



30th September 2025

2025 Kent Maddock Memorial Award

Nomination of the Brisbane Zero First Nations 45 Plus Cohort Strategy

To the Judging Panel,

As the Brisbane Zero Collaboration and organisations participating in the First Nations 45 Plus Cohort Strategy (the Strategy), we proudly endorse this nomination for the 2025 Kent Maddock Memorial Award.

Our collective support demonstrates the strong collaborative network behind the Strategy since its beginning in 2023, and the significance of the Strategy in bringing stakeholders together around the shared commitment to end homelessness for First Nations people 45 years old and over in Brisbane.

We are over 15 organisations of community service providers, specialist homelessness services, housing providers, government agencies, and First Nations-led organizations, representing the breadth of collaboration needed to solve homelessness in our community.

Over the past two years, the Strategy has contributed to breaking silos in the homelessness and housing sectors and creating a space of partnership, shared leadership and learning among services.

There has been an increased sense of co-ownership of the Strategy's principles and housing outcomes, and different stakeholders got involved and are now champions of the Brisbane Zero Collaboration and the power of the First Nations 45 Plus Cohort Strategy.

Our work to overcome competition and breaking silos is reflected at multiple levels of the Strategy.

Collecting close to real-time data has:

- Increased the visibility of First Nations homelessness in Brisbane, highlighting the over-representation of First Nations people in the Brisbane Zero By-Name List.
- Made close-to-real time data available for our ongoing advocacy for the resources needed to end homelessness for this cohort in Brisbane – including funding for services and dedicated housing for First Nations people.

The weekly Service Coordination meeting has helped us:

- Building a space of partnership and knowledge-sharing to ensure the people we are supporting, and their needs, are front and centre of our work. The Strategy's housing outcomes are the result of intentional collaborative work, rather than individual organisations' relationships and resources.
- Enabled learning led by First Nations organisations and workers about culturally responsive practices, ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and knowledge guide our approach.

The monthly Strategy meetings has provided the space to:

- Track our progress and review our approaches to improve and evolve our collaboration.
- Try different ways of working with Community Housing Providers, and the Queensland Department of Housing.
- Work on a Sustaining Tenancy group so we can learn and develop new ways of preventing people to fall back into homelessness.
- Collectively advocate for system changes needed to end homelessness for this cohort, laying the groundwork for shifting systems towards collective action and intentional collaboration in the long term.

First Nations leadership has been core to the Strategy from the beginning, and we are proud of our learnings and are looking forward to keeping work together to end homelessness for this cohort.

The following organisations endorse the **Brisbane Zero First Nations 45 Plus Cohort Strategy** nomination to the 2025 Kent Maddock Memorial Award.

