

WIDE BAY

ZERO



ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

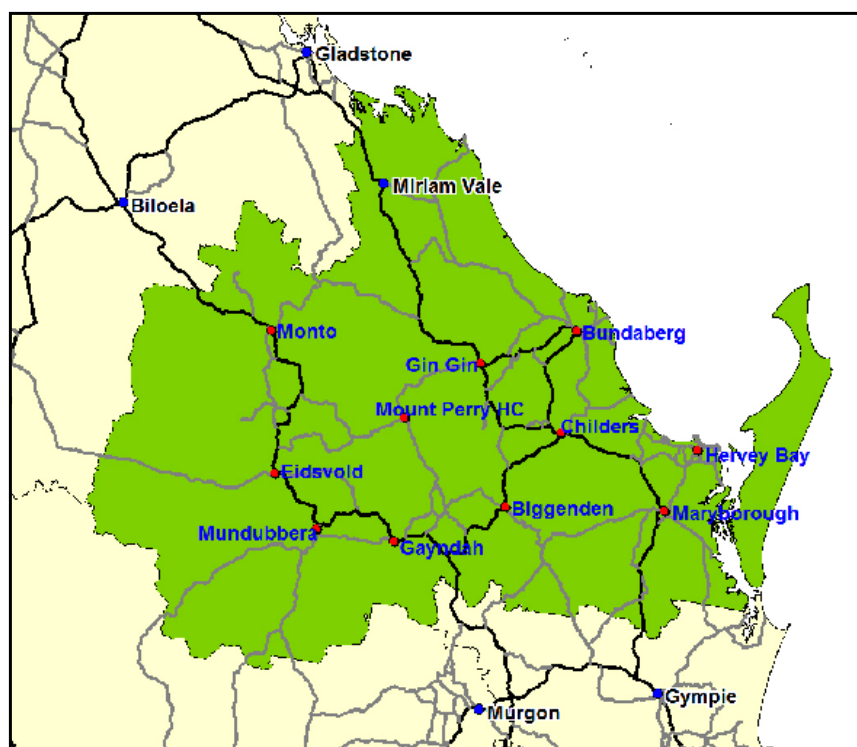
PROJECT BRIEF

*Ending homelessness is not just a vision—
it's an achievable goal.*

IFYs is proud to be the backbone organisation leading the regional implementation of Advance to Zero (AtoZ) in Wide Bay and on the Sunshine Coast. We are joining a national movement proving that homelessness can be made rare, brief, and non-recurring. This initiative is part of the AtoZ campaign developed by the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH) and inspired by the internationally acclaimed Built for Zero methodology pioneered in the United States and Canada. Micah Projects is supporting the rollout and funding is provided by Country to Coast QLD from the Australian Government through the Primary Health Networks (PHN) Program. There are 28 Zero communities across Australia, part of the Alliance, with 18 reporting data.

PROJECT REACH:

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi, Butchulla and Wakka Wakka people and their enduring connection to land, waters, and community.



WHAT IS ADVANCE TO ZERO?

Advance to Zero (AtoZ) is a groundbreaking national initiative of the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH) that supports local collaborative efforts to end homelessness, starting with rough sleeping – one community at a time.

Using a range of proven approaches from around the world, communities involved with AtoZ are supported not just to address individual instances of homelessness, or even reduce overall homelessness, but to end it altogether. We define an end to homelessness as being rare, brief and once-off.



AtoZ is a collaboration (or what's sometimes called a collective impact initiative) between a broad range of communities, organisations and individuals that are all committed to ending homelessness. Communities, generally defined as a local government area or collection of local government areas, seek to measure their progress towards this goal by calculating what we call functional zero, a dynamic way of determining if a community has been able to make homelessness rare, brief and once-off.

AtoZ is characterised by three core components:

- Everyone working together with a shared strategy to end homelessness.
- Local community wide by-name data
- A Housing First systems change approach to coordination, improvement and advocacy.

AtoZ focuses on ending homelessness one type and one community at a time. To help guide these efforts, we have developed the Advance to Zero framework based on what is working around the world and what we've learned from efforts so far in Australia.



Figure 1 AtoZ Framework for ending homelessness

WIDE BAY GOALS:

The Wide Bay campaign is in its foundational phase, building system capacity, cross-sector partnerships, and real-time visibility into who is experiencing homelessness. We are engaging regional service providers, from housing, health, mental health, alcohol and drug support, and family services, under a shared strategic goal: to reach functional zero homelessness. Functional Zero means demand is less than supply, with more people coming out of homelessness than in (refer Figure 2).

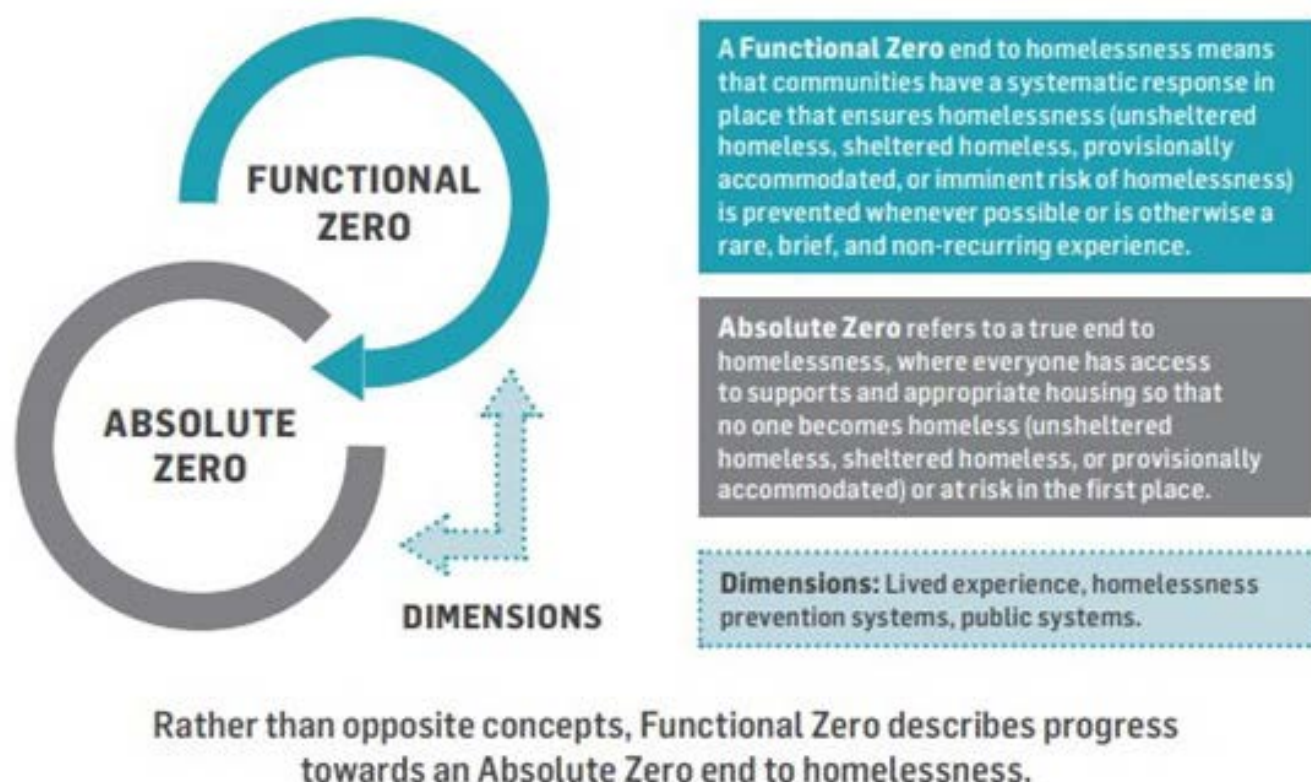


Figure 2 Function Zero Definition

WE WILL:

- Establish a populated, By-Name List by August 2025
- Build an inclusive regional collaboration of Wide Bay organisations for multi-agency engagement via scheduled coordination meetings to review data, match people services and share responsibilities.
- Use the Australian Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool (AHVTT) as a voluntary tool to advocate for those in our community experiencing homelessness and provide wrap-around solutions, not just to find permanent housing but to maintain it. Currently, there are three versions: Youth (up to 25 years), Families and Individuals.
- Address system-level change with a collaborative, whole-of-community partnership to address structural issues causing homelessness.

Wide Bay Zero will publish their deidentified data live on a community dashboard to track progress and support advocacy every month (Figure 3).

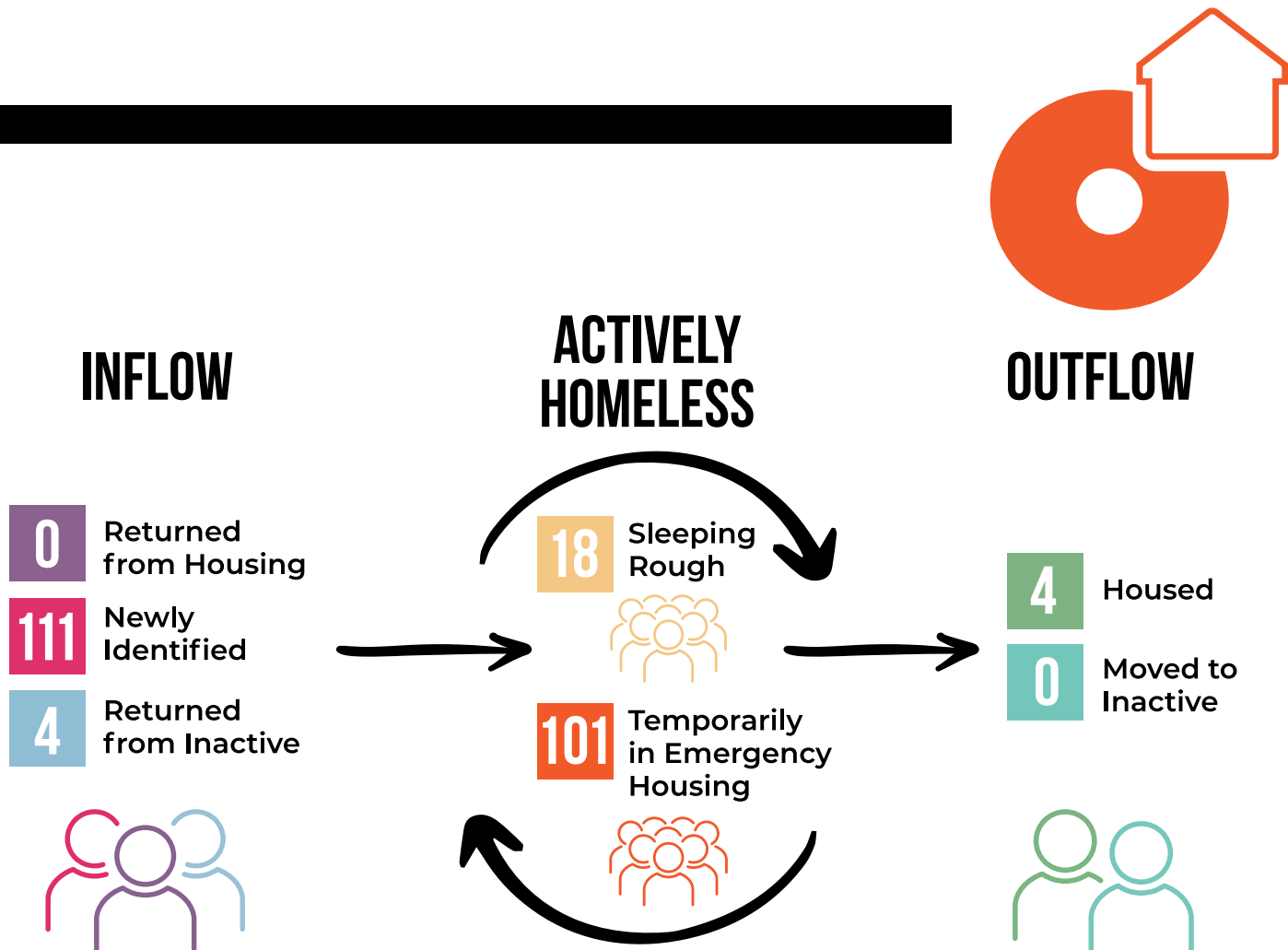


Figure 3 Dashboard for the inflow and outflow

To track progress, we need to understand how people move in and out of homelessness in our community. We focus on three key data areas:

INFLOW:

- ▶ People entering homelessness, including:
- ▶ Newly identified: first-time experiences of homelessness
- ▶ Returned from housing: previously housed, now homeless again
- ▶ Returned from inactive: previously disengaged, now back in homelessness

ACTIVELY HOMELESS:

- ▶ Individuals and families currently homeless, known by name and engaged by local services, including those sleeping rough or in temporary accommodation.

OUTFLOW: People exiting homelessness, including:

- ▶ Housed: connected to permanent housing
- ▶ Moved to inactive: left homelessness without system support or (lost contact)

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership Type	Description	Data Access	Cost
Data Partner	Full access to CSNet & By-Name List. Direct AHVTT uploads & insights.	Yes	\$360/year per licence
Collaborating Member	Submit completed AHVTTs via email to WB Zero team. Attend events, receive updates and promote the movement locally.	no	Free

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Access to training for the AHVTT and CSnet
- Invitation to regional service coordination events
- Public recognition in communications and reports with logo's added to our website
- Participation in data-informed service planning
- Monthly performance dashboards
- Collaboration opportunities with the national Zero network

WHY JOIN?

Rising housing pressures, cost-of-living increases, and the limited availability of affordable housing in Wide Bay make action urgent. However, other communities have shown us what's possible:

- Geraldton, WA, achieved Functional Zero for people aged 55+ experiencing rough sleeping, one of the first Australian communities to accomplish this population-specific functional zero.
- Adelaide and Brisbane Zero housed over 500 people using coordinated data and shared governance.
- Brisbane Zero reduced the average time a person experiences homelessness by 40% (from 7.7 to 4.6 years between 2013–2022).
- Functional Zero has been achieved in 14 communities in the United States, where they have made it rare, brief and nonrecurring.

These results are not accidental—they're the product of collective impact, evidence-based action, and a relentless belief that everyone deserves a safe home.



WHAT DO I NEED TO DO AS A MEMBER?

1. Read the Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions (included within this Information Pack)
2. Sign the Campaign Agreement (included within this Information Pack)
3. Attend Training in the AHVTT and CSNet database, dates to be decided based on service availability
4. Nominate a representative for the Service Coordination Group
5. Join upcoming Connections Events

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

The success of Advance to Zero relies on partnership. Whether you're a housing provider, healthcare worker, council representative, local business, or concerned community member, there's a role for you. Memberships will be reviewed annually and can be withdrawn at any stage.

To find out more or get involved, please get in contact with Emma Christie, Project Officer

E. wbzero@ifys.com.au **P.** 0417 793 074.

We are happy to have individual meetings across Wide Bay.



SCWBZero.com



The funding for this activity is provided by Country to Coast QLD, with support from the Australian Government through the PHN Program.

**SEE THE RESOURCES PAGE FOR THE
FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:**

**CAMPAIGN AGREEMENT
PRIVACY POLICY
TERMS & CONDITIONS**

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