Unlocking systems to end homelessness



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)

2022-23 Financial Year Report





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 self-disclosed 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 to match housing vacancies with the needs of potential tenants, and to provide referrals for services and healthcare.

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Individual Adults

This data provides a snapshot of individual adults surveyed using the VI-SPDAT by participating Brisbane Zero Regional Members during the 2022-23 financial year. Out of the 2,072 individuals on the Know By-Name List, 325 consented to being surveyed.



325

Individual adults experiencing homelessness were surveyed





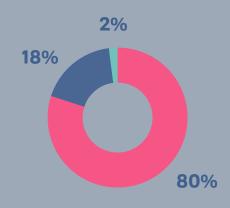




3% Other gender or not stated



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.



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 Physical Health Condition

Comparison with the national general population: 47% ²

Dental Problems	61%	197
Dehydration Experienced	38%	125
Asthma	34%	110
Heat Stroke Experienced	26%	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
A mental health condition that limits independent living	15%	50



68%

(222)

Substance Use Alcohol & Other Drugs

Comparison with the national general population*: 16% 4

Problematic Substance Use	53%	173
Substance Use led to Homelessness	26%	83



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%).



Substance Use)

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 Utilisation 6

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=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.

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

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References

- 1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) <u>Chronic conditions and multimorbidity</u>, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 2 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) <u>Chronic conditions and multimorbidity</u>, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) <u>People with disability in Australia</u>, 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). <u>Multimorbidity among People Experiencing Homelessness-Insights from Primary Care Data</u>. International journal of environmental research and public health, 18(12), 6498.
- 6 Productivity Commission (2023) <u>Report on Government Services 2023</u>, Australian Government.
- 7 Emergency Accommodation Expenses (2022) <u>Recovery expenses</u>, Queensland Government.
- 8 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) <u>Specialist homelessness</u> <u>services annual report 2021–22</u>, AIHW, Australian Government.

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Individual Women

This data provides a snapshot of individual adults surveyed using the VI-SPDAT by participating Brisbane Zero Regional Members during the 2022-23 financial year. Out of the 752 individual women on the Know By-Name List, 109 consented to being surveyed.



109

Individual women experiencing homelessness were surveyed



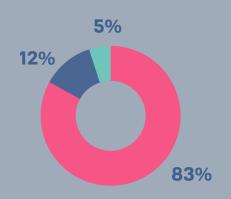




5%
(5)
were pregnant at the time of the survey



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.



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 Physical 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
A mental health condition that limits independent living	17%	19



65%

1/1

Substance Use Alcohol & Other Drugs

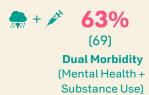
Comparison with the national general population*: 11% 4

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



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





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% (96)

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 Utilisation 6

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



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

45% (49)

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)

Women experiencing homelessness, especially those sleeping rough, are highly exposed to significant risks that profoundly affect their well-being and safety, primarily due to factors like sexual violence, physical assault, and exploitation. Domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children, and the primary reason to seek specialist homelessness services. ⁹

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

BRISBANE ZERC

References

- 1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2023) <u>Chronic conditions and multimorbidity</u>, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 2 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2020-2022), <u>National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing</u>, ABS Website.
- 3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) <u>People with disability in Australia</u>, 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) <u>Chronic conditions and multimorbidity</u>, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 6 Productivity Commission (2023) <u>Report on Government Services 2023</u>, Australian Government.
- 7 Emergency Accommodation Expenses (2022) <u>Recovery expenses</u>, Queensland Government.
- 8 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) <u>Specialist homelessness</u> <u>services annual report 2021–22</u>, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 9 Equity Economics. (2021). <u>Nowhere to go The benefits of providing long term social housing to women that have experienced domestic and family violence.</u>

Families

This data provides a snapshot of families surveyed using the VI-SPDAT by participating Brisbane Zero Regional Members during the 2022-23 financial year. Out of the 668 families on the Know By-Name List, 212 consented to being surveyed.

212

Families with children experiencing homelessness were surveyed 30% identify as First Nations

290 Child their

Children in their care





3 Years

Average total years living on the streets or in emergency accommodation



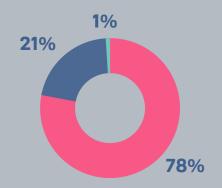
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# Children per Family	# of Families
1	67
2	47
3	14
4+	19
Unknown	65

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

Age Group of

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.





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 %
(11911)	(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



At least ONE Physical 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%

(00)

At least ONE type of Disability

Comparison with the national general population: 18% ³

Intellectual Disability	25%	53
Physical Disability	13%	27
A mental health condition that limits independent living	5%	11



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



Substance Use)

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 Utilisation

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 accross the Child Protection System

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 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 Violence
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
Lack of purposeful and structured routines within the family	33%	69
Homelessness has impacted on children school attendance	29%	62
Children been separated from parent (s) to live with a family member or friend in the past 6 months	28%	59
Children removed from family by a child protection service within last 6 months	5%	10

^{*}The number of children removed from family by a child protection service within last 6 months is based on self-reports from families, which may not accurately represent the full number. In relation to children separated from parents it is unknown if the child protection system has been involved.

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References

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

Sole Parenting Women

This data provides a snapshot of Sole Parenting Women surveyed using the VI-SPDAT by participating Brisbane Zero Regional Members during the 2022-23 financial year. Out of the 481 on the Know By-Name 150 consented to being surveyed.

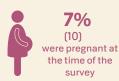
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150

Sole Parenting Women experiencing homelessness were surveyed



202 Children in their care







Average total years living on the streets or in emergency accommodation

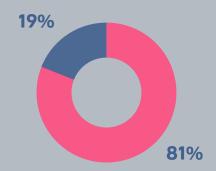




# Children per Family	# of Families
1	49
2	36
3	13
4+	10
Unknown	42

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.

- 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%

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



50% (75)

At least ONE Physical 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%

At least ONE type of Disability

18% National general population comparison ³

Intellectual Disability	21%	32
Physical Disability	11%	16
A mental health condition that limits independent living	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



Dual Morbidity (Mental Health + Substance Use)



(23)

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%

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 accross 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)

Women with children experiencing homelessness often find themselves exposed to risks 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. Domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children, and the primary reason to seek specialist homelessness services. 8

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		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
Lack of purposeful and structured routines within the family	33%	49
Homelessness has impacted on children school attendance	29%	43
Children been separated from parent (s) to live with a family member or friend in the past 6 months		41
Children removed from family by a child protection service within last 6 months *	5%	7

^{*}The number of children removed from family by a child protection service within last 6 months is based on self-reports from families, which may not accurately represent the full number. In relation to children separated from parents it is unknown if the child protection system has been involved.

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References

- 1 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) Australia's children, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 2 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2020-21), <u>National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing</u>, ABS Website.
- 3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) <u>People with disability in Australia</u>, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 4 Vallesi, S., Tuson, M., Davies, A., & Wood, L. (2021). <u>Multimorbidity among People Experiencing Homelessness-Insights from Primary Care Data</u>. International journal of environmental research and public health, 18(12), 6498.
- 5 Productivity Commission (2023) <u>Report on Government Services 2023</u>, Australian Government.
- 6 Emergency Accommodation Expenses (2022) <u>Recovery expenses</u>, Queensland Government.
- 7 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) <u>Specialist homelessness</u> <u>services annual report 2021–22</u>, AIHW, Australian Government.
- 8 Productivity Commission (2023) <u>Report on Government Services 2023</u>, Australian Government.
- 9 Equity Economics. (2021). <u>Nowhere to go The benefits of providing long term social housing to women that have experienced domestic and family violence.</u>

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





Unlocking systems to end homelessness



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