

# BRISBANE ZERO HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT

Unlocking systems  
to end homelessness

**BRISBANE  
ZERO**

## FAMILIES

1 JULY 2024 – 30 JUNE 2025

Across Brisbane there are families facing the challenges of homelessness. They often don't have a safe place to sleep, a place to raise their family or call home, and have 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 families on the Brisbane By Name List experiencing homelessness in Brisbane. We thank these families for their participation and treat the information they have shared with us with respect and dignity.

**1,230** families experienced homelessness at some point during the past year

**604**  
(77%) of families identified as homeless for the first time

**46** (6%) returned to homelessness from a permanent house

**130** (17%) cycled through homelessness

**306**  
(25%) housed,  
**229** (24%) were sole parenting women



**924**  
still require permanent housing,  
**714** are sole parenting women



475 families became disengaged for various reasons, 373 were sole parenting women

People who have chosen to be part of the By Name List, we know that in reality this could be much higher

### Making Human Experiences Visible within the System: There is hope

Shannon\* is a 21-year-old mother of 3 young children. In early 2023, her relationship ended while she was pregnant with her third child. Forced to leave the home they had rented together, Shannon fell into homelessness. She was unable to secure a private rental due to her limited rental and employment history. For the following two years, Shannon moved between couch surfing and motel accommodation, giving birth to her third child amid unstable and overcrowded living conditions.

Without basic facilities or appropriate supports, Shannon's mental health began to deteriorate.

Since moving into a motel in early 2024, service providers within the Brisbane Zero Collaboration have worked together, alongside the Department of Housing, to find Shannon and her family a home. In May 2025, they moved into their own home. Services helped Shannon settle in, regain stability and begin to rebuild the family's life.



\*The 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.

### Families identified through the By-Name List

**1,230** families experienced homelessness at some point during the past year, **943** were sole parenting women

**2,125** children

**1,080** (88%) were female head of household

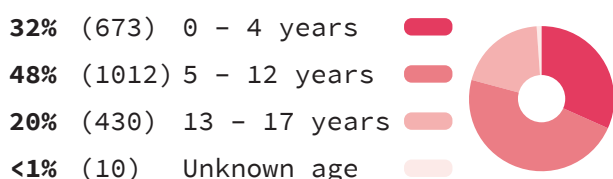
**77%** (604) of families were newly identified as experiencing homelessness, **75%** were sole parenting women

**10%** (119) slept rough at some point during the year, **9%** were sole parenting women

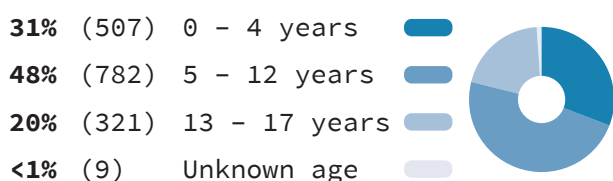
**35** years, average age of first head of household

**25%** (308) heads of household identify as First Nations people

### Age of children – Families n=2,125 children



### Age of children – Sole parenting women n= 1,620 children



## 306 Families housed

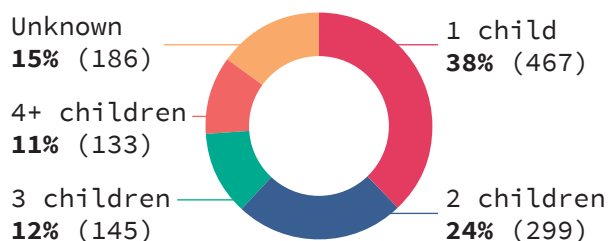
**19%** (59) heads of household identify as First Nations, **18%** (41) were sole parenting women

**579** children housed with these families, of these **434** children were from sole parenting women households

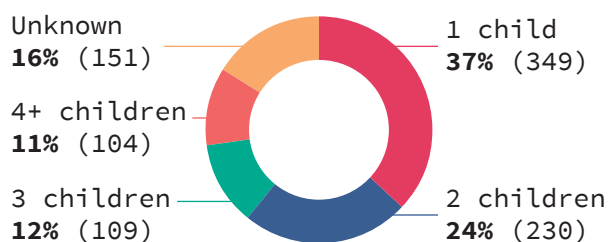
### Families who achieved housing

Housing type breakdown	Families n=306	Sole parenting women n=229
Private rental	<b>44%</b> (134)	<b>40%</b> (91)
Public housing	<b>35%</b> (108)	<b>38%</b> (87)
Community housing	<b>15%</b> (46)	<b>17%</b> (38)
Other	<b>3%</b> (9)	<b>3%</b> (8)
Self-housed	<b>2%</b> (7)	<b>2%</b> (4)
Supportive housing	<b>1%</b> (2)	<b>&lt;1%</b> (1)

### Number of children per household – Families, n=1,230 households



### Number of children per household – Sole parenting women, n=943 households



## Families surveyed

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. Based on people's disclosed information, it helps to provide the right housing, healthcare and community services for individuals, youth, and families. Indicative data of their needs (within Families surveyed).

