THE BRISBANE ZERO
FIRST NATIONS 45 PLUS COHORT STRATEGY

Jan 2023 to Oct 2026

Unlocking systems to end homelessness
BRISBANE ZERO

Since January 2023, the Brisbane Zero Collaboration has been working together towards ending homelessness for First Nations people aged 45 years and over with a history of rough sleeping - by working together with focus and intent.

Why this cohort?

The Brisbane Zero First Nations 45+ Cohort Strategy was established with a clear focus: to improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 45 years and over who have experienced rough sleeping. This is a cohort whose experiences often sit at the intersection of housing exclusion, health inequity, racism and the enduring impacts of colonisation.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND LEARNED

Between January 2023 to October 2026

181 HOUSING OUTCOMES

173 First Nations people **moved to their own home.**

8 of those have **obtained a second housing outcome** after losing a tenancy.

17+ services **working together.**

1,025 discussions to **coordinate housing supports.**

OUR KEY LEARNINGS

- **Cultural responsiveness** allows us to provide holistic, person-centred, strengths-based support.
- **Collaboration and coordinated support** improve outcomes for people, and enbales us to advocate for systems change.
- **Data creates visibility and drives action** by improving our understanding of people's needs and strengths, and the systems barriers they have to navigate.
- Do not be afraid to **try, fail, and improve**.

> "Many of our People we support have experienced intergenerational trauma, racism, incarceration and disconnection from Culture. Working collaboratively with other services is how we can overcome these challenges and do better for Mob -
>
> **First Nations-led service worker**

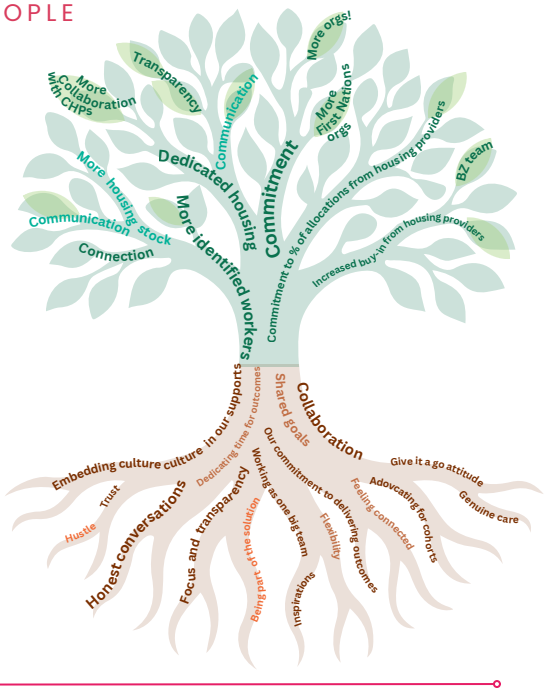
THE POWER OF COLLABORATION AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

THIS DATA SNAPSHOT IS MORE THAN DATA. IT IS ABOUT PEOPLE

The Brisbane Zero approach demonstrates the **power of person-centred, data-informed collaboration**.

By working together around a shared vision, services have coordinated **culturally responsive, holistic support that extends beyond housing**.

This work recognises that lasting housing outcomes are strengthened by healthcare, social and emotional wellbeing, community connection, cultural safety, and practical support, **keeping people at the centre of decision-making.**



The group's Bai-ning (Gubbi Gubbi language for white cedar tree) was a reflection process we did as a group in November 2025. The group shared what they see as **our strengths (our roots)** and **opportunities to improve and grow (our branches and leaves)** - strengthening our shared vision and commitment to work together to end homelessness for this cohort.

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CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Informed by our shared data, our reflections in November 2025 have helped us to identify gaps, understand emerging needs, and strengthen our collective response.

Based on those reflections, the group is focusing on the following key themes:

ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED HOUSING OUTCOMES

Strengthening collaboration with Community Housing Providers to increase housing opportunities through shared commitment and processes. This Strategy is a space where CHPs and services can work together towards person-centred housing and supports - ensuring people get housing and stay housed.

MATCHING HOUSING & SUPPORT TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Leaning into our strong, trusted relationships to build a deep understanding of people's goals, strengths and support needs to drive a person-centred approach where all stakeholders bring shared responsibility and commitmet towards sustainable housing outcomes.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINED TENANCIES

Ending homelessness is not only about securing housing, but also supporting people to thrive in their home. By strengthening communication between support services, housing providers, and sustaining tenancy services, we aim to support First Nations people housed as part of the Strategy to timely access the supports and connections they need to sustain their tenancy.

WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US?

From July 2025 to June 2026

While this data tells us about unmet needs, it also tells us about resilience. **Every person represented in this snapshot has continued to navigate significant challenges while maintaining connection, strength and hope for a better future.**

THE BY-NAME LIST

WHO EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS

206 individuals part of this cohort **experienced homelessness** during the past year.

52 years was the average age.

15 individuals aged **65 and over.**

75% slept rough at some point during the year.

22 individuals **moved to their own home.**

THE SURVEY

UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE'S HOUSING AND SUPPORT NEEDS

72 individuals supported through this Strategy **responded to the AHVTT survey.**

3 years was the average time spent sleeping rough.

67% (48) had been experiencing homelessness for **more than 12 months.**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

93% (67) experienced at least one health or substance use challenge.

78% (56) experienced **overlapping** physical health, mental health, and/or substance use challenges.

51% (37) needed access to health service systems 5 or more times in the past year.

Key disclosed health challenges

1.	**Anxiety**	46% (33)
2.	**PTSD**	35% (25)
3.	**Clinical Depression**	26% (19)
4.	**Bi-Polar Disorder**	18% (13)
5.	**Schizophrenia**	14% (10)

Members of the Brisbane Zero First Nations 45 Plus Cohort Strategy:

3RDSPACE, common ground queensland, communify, IUIH Institute for urban indigenous health, kyabra, Queensland Government, Brisbane City, Micah Projects, Mission Australia, Richmond Fellowship Queensland, The Salvation Army, bric housing

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 Department of Housing and Public Works Queensland and Micah Projects.

brisbanezero@micahprojects.org.au
brisbanezero.org.au | 07 3029 7000