) had **never had a tenancy**



Health and wellbeing

89% (139) experienced at least one health or substance use issue

69% (107) diagnosed mental health condition

54% (84) ongoing serious health issue

49% (77) regularly use substances

34% (53) do NOT seek medical help when sick

30% (47) would have difficulties living independently

28% (44) brain injury or head trauma

Top 3 primary health or mental health issues

1. **Anxiety** 38% (59)
2. **PTSD** 33% (51)
3. **Clinical Depression** 33% (50)

System usage

27% (42) **admitted to hospital 5 or more times** in the past year

24% (38) been to a **hospital emergency department** five or more times in the past year

18% (28) **taken an ambulance 5 or more times** in the past year



Social and Daily needs

60% (93) **do not have enough money** to take care of day to day needs

51% (79) **do not have access to a shower**

39% (61) **do not have access to food & water**



Safety

73% (114) **experienced violence** within the past year

59% (92) **do not feel safe** where they sleep

51% (80) had **5 or more interactions with police** in the past year

Gathering the data

Out of 615 First Nations Individuals on the By-Name List, 156 were surveyed by Brisbane Zero members between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025 using the AHVTT tool, available at brisbanezero.org.au. All individuals provided consent to participate. The data collected has been de-identified and recorded in line with Confidentiality and Privacy Principles.

Data-driven change

The data aims to drive change through:

- Providing valuable information on the needs of people experiencing homelessness and what their needs are to assist in triaging the most vulnerable and advocating for system change.
- Capturing and making sense of what is happening to people who enter the homelessness service system, when they cycle through this system and what their housing situation is upon leaving the system; make informed decisions about resourcing, focusing and directing services and supports.

Sustainable change requires cross-sector collaboration

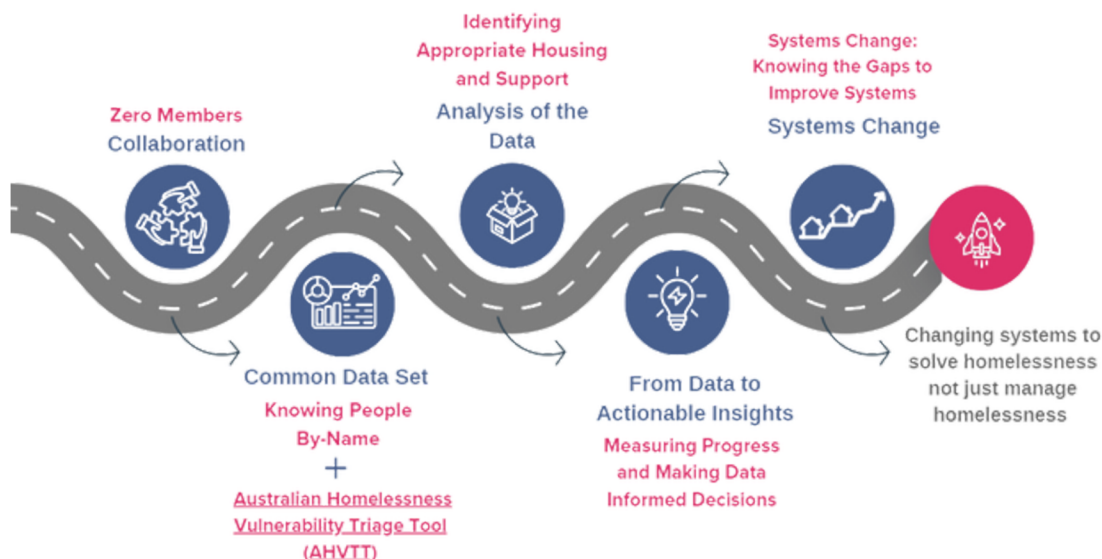
Our purpose is to identify the essential conditions needed to ensure homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring. This will enable government, services, providers and agencies to better understand the needs of people experiencing homelessness or at risk.

A shared desire for solutions

Through collaboration, data-driven insights, and advocacy around tailored housing solutions, we work towards preventing, reducing and ending homelessness in our community.

Homelessness is solvable

Brisbane Zero is part of the Advance to Zero national initiative of the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness, that support local collaborative efforts to end homelessness – one community at a time. It aims to end and prevent homelessness for individuals, youth and families with children, starting with those who are or have been sleeping rough. Through collaboration, data-driven insights, and advocacy around tailored housing solutions, we work towards preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness in our community.



Brisbane Zero is a collaborative partnership with organisations who strive to achieve optimal housing outcomes and support for as many people as possible. Brisbane Zero is supported by the Ellen Whitty Trust and Department of Housing and Public Works Queensland.

Data for this financial year homelessness snapshot includes contribution from the following Brisbane Zero regional members:

