

BRISBANE ZERO HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT

Unlocking systems
to end homelessness

BRISBANE ZERO

FIRST NATIONS FAMILIES

1 JULY 2024 - 30 JUNE 2025



Across Brisbane there are families facing the challenges of homelessness. They often don't have a safe place to sleep, a place to raise their family or call home, and have limited access to services and support. Street homelessness is the most visible form of homelessness, but it is not the only and not the biggest form of homelessness.

This data snapshot provides information about **First Nations families with children on the Brisbane Zero By-Name List** experiencing homelessness in Brisbane. We thank these families for their participation and treat the information they have shared with us with dignity and respect.

308

First Nations families experienced homelessness at some point during the year

234

were sole parenting women

137

families identified as homeless for the first time

14

returned to homelessness from a permanent house

47

cycled through homelessness



25% of the **Brisbane Zero** By-name List identify as **First Nations**.



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



59 (19%)

First Nations families were housed

249

(81%) still require permanent housing

134 First Nations families became disengaged for various reasons

This data only includes the people who have chosen to appear on the By Name List, we know this data could be much higher

Making Human Experiences Visible within the System:

There is hope

Eleanor* is a 33-year-old mother of 4 children. In late 2023, the family was forced to leave the home they had rented due to domestic and family violence. Eleanor was unable to secure alternative housing due to limited rental history and issues resulting from her ex-partner's behaviour. Eleanor and the children couch surfed with family, but this was not sustainable over the long term. She had to move cities to find supports from homelessness services and to access emergency accommodation,



where she stayed for nearly one year. With only 1 of her children in her care – while the others were cared for by family members – homelessness disrupted the family's time together, their cultural connections and wellbeing. The motel's unstable and overcrowded conditions, plus long distance from her community, impacted children's schooling, daycare and health supports. Service providers within the Brisbane Zero collaboration, alongside the Department of Housing, worked together to find the family a home in their community. In July 2025, Eleanor and the children, finally reunited, were supported through a sustaining tenancy service to settle in, regain stability and begin to rebuild the family's life.

*The name has been changed for privacy and confidentiality purposes. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

Brisbane By-Name List

The By-Name List 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.

First Nations families identified through the By-Name List

308

First Nations families experienced homelessness at some point during the past year, 234 sole parenting women

38 (12%) slept rough at some point during the last year, on the streets, in parks, tents, or cars

32 years 3 months

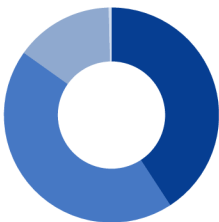
Average age, head of household

Family units

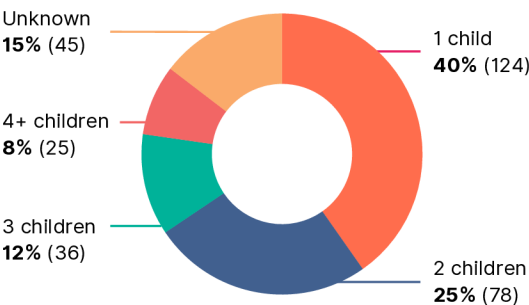
495 children in their care experienced homelessness

Age of children - Families, n=495 children

- 41% (202) 0 - 4 years
- 44% (218) 5 - 12 years
- 14% (73) 13 - 17 years
- < 1% (2) Unknown age



Number of children per household - Families, n=308 households



59 First Nations families housed

with 107 children in their care

Housing type breakdown	Families n=59
48% (28)	Public Housing
29% (17)	Private Rental
17% (10)	Community Housing
3% (2)	Self-Housed
3% (2)	Other



Families surveyed

Families with children whose head of household identifies as First Nations.

First Nations families on the By-Name List were surveyed using the Australian Homelessness Vulnerability triage Tool (AHVTT). The tool aims to help homelessness services match housing and support for the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in their community. Based on people's disclosed information, it helps to provide the right housing, healthcare and community services for individuals, youth, and families.

First Nations families surveyed

48 families experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness

34 years, average age head of household

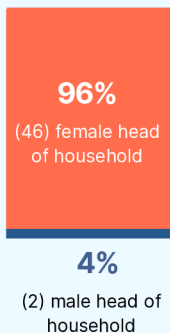
Family unit

77% (37) families disclosed that homelessness has made it **difficult to engage with children**

40% (19) families disclosed their children are **unable to attend school consistently**

40% (19) had **children living with friends/family/foster care**

33% (16) had **legal issues or DV orders which affects who they can be housed with**



History of Housing & Homelessness

1 year 4 months average of last time they had a **permanent place to live**

79% (38) **left or lost housing due to violence** in the home

38% (18) **sleeping rough** at the time of the survey

29% (14) have **experienced living in a foster or group home**

56% (27) have **experienced discrimination** when seeking housing or supports

25% (12) have **never had a tenancy**

Health and wellbeing



69% (33) experienced at least one health or substance use issue

60% (29) diagnosed mental health condition

42% (20) ongoing serious health issues

19% (9) brain injury or head trauma

14% (6) do NOT seek medical help when sick

10% (5) regularly use substances

Top 3 primary health or mental health issues

1. **Anxiety** 44% (21)
2. **Clinical Depression** 33% (16)
3. **PTSD** 25% (12)

System usage

13% (6) **admitted to hospital 5 or more times** in the past year

15% (7) been to a **hospital emergency department** five or more times in the past year

Social and Daily needs



52% (25) **do not have enough money** to take care of day to day needs

38% (18) **do not have access to a shower**

35% (17) **do not have access to food & water**

Safety



71% (34) **experienced violence** within the past year

48% (23) **do not feel safe** where they sleep

27% (13) had **5 or more interactions with police** in the past year

Gathering the data

Out of 308 First Nations families on the By-Name List, 48 were surveyed by Brisbane Zero members between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025 using the AHVTT tool, available at brisbanzero.org.au. All families provided consent to participate. The data collected has been de-identified and recorded in line with Confidentiality and Privacy Principles.

Data-driven change

The data aims to drive change through:

- Providing valuable information on the needs of people experiencing homelessness and what their needs are to assist in triaging the most vulnerable and advocating for system change.
- Capturing and making sense of what is happening to people who enter the homelessness service system, when they cycle through this system and what their housing situation is upon leaving the system; make informed decisions about resourcing, focusing and directing services and supports.

Sustainable change requires cross-sector collaboration

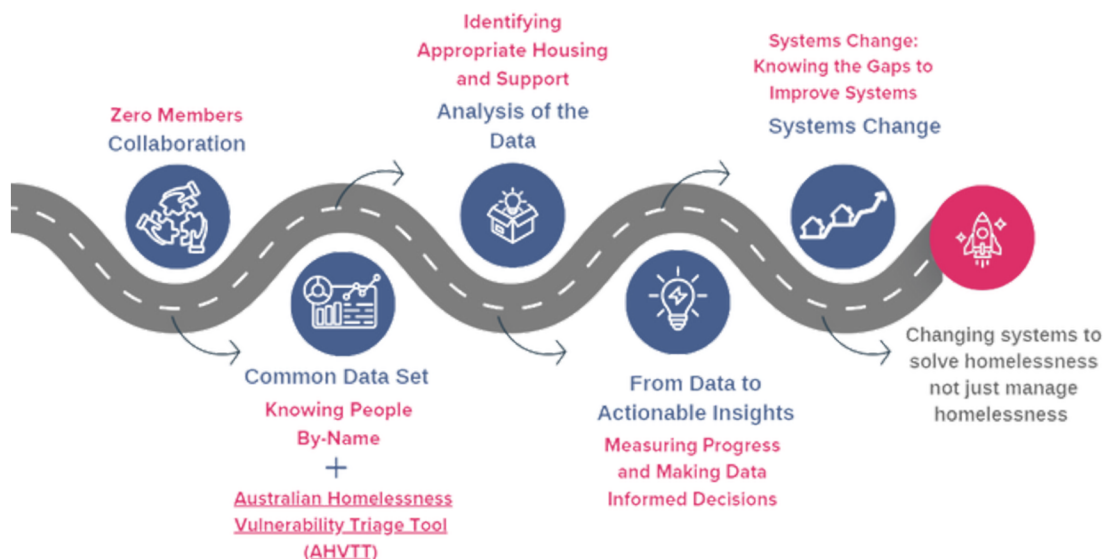
Our purpose is to identify the essential conditions needed to ensure homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring. This will enable government, services, providers and agencies to better understand the needs of people experiencing homelessness or at risk.

A shared desire for solutions

Through collaboration, data-driven insights, and advocacy around tailored housing solutions, we work towards preventing, reducing and ending homelessness in our community.

Homelessness is solvable

Brisbane Zero is part of the Advance to Zero national initiative of the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness, that support local collaborative efforts to end homelessness – one community at a time. It aims to end and prevent homelessness for individuals, youth and families with children, starting with those who are or have been sleeping rough. Through collaboration, data-driven insights, and advocacy around tailored housing solutions, we work towards preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness in our community.



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 financial year homelessness snapshot includes contribution from the following Brisbane Zero regional members:

