2025–2026 | **BRISBANE ZERO**

HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT

Unlocking systems to end homelessness
BRISBANE ZERO

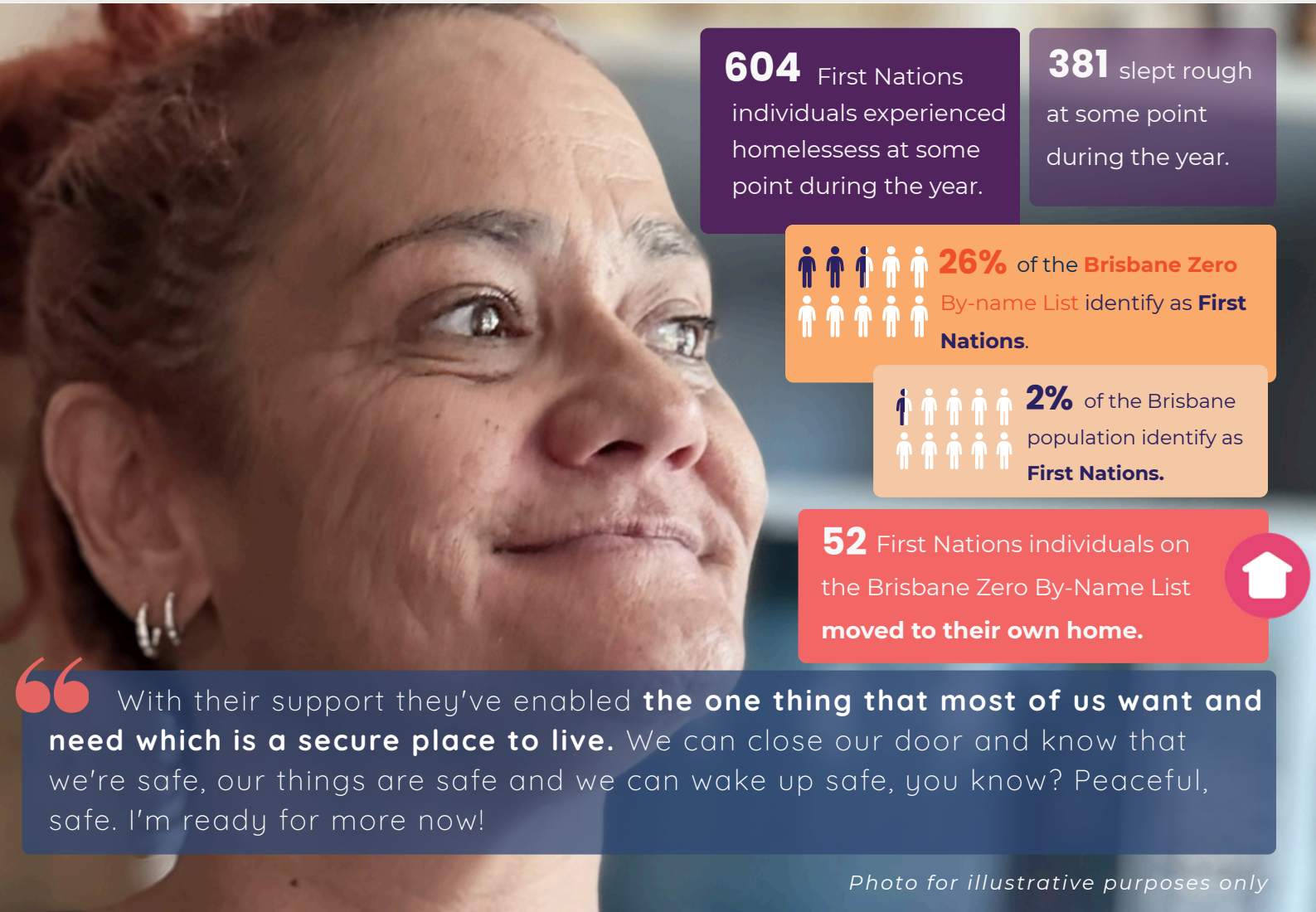
FIRST NATIONS INDIVIDUALS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience homelessness, including rough sleeping, at disproportionately higher rates than other Australians. Historic and ongoing systemic gaps have contributed to inequitable housing outcomes for First Nations people and continue to create barriers to accessing and sustaining safe and appropriate housing.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Brisbane come from diverse Nations, communities, and backgrounds. Alongside challenges like racism and intergenerational trauma many people experience, there are significant strengths, resilience, cultural knowledge, and community connections that support good health and wellbeing.

This snapshot provides an overview of First Nations people who have experienced homelessness in Brisbane. It draws on Brisbane Zero data and cultural responsiveness to better understand housing experiences, support needs, and opportunities to strengthen coordinated responses that help people move into housing quickly and sustain their tenancy over time.

The following data belongs to First Nations peoples. In line with Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles, this data snapshot was developed in collaboration with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) and Murri Watch, core members of Brisbane Zero, with contributions from First Nations and non-Indigenous support and community services.



604 First Nations individuals experienced homelessess at some point during the year.

381 slept rough at some point during the year.

26% of the **Brisbane Zero** By-name List identify as **First Nations**.

2% of the Brisbane population identify as **First Nations.**

52 First Nations individuals on the Brisbane Zero By-Name List **moved to their own home.**

> With their support they've enabled **the one thing that most of us want and need which is a secure place to live.** We can close our door and know that we're safe, our things are safe and we can wake up safe, you know? Peaceful, safe. I'm ready for more now!

Photo for illustrative purposes only

Everyone's journey is different.
Our shared data helps us making their experiences visible.

THE BY-NAME LIST (BNL)

It helps us 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.

THE SURVEY

Individuals on the BNL 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.

HOW DO WE SUPPORT FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES IN BRISBANE?

Striving to be culturally responsive, we work together to understand a person and their story, allowing for self-determination, choice and agency, sharing power and decisions, and being trauma aware and healing informed in our support and engagement approach.
In this snapshot, the term "First Nations peoples" is used to refer collectively to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

HOUSING, HEALTH , AND PROPER SUPPORT ARE PATHWAYS BACK TO BELONGING, IDENTITY, CONNECTION AND HOPE

> **I've got some stability**. Having that has allowed my children to come back also and just be able to start from the ground up again, and it's been awesome. I**ts been 5 years since I've had them all together and the first time I've had them under the roof altogether, so I'm very very happy about that.**

Poor health and homelessness are closely interconnected, creating significant barriers to wellbeing, housing stability, and health equity. The health profile of this cohort highlights the often overlapping physical health, mental health, cognitive, and substance use challenges experienced by many First Nations people experiencing homelessness.

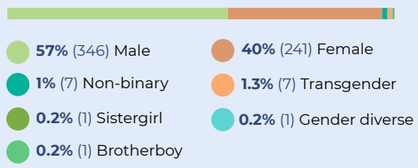
Mental health conditions are prevalent, alongside high rates of ongoing health conditions. The data also points to difficulties accessing healthcare and a reliance on crisis-based responses. This pattern reflects the cumulative impact of unmet health and housing needs and the challenges many people face accessing timely, culturally responsive, and preventative care.

Safe, secure, and culturally responsive housing is a health equity issue for First Nations people, creating the foundation for improved health outcomes, social and emotional wellbeing, connection to community and culture, and sustained housing stability.

THE BNL
WHO EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS

604 First Nations individuals **experienced homelessess** during the past year.

43 years
was the average age of adult individuals.



381 **slept rough** at some point during the year.

193 **newly identified** as experiencing homelessness by Brisbane Zero Services.

25 **returned to homelessness** from permanent housing.

253 were also experiencing homelessness during the previous financial year.

THE SURVEY
UNDERSTANDING HOUSING AND SUPPORT NEEDS

203 First Nations individuals **responded to the AHVTT survey** who were experiencing homelessness.

HOUSING HISTORIES

61% (124) were rough sleeping at time of survey.

3 years, 9 months was the average time spent sleeping rough.

62% (125) had been experiencing homelessness for longer than 12 months.

50% (101) faced discrimination when trying to access services.

30% (61) had lived in a foster or group home.

SOCIAL AND DAILY NEEDS

47% (96) did not have enough money to take care of day to day needs.

47% (95) did not have access to a shower.

33% (66) did not have access to food and water.

SAFETY

62% (126) had experienced violence in the past year.

61% (123) did not feel safe where they sleep.

32% (64) had 5 or more interactions with police in the past year.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

86% (175) experienced at least **one** health or substance use challenge.

65% (132) diagnosed with at least **one** mental health condition.

63% (127) disclosed at least **one ongoing** health challenge.

27% (55) had **overlapping** physical health, mental health, and substance use challenges.

Key disclosed health challenges

1.	**Anxiety**	**40%** (82)
2.	**PTSD**	**29%** (59)
3.	**Clinical Depression**	**27%** (55)
4.	**Schizophrenia**	**16%** (33)
5.	**Bi-Polar Disorder**	**15%** (31)

Health system usage

42% (85) needed to access health service systems 5 or more times in the past year.

THE BNL
HOUSING OUTCOMES

52 First Nations individuals on the Brisbane Zero By-Name List **moved to their own home.**

Housing type

Public Housing	33% (17)
Community Housing	29% (15)
Private Rental	12% (6)
Permanent Boarding	12% (6)
Supportive Housing	8% (4)
Self-Housed	6% (3)
Other	2% (1)

> Some of us have been working, families, married, forty hour a week jobs, holding down homes and jobs and finances. All of a sudden shit happens, and here we are. As strong as we may have seen previously, it's not so easy when you're doing it yourself without support.


Photo for illustrative purposes only

Unlocking systems
to end homelessness

BRISBANE ZERO

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

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This data was collected by Brisbane Zero First Nations and non-Indigenous organisations, who collaborate and provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness in our community

The findings of this data highlight the substantial health and housing inequities experienced by First Nations people experiencing homelessness and reinforce the importance of integrated responses that combine housing, health, and wellbeing supports.

Housing outcomes for First Nations peoples decreased from 26% to 20% compared with last year's snapshot, 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 collaboration by working together and listening to the voices of First Nations Peoples, and using data to inform culturally safe, meaningful and lasting change towards housing pathways. Addressing homelessness requires more than housing alone, it means recognising the ongoing impacts of colonisation.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, having a safe place to call home is connected to culture, family, community and belonging.

After years navigating the homelessness, housing and health systems, moving between rough sleeping and temporary accommodation, Serra found the supports she needed. Within Brisbane Zero, services working with Serra coordinated supports and advocated with the Department of Housing for a home that would meet Serra's needs. She moved into to her new home in 2024 and has sustained her tenancy since then, building the foundations to a safe, secure and healthy life.

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 was supported by the Ellen Whitty Trust and Department of Housing and Public Works Queensland

Data for this snapshot includes contribution from the following Brisbane Zero members:

3RDSPACE
Anglicare Southern Queensland
communify
IUIH institute for urban indigenous health
kyabra Strength in Community
MICAH PROJECTS Breaking Social Isolation Building Community
MISSION AUSTRALIA
Murri Watch
rfq recovered futures | Richmond Fellowship Queensland
The Salvation Army