

ZERO News

EDITION 1 HOMELESSNESS WEEK

A regional update from the Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay Advance to Zero Alliance

SUNSHINE COAST
ZERO
ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

WIDE BAY
ZERO
ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION



Dear Zero Community Members, Partners, and Future Allies,

Welcome to the first edition of ZERO NEWS, a quarterly newsletter sharing collective efforts to end homelessness across the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay. We're proud to release this inaugural edition following Homelessness Week 2025, a time to reflect, re-engage, and act.

Between March and July 2025, our regions laid the foundations for meaningful, data-driven, and person-centred responses to homelessness. This locally coordinated alliance is anchored by the Advance to Zero methodology with IFYS as the backbone. Alongside partner networks, it has already brought together over 25 organisations, multiple government stakeholders and countless community allies.

This update shares how we've progressed, what the data tells us, where the system is being stretched, and how we can work together to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

SUNSHINE COAST Progress

Foundations & Membership Growth

Sunshine Coast Zero officially launched on the 29th of May 2025 at Vitality Village with over 55 attendees, including housing providers, health workers, outreach teams, community centres, and council representatives. We welcomed new partners, including:

Organisations who contribute to the AtoZ Database.



And our new collaborators: Organisations who participate in our campaign activities (eg. service coordination meetings, strategy working groups) but do not access data directly from the AtoZ Database or complete AHVT's.



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



Monthly involvement in the Sunshine Coast Housing & Homelessness Network (SCHHN), the Place-Based Response Team (PBRT), the Gympie Housing and Homelessness Forum and cross-sector advocacy meetings has strengthened coordination.



WHAT THE DATA *Shows*

Between May and July

This is not just data, it's the collective reality of our neighbours. Partners are now using these numbers to inform service coordination, advocacy, and internal reporting.



Health & Wellness

Physical or mental health conditions, addictions, pregnancy.



Social & Daily Needs

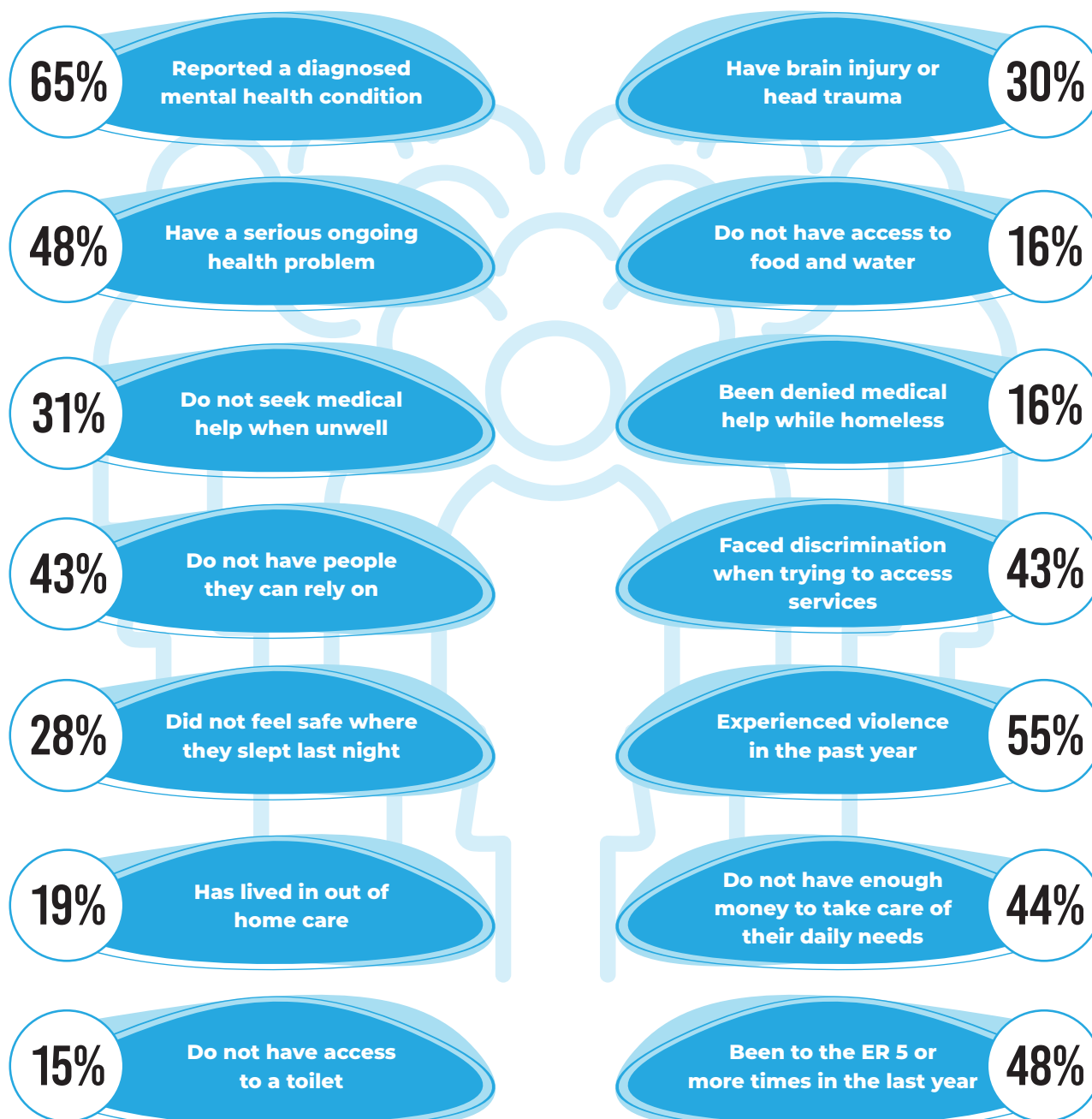
Access to hygiene facilities and services.



Wellbeing & Safety

About feeling safe or experienced violence.

Of the 241 people surveyed 241 Individuals, Youth and Families



SUNSHINE COAST ZERO

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

VULNERABILITY STATEMENT

May 2025 to July 2025

Sunshine Coast Zero aims to end and prevent homelessness for individuals, youth and families, starting with those who are or have been sleeping rough- on the streets, in parks, in tents, in cars, or cycling through motels and emergency accommodation.

By **2032** we aim to achieve this goal.

Between **May 2025 and July 2025, 241 Individual Adults** completed the Australian Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool (AHVTT).

The data provides valuable information on people's needs, assists in triaging the most vulnerable and advocating for system change.

Of the 241 people surveyed 241 Individuals, Youth and Families



Average Age:
34 Years

♂ **47%**
♀ **53%**
* **0%**

Indigenous
32%
Identified as



Average time homeless
5 Years, 8 Months

33% of individuals were sleeping rough, meaning they are sleeping on the streets, in parks, or cars at the time of survey



Safety

55% Experienced violence in the past year
28% Do not feel safe where they sleep
40% Lost housing because they experienced violence



Daily Needs

44% Do not have money to take care of daily needs outside of housing
43% Do not have people they can rely upon or care about them
16% Do not have access to food and water when hungry or thirsty

HEALTH 87% experienced at least one health or substance use issue

65% have a diagnosed **mental health condition**

48% have a serious **ongoing health issue**

27% have a diagnosed **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

30% have a **brain injury** or traumatic head injury

For those with a diagnosed mental or physical health condition : 38% anxiety disorder, 31% clinical depression, 25% post traumatic stress disorder, 12% schizophrenia, 11% bi-polar disorder

HEALTH SYSTEM USAGE 39% were high health service system users



15% were taken in an ambulance to hospital 5 or more times in the past year



48% went to the emergency department 5 or more times in the last year



23% were admitted to the hospital for 5 or more nights in the past year

COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY

The Nambour Community Hub



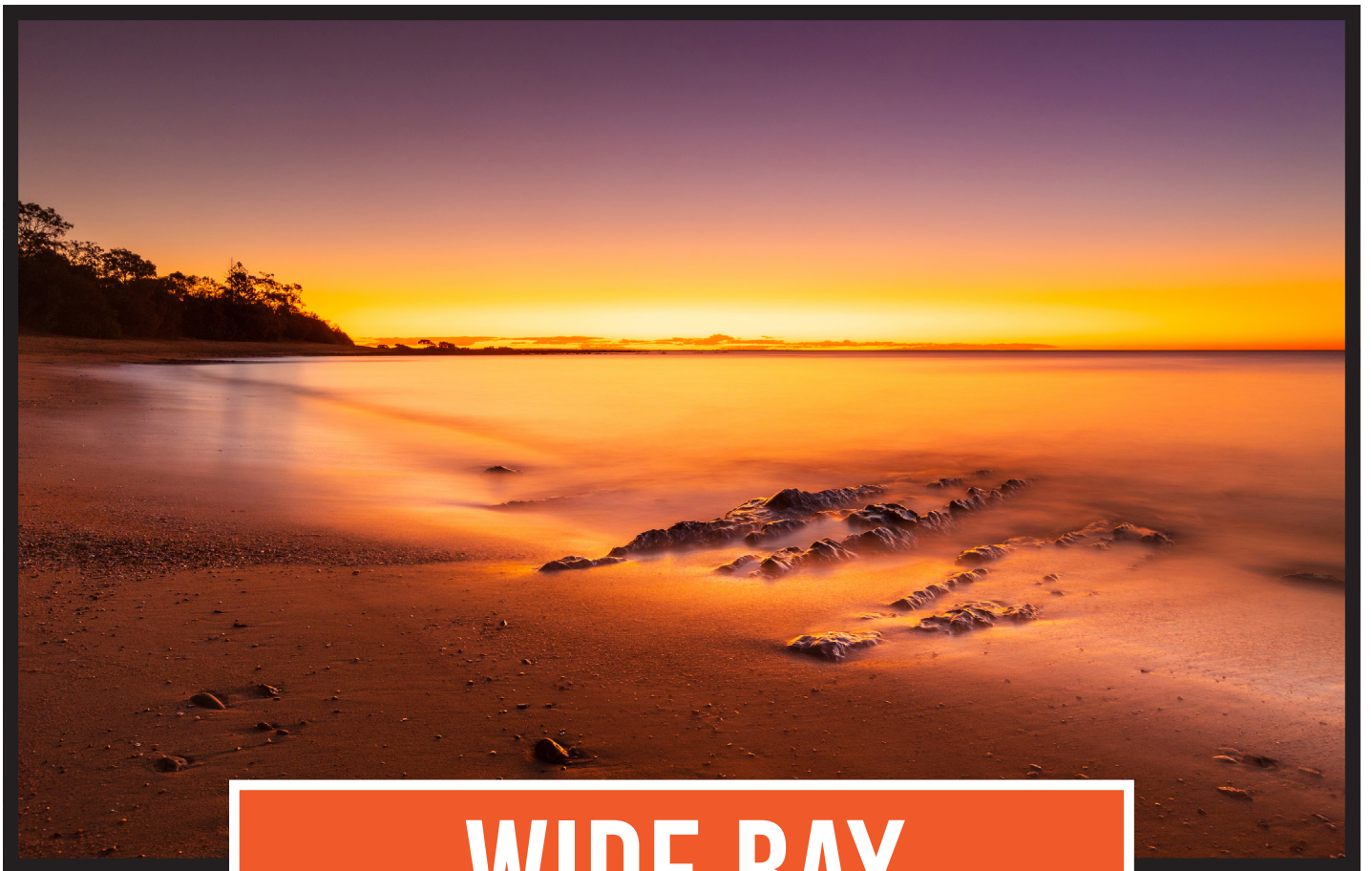
In July, the Sunshine Coast Zero Alliance and SCHHN submitted a formal proposal calling for the urgent establishment of a dedicated Homelessness Community Hub in Nambour.

The hub would:

- Provide basic amenities (day beds, food, laundry, showers, storage, and charging stations)
- Act as a coordinated access point for housing, health, legal, DFV and outreach services
- Reduce service pressure on generalist community centres like Nambour Community Centre

SYSTEM COORDINATION & INTERNAL PROGRESS

- Co-facilitated with Brisbane Zero training on the Australian Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool (AAHVTT) and Zero Framework to 44 staff across youth, outreach, and housing teams from multiple member organisations.
- Hired and onboarded a dedicated Data Lead, Marianne Bell to improve data quality and validation.
- Began the MEL framework with The Good Shift interviewing a range of stakeholders including a community centre, frontline outreach workers, Department of Housing representee and a Sunshine Coast Council representative.
- Coordinated input into the Sunshine Coast Council's Housing & Homelessness Advocacy Review, aligning sector voices with the Council's Action Plan.



WIDE BAY *Progress*

Regional Launch Events

- On 25 and 26 June, we launched the campaign in Bundaberg and Hervey Bay, with a combined 60+ attendees from: DV, youth, mental health, AOD, and First Nations services, government departments and specialist homelessness services.
- Steps underway
- Early members include UniSC, Neighbourhood Centres, Nurse Navigators and Bundaberg Council.
- Stakeholder engagement and membership outreach are being expanded in August, with AHVTT/CSnet training scheduled for 12–13 August
- Planning is underway to recruit a Wide Bay Coordination Officer, with temporary support provided from the Sunshine Coast team

POLICY & SECTOR ALIGNMENT

Our work is aligned with local state and federal strategies, including:

Local Government Sunshine Coast Council (August 2025)

[What we can do to help end homelessness | Sunshine Coast Council](#)

[Bundaberg Local Housing Action Plan](#)

[Gympie Local Housing Action Plan](#)

State Government (July 2025)

[\\$380.1 million over five years for crisis accommodation and frontline support](#)

Department of Social Services (March 2025)

[\\$1B program for crisis and transitional accommodation](#)

A PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Whether you're a government agency, community organisation, or health service, there is a place for you in the Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay Zero Campaign.

Becoming a member means:

- Access to AHVTT/CSnet training and real-time data
- Inclusion in regional collaboration, coordination meetings and reports
- Influence on shared advocacy and media campaigns
- Co-designing solutions that make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

To join, email: sczero@ifys.com.au
wbzero@ifys.com.au

What's Next

- Nambour Hub feasibility scoping working group.
- Further onboarding of Wide Bay stakeholders.
- Service directory mapping.
- Collaboration and sector advocacy to call for an increase stock in social and affordable housing.
- Service Coordination from our By Name List (BNL) in each region, Sunshine Coast, Gympie, Harvey Bay & Maryborough and Bundaberg.

Thank you for your shared commitment, energy, and compassion. Together, we are moving from crisis response to systems change, guided by evidence, fuelled by collaboration, and held in deep care for the people behind the numbers.

With gratitude,

Emma Christie

Project Lead, Advance to Zero

Marianne Bell

Data and Admin Support Officer

Taylah Emblem

AHVTT Outreach Practitioner

Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay

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ZERO TEAM



Emma Christie is a project lead, researcher, and writer with a diverse background spanning international development, Indigenous engagement, academic support, and community-based program delivery. She currently leads the Advance to Zero project on the Sunshine Coast, a place-based initiative aimed at ending homelessness through real-time, person-centred data systems. This work involves coordinating cross-sector partnerships, delivering training, and implementing the “By-Name List” to track and respond to individuals’ housing, health, and support needs. Her leadership centres on equity, framing and practical solutions that aim for functional zero homelessness.

Alongside this role, Emma maintains a strong interest in critical research and writing. Her academic focus sits at the intersection of utopian thought, sociology, and international studies, exploring how imagined futures influence real-world policy, activism, and social change.

She holds a Bachelor of Business and a Bachelor of Arts, with a focus in Policy, Human Rights Law, Business Ethics and Leadership.

Outside of her work Emma plays soccer for the Buderim Busters and competes in indoor bouldering.

ZERO TEAM



MARIANNE BELL

Administrative & Data Support Officer

Marianne Bell has joined IFYS as the Administrative and Data Support Officer for the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay Zero Project. With a background and Bachelor's in Health Promotion and a strong commitment to social justice and equity, she brings over 10 years' experience supporting vulnerable communities. Marianne's role focuses on coordinating training, managing data, and creating clear, engaging reports to support the Advance to Zero movement. She's passionate about person-centred, evidence-based solutions to end homelessness. Outside of work, Marianne enjoys surfing (badly), gardening, and spending time with her family.



TAYLAH EMBLEM

Frontline AHVTT Outreach Practitioner

Taylah started her career as a Senior Therapeutic Case Worker at Caboolture Crisis Shelter under IFYS, where she provided trauma-informed, client-centered support to youth experiencing crisis and homelessness. Drawing on her therapeutic training, she developed and implemented care plans tailored to the complex needs of each young person, working collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams to ensure safe and sustainable outcomes. The role required strong advocacy, crisis intervention, and a deep understanding of mental health and social issues affecting youth. Taylah now continues this work as a frontline AHVTT Outreach Practitioner, delivering support services directly in the community to those facing housing vulnerability and instability.



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