

2025–2026 | **BRISBANE ZERO**

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT



Across Brisbane, families don't have a safe place to sleep, a place to raise their family or call home.

This snapshot provides an overview of families on the Brisbane By-Name List who are experiencing homelessness. This year, the number of families surveyed almost doubled, providing a broader picture of the experiences and needs of families facing homelessness.

While some have secured housing, the number of families sleeping rough has increased, along with health and wellbeing concerns. More First Nations families are also experiencing homelessness, and sole-parent women continue to be disproportionately represented.

984 families with **1,539 children** on the By-Name List experienced homelessness during the past year*

403 of these families were carried over from previous reporting period

715 were headed by sole parenting women with **1,152** children

318 were housed, with **246** of these headed by sole parenting women

44 returned to homelessness from a permanent house

321 were identified as homeless for the first time

56 have been experiencing homelessness for more than 12 months, having remained homeless since before July 2025.

268 were First Nations families, reflecting over-representation among families experiencing homelessness.



* This data relates to people who homelessness services have offered the opportunity to be part of the By-Name List. The number of people experiencing homelessness is much higher.

CLARE, 37 YEARS OLD, MOTHER OF TWO

Clare* is a 37-year-old mother of 2 children. In late 2024, the family lost their 5-year tenancy due to financial hardship. The discontinuation of critical financial assistance compound with Clare's serious chronic health condition, leaving Clare and the family with no housing options. The family presented to a homelessness service and was provided crisis accommodation where they stayed for nearly 12 months. Not having access to basic facilities for at-home treatment put a lot of pressure on the family's routine, leading to the deterioration of Clare's health and the family's overall wellbeing, including the children's schooling.

During this time, Clare was still working, locking her out of the public housing system, while her income was not enough to afford another private rental. Through the Brisbane Zero Coordination Group for Families, targeted coordination brought together Clare's support workers, homelessness services, and the Department of Housing to develop a housing solution for Clare and her children.

In October 2025, they moved into their new home, where they have been able to settle, regain stability, and focus on the family's health and wellbeing.

* Names have been changed for privacy and confidentiality purposes. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

BRISBANE BY-NAME LIST

The By-Name List (BNL) 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.

BNL **FAMILIES IDENTIFIED**

984 identified families including **1,539 children** experienced homelessness at some point during the past year.

715 were headed by **sole parenting women**.

 **321** were newly identified as experiencing homelessness. **198** of these were headed by sole parenting women

 **35 years** average age of the first head of household

 **113** (11%) slept rough at some point during the year, with **70** headed by sole parenting women

 **844** (86%) heads of household were female

 **268** (27%) heads of household identified as First Nations

 **FAMILIES HOUSED**

318 families identified through the list were housed

 **558** children were housed, with **429** from households headed by sole parenting women

 **77%** (246) of families housed were sole parenting women

 **75** (24%) heads of housed households identified as First Nations

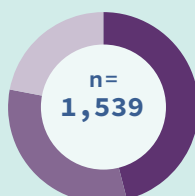
Housing type	Families (318)	Sole parenting women (246)
Public Housing	41% (131)	42% (103)
Private Rental	35% (112)	34% (84)
Community Housing	17% (54)	17% (42)
Supportive Housing	1% (2)	<1% (1)
Self-Housed	1% (4)	1% (2)
Other	5% (15)	6% (14)

AGE OF CHILDREN

(n=no. of children)

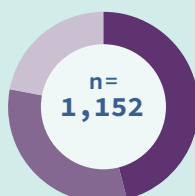
All households

-  **32%** (491) 0–4 years
-  **46%** (710) 5–12 years
-  **22%** (338) 13–17 years



With sole parenting women

-  **32%** (364) 0–4 years
-  **46%** (535) 5–12 years
-  **22%** (253) 13–17 years

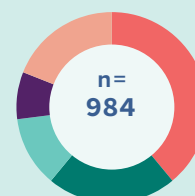


NUMBER OF CHILDREN

(n=no. of households)

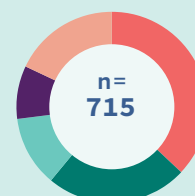
All households

-  **39%** (379) 1 child
-  **22%** (220) 2 children
-  **12%** (116) 3 children
-  **8%** (81) 4+ children
-  **19%** (188) Unknown



With sole parenting women

-  **37%** (267) 1 child
-  **24%** (168) 2 children
-  **12%** (87) 3 children
-  **9%** (62) 4+ children
-  **18%** (130) Unknown





HEALTH AND WELLNESS

72% (221) experienced at least one health or substance use issue

50% (156) diagnosed mental health condition

44% (136) diagnosed chronic health condition

25% (78) used substances in last 30 days

15% (46) do not seek medical help when sick

12% (38) brain injury or head trauma

Top 5 primary health or mental health conditions

- 1** Anxiety 43% (132)
- 2** Clinical Depression 33% (102)
- 3** PTSD 29% (90)
- 4** Bi-Polar 8% (24)
- 5** Personality disorder 7% (23)

Health system usage

- 28%** (85) were high health service system users
- 17%** (54) had been admitted to hospital five or more times in the past year
- 16%** (49) had been to a hospital emergency department five or more times in the past year
- 9%** (29) had taken an ambulance five or more times in the past year

THE SURVEY

Families 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



FAMILIES SURVEYED

309 families surveyed who were experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness

92 identified as First Nations

35 years, was the average age

Family Units

63% of families (195) disclosed that homelessness had made it difficult to engage with children

33% of families (103) had children who were unable to attend school consistently

31% of families (95) had children living with friends, family, or foster care

HOUSING HISTORIES

1 year, 4 months was the average time since they last had a permanent place to live

9 years was the longest reported time since a family had a permanent place to live

61% (188) had no permanent place to live in the past year

29% (90) left or lost housing because family or friends caused them to get evicted

10% (32) were sleeping rough at the time of the survey

14% (44) had lived in a foster or group home

SAFETY

50% (155) experienced violence within the past year

28% (87) did not feel safe where they sleep

15% (47) had five or more police interactions in the past year

SOCIAL/DAILY NEEDS

37% (113) did not have enough money to take care of day to day needs

10% (30) did not have access to a shower

9% (27) did not have access to food and water

Unlocking systems
to end homelessness

BRISBANE ZERO

The Brisbane Zero snapshot 2025–26 reflects both people's experiences and services' capacity to give visibility to their circumstances.

A year of hidden homelessness... Since October 2025, fewer people added to the By-Name List (BNL). This does not mean fewer people have been experiencing homelessness, in fact we know from service delivery data that more people have experienced homelessness in the past year than ever before. Rather, it reflects a year of overrun services trying to work within a housing crisis with inadequate capacity to engage, support and record the names and needs of all people experiencing homelessness on the BNL who seek support, which in turn affects the fulsomeness of this data.

Making homelessness visible... identifying and addressing these barriers to building a quality BNL, we can better understand the scale of homelessness and unmet needs in our community, track changing needs over time, and identify where additional support is required.

Data highlights the experiences of people seeking housing support and the pressures facing the services that support them, the patterns and the trends and the impact of policy and funding. Together, it strengthens our ability to respond, advocate, and work toward ending homelessness in Brisbane. This is why data collection matters.

Achievements and Strengths of Brisbane Zero in 2025-2026

Growing collaboration

Brisbane Zero now includes **32 member organisations**, **15 data contributors** and **17 collaborators**, working together toward ending homelessness in our community.

Building sector capacity

Delivered **65 training sessions** to **343 workers** from **14 organisations**, strengthening use of the Advance to Zero database and the Australian Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool (AHVTT).

Strengthening housing pathways

In partnership with Common Ground Queensland, **11 people** on the Brisbane By-Name List were housed at Brisbane Common Ground in 2025–26 through a coordinated vacancy allocation process.

Strengthening coordinated responses

113 Brisbane Zero Coordination Groups were held bringing together **28 government and non-government organisations** to coordinate support and advocacy for over **500 people** on the By-Name List across individual adults, families, and young people.

Using data to drive action

Brisbane Zero Coordination Groups have introduced focus groups, dedicated time during Coordination Group meetings to use data insights to strengthen targeted responses for housing outcomes for specific population groups, such as people with a tri-morbidity profile or trans and gender diverse people experiencing homelessness.

Emerging Concerns

Families on the By-Name List (BNL)

First Nations families had their highest level of representation on the BNL in 2025–26, accounting for **27% of all families**, up from **25%** in 2024–25. Of the **7% of families sleeping rough** in cars, public spaces and parks, one-third (**33%**) are **First Nations families**. This highlights the growing overrepresentation of First Nations families among those experiencing the most severe forms of homelessness.

Of all the families on the BNL asked about the main reason for their current experience of homelessness, **violence at home (38%)** and **relationship breakdown (40%)** were common drivers, reinforcing the need for coordinated responses across housing, health and community sectors.

What's next?

We will continue to strengthen Brisbane Zero by responding to changing patterns of homelessness, using data and lived experience to improve outcomes, and supporting services to make people's needs visible.

Through collaboration with services and government, we will use shared data to inform decisions, advocate for better housing pathways, and drive lasting change so more people have a safe place to call home.

HOMELESSNESS IS SOLVABLE.

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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 families homelessness snapshot includes contribution from the following Brisbane Zero regional members:

