

2025–2026 | **BRISBANE ZERO**

INDIVIDUALS HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT



Across Brisbane, many people experiencing homelessness do not have a safe place to sleep or call home.

This snapshot provides an overview of individuals on the Brisbane By-Name List who are experiencing homelessness. This year, the number of individuals surveyed nearly doubled, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences, challenges,

and support needs of individuals. Compared with the previous reporting period, health and wellbeing concerns and use of the health system has increased, highlighting the growing health needs of people experiencing homelessness.

2,326 individuals on the By-Name List experienced homelessness at some point during the past year, including **896 women***

633 individuals were carried over from previous reporting period

261 were housed, including **96 women**

90 returned to homelessness from permanent housing

985 were homeless for the **first time**

604 identified as **First Nations Peoples**, reflecting the significant overrepresentation of First Nations Peoples among people experiencing homelessness in our community

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

* 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

GREG, 47 YEARS OLD

Greg* is a 47-year-old man who has spent years cycling in and out of homelessness—moving between rough sleeping, short-term accommodation, and brief tenancies. Over at least ten years without stable housing, Greg's ability to manage multiple health conditions and substance use has been significantly impacted.

The Brisbane Zero collaboration has been supporting Greg and advocating for a permanent housing outcome for him since 2023. In 2026, the collaborative established a focus

group to support people who have a **tri-morbidity profile** (inclusive of physical and mental health conditions and substance use), creating a space for continuous support and advocacy for Greg to find a permanent home.

Through the collaborative work of Brisbane Zero services, Greg was able to move into a permanent home in April 2026. He is now able to settle in and have a better chance to manage his health and stay housed.

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



THE 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.



INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED THROUGH BY-NAME LIST

2,326

experienced homelessness during the past year. 896 were women



1,413

slept rough at some point during the year. 480 were women



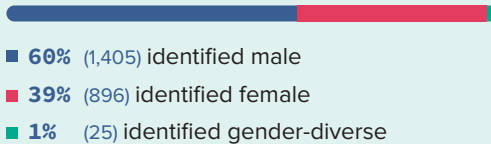
604 (26%)

identified as First Nations people



44 years

was the average age of adult individuals



INDIVIDUALS HOUSED

261

individuals on the Brisbane By-Name List were housed



96 were women



52

identified as First Nations people

Housing type	All (261)	Individual Women (96)
Community Housing	36% (93)	29% (28)
Public Housing	21% (56)	23% (22)
Private Rental	20% (52)	29% (28)
Permanent Boarding	9% (23)	3% (3)
Self-Housed	7% (18)	6% (6)
Supportive Housing	4% (11)	6% (6)
Other	3% (8)	3% (3)

THE SURVEY

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 people experiencing homelessness in our community.

INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED

782

individuals surveyed who were experiencing, or were at risk of, **homelessness**



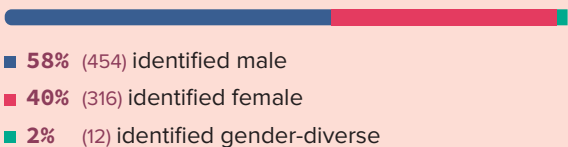
203

identified as First Nations people



44 years

was the average age of adult individuals



HOUSING HISTORIES

1 year, 11 months was the average time since they last had a permanent place to live

1 year, 9 months was the average time spent rough sleeping

54% (426) were sleeping rough at time of survey

37% (290) had left or lost housing because family or friends caused them to get evicted

18% (142) had lived in a foster or group home



SAFETY

54% (424) had experienced violence within the past year

52% (410) did not feel safe where they sleep

23% (182) had five or more interactions with police in the past year



SOCIAL/DAILY NEEDS

46% (361) did not have enough money to take care of day to day needs

39% (305) did not have access to a shower

29% (225) did not have access to food and water



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

83% (652) experienced at least one health or substance use issue

59% (464) diagnosed mental health condition

55% (427) diagnosed chronic health condition

44% (346) used substances in last 30 days

25% (196) do not seek medical help when sick

25% (193) brain injury or head trauma

Top 5 primary health or mental health conditions

1	Anxiety	32% (254)
2	Clinical Depression	25% (197)
3	PTSD	23% (181)
4	Schizophrenia	13% (105)
5	Bi-Polar	9% (72)

Health system usage

37% (293) were high users of service systems

29% (226) had been admitted to hospital five or more times in the past year

24% (184) had been to a hospital emergency department five or more times in the past year

20% (153) had taken an ambulance five or more times in the past year

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 were 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 / 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 – Individuals on the By-Name List (BNL)

More people experienced rough sleeping in Brisbane, with **1,413 individuals on the By-Name List** sleeping rough at some point during 2025–26, an **increase of 161 people** from the previous year.

The number of women experiencing rough sleeping increased, highlighting the need for continued focus on gender-responsive responses and housing pathways.

First Nations Peoples remain significantly overrepresented among individuals experiencing homelessness, with overrepresentation continuing to **grow from 24% last year to 26% this year** (in comparison to **First Nations people making up 1.6%** of the Brisbane LGA population).

Housing outcomes for First Nations Peoples

in 2025–26 **reduced by 6%** (from **26%** to **20%**), reinforcing the need for culturally informed, coordinated, and housing-focused responses across the housing sector.

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.

brisbanezero@micahprojects.org.au

brisbanezero.org.au

07 3029 7000

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 Individuals Homelessness snapshot includes contribution from these Brisbane Zero regional members.