

ZERO News

EDITION 2



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



October Edition 2, 2025 Written by Emma Christie, Project Lead of Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay Zero.

Dear Zero Community Members, Partners, and Future Allies,

Welcome to the second edition of ZERO NEWS, a quarterly newsletter sharing collective efforts to end homelessness across the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay between July and October 2025.

WHAT'S IN THE *Media*

NATIONALLY:

Housing Becomes a Human Right in ACT

The ACT Government has formally recognised housing as a human right, setting a precedent for policy reform nationwide. [▶ Read more](#)

WHAT'S IN THE *Media*

STATE:

Supreme Court Success in Moreton Bay

A recent injunction prevents Moreton Bay Regional Council from evicting people from their camp until a full hearing in December. [▶ Read more](#)

Brisbane Zero Backbone, Micah Project Speaks Out to ABC News

Data from nine Brisbane homelessness services shows a 48% increase in the number of children supported over the past financial year. Half of these children are under four years old. [▶ Read more](#)

On 15 August 2025, the Supreme Court of Queensland granted an injunction preventing the City of Moreton Bay from removing 11 residents currently experiencing homelessness from their camp at Goodfellows Road, Kallangur, until a full hearing