### Families surveyed

**191** families experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness

**48** (25%) First Nations

**35** years, average age

### Family unit

**74%** (141) families disclosed that homelessness has made it **difficult to engage with children**

**37%** (71) children **unable to attend school consistently**

**30%** (58) **do not have 2 or more planned activities** per week as a family

**29%** (56) had **children living with friends/family/foster care**

**7%**  
(14) male head of household

**93%**  
(177) female head of household

## Health and wellbeing



**66%** (126) experienced at least one health or substance use issue

**53%** (102) diagnosed mental health condition

**39%** (75) ongoing serious health issue

**22%** (42) brain injury or head trauma

**12%** (23) do NOT seek medical help when sick

**10%** (19) regularly use substances

### Top 5 primary health or mental health issues

- 1. Anxiety** 38% (72)
- 2. Clinical Depression** 25% (48)
- 3. PTSD** 24% (45)
- 4. Neurodevelopment disorder** 7% (14)
- 5. Bi-Polar** 7% (13)

### Health system usage

**19%** (37) **admitted to hospital 5 or more times** in the past year

**16%** (30) been to a **hospital emergency department** five or more times in the past year

**10%** (20) **taken an ambulance 5 or more times** in the past year

## History of Housing & Homelessness

**1 year** 4 months average of last time they had a **permanent place to live**

**13 years** longest reported time that a family had not had a **permanent place to live**

**68%** (130) **left or lost housing due to violence** in the home

**43%** (82) left or lost housing because **family or friends caused them to get evicted**

**29%** (55) **sleeping rough** at the time of the survey

**17%** (32) have **experienced living in a foster or group home**

## Social and Daily needs



**49%** (94) **do not have enough money** to take care of day to day needs

**49%** (94) **do not have people they can rely upon** or who care about them

**31%** (60) **do not have access to a shower**

**20%** (39) **do not have access to food & water**

## Safety



**71%** (135) **experienced violence** within the past year

**47%** (89) **do not feel safe** where they sleep

**28%** (54) had **5 or more interactions with police** in the past year

## Gathering the data

Out of 1,230 families on the By-Name List, 191 were surveyed by Brisbane Zero members between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025 using the AHVTT tool, available at [brisbane.zero.org.au](https://brisbane.zero.org.au). All families 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

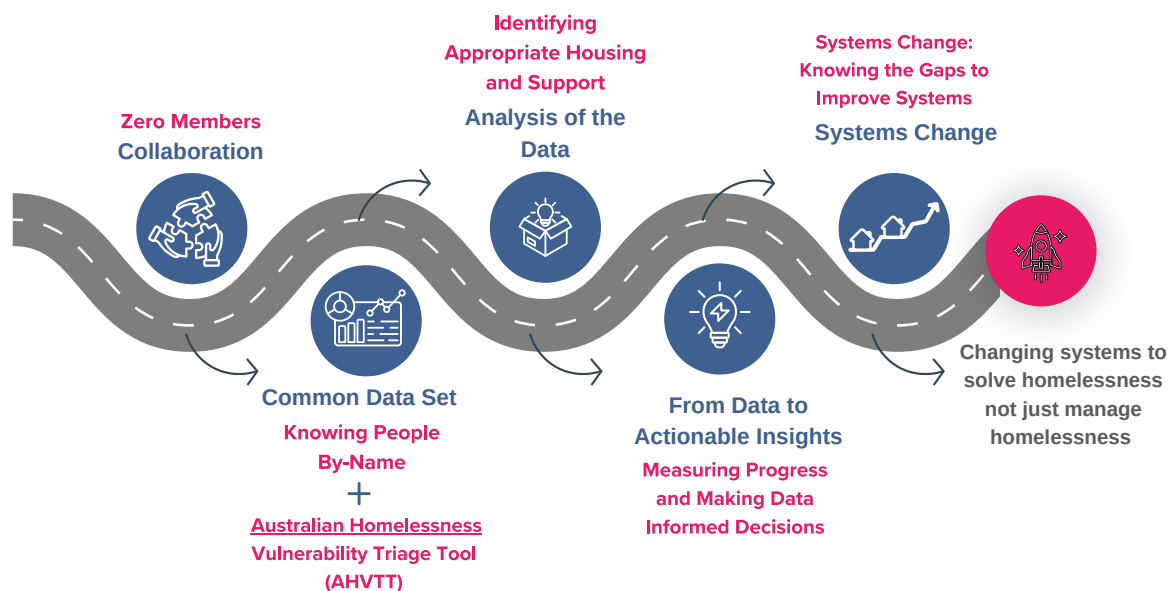
Our purpose is to identify the essential conditions needed to ensure homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring. This will enable government, services, providers and agencies to better understand the needs of people experiencing homelessness or at risk.

## 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.

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