

HOMELESS TO HOME HEALTHCARE (H₂H)



**Homeless to Home
Healthcare**
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A JOINT INITIATIVE OF:



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REASONS PEOPLE SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM OUR HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

52.4%

Accommodation issues

housing crisis, inadequate
or inappropriate dwellings

21.7%

Financial difficulties

housing stress,
unemployment

17.5%

Other

transition from
care/custody,
lack of support,
discrimination

5%

Interpersonal relationships

domestic violence,
time out from family,
family breakdown,
violence and assault

3.4%

Health reasons

mental health issues,
medical issues,
substance abuse issues

Source: Specialist Homelessness Services Collection, main presenting reason for seeking assistance (Micah Projects, July 2012 – June 2013)

Prevention and early intervention around health

While people may not make contact with homelessness services for health reasons, serious health conditions are widely prevalent among those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and if unrecognised can significantly worsen.

Health conditions among rough sleepers:

- **67%** serious physical health condition
- **38%** tri-morbid (psychiatric, substance abuse, and chronic medical condition)
- **30%** brain injury or history of head trauma
- **19%** heart disease or arrhythmia
- **7%** cancer

Source: Brisbane Vulnerability Index Register (Micah Projects, June 2010- June 2013)

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Micah Projects | Mater Health Services | St Vincent's Hospital Brisbane | Medicare Locals

Collaborative Partners:

The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH)

UQ Health Care

Homeless Health Outreach Team (HHOT)

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATICHS)





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Brisbane Homeless Service Centre(BHSC)

- BHSC is a service hub for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Since 2006 BHSC has been providing housing, homelessness and health services.
- In the 2012/2013 financial year **525 direct service** contacts have been provided by the full time clinical nurse and GP's.

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Caterpillar House GP Clinic

- Thursday morning GP clinic commenced in April 2013.
- **83 women and young children** have been seen and supported by the visiting GP and clinical nurse.
- Links to the Mater Young Mothers' Partnership Program – **500 young women** attended weekly antenatal care clinics held at Caterpillar House. Critical referral point for the GP.

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Street to Home/ After Hours Health Service

- Outreach nursing service integrated with the Street to Home assertive outreach team. Commenced April 2012.
- This integrated team provide both primary health care as well as housing and social support.
- In the 2012/2013 financial year 3,530 occasions of direct care were provided by nursing staff.

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Brisbane Common Ground

- St Vincent's Hospital, Mater Health Services & the Reid Foundation fund clinical nurses as part of a multidisciplinary onsite Supportive Housing team.
- Since the commencement in January 2013 1,113 occasions of direct care have been provided by nursing staff to June 2013.
- Key services provided: screening, treatment, chronic disease management, care coordination, medication management, supported referral

Permanent Supportive Housing - a platform for health care

Housing First + Social Model of Health = Housing retention as a health outcome + health as a housing outcome

Improved access to preventive primary care, treatment, supported access to GP and specialist services, end of life treatment, dying with dignity

Health promotion - health literacy and self-management, health education

Housing itself as a foundation for health – stability and quality (bed, fridge, cooking, space) allow food storage and preparation, medication storage and management, better management of appointments, reduced stress

Location – healthy communities, “walkability”, access to healthy food, safe recreation and physical activity

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- PIR is an Australian Government initiative that aims to better support people with severe and persistent mental illness who also have other complex problems, their families and carers.
- Intake into this program will commence in November 2013.
- Support Facilitators will be integrated within Micah Projects Homelessness Service Teams and Homeless to Home Healthcare Programs.

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Bringing services to people

Through the Homeless to Home Health Program and its partners we have been able to successfully deliver a multidisciplinary response that integrates:

- Housing
- Healthcare
- Social Support.

Reduces unnecessary and repeated presentations to acute hospital emergency departments.

Provides a continuum of care from prevention and early intervention, through to work with people experiencing chronically homelessness



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Outcomes

- Access to health care for very marginalised people
- Prevention of rough sleeping
- Reduction in use of acute health care and increased access to appropriate treatment and health care
- Improved health and quality of life

Breaking the Cycle – Preventing homelessness and making a difference in the long-term

In 2012/2013

88% of people supported by Micah Projects homelessness prevention team kept their housing or were rapidly re-housed

82% of the people supported by Micah Projects Homeless to Home Support services did not experience a subsequent episode of rough sleeping in the last month of their support

Micah Projects Homeless to Home Support services achieved a 13% increase in the number of people in employment and an 17% increase in the number of adults and children in education and training

Street to Home and the After Hours Health Service

Health

Since commencement April 2012

- **5,373 occasions of direct care** provided
- Youngest person seen - 14 years, oldest - 86 years
- **49%** of people treated and supported are **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**

Housing

Since commencement of the 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign

- 78% are still housed
- 7% passed away in their own home

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Awards

National Homelessness Services Achievement
Awards 2013

*Excellence or innovation in partnerships in
delivering services*

Catholic Health Australia 2013

Outreach Healthcare Award

St Vincent's Hospital 2013

Quality Award

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Link to Ending Homelessness

<http://youtu.be/BWuM6tv8E80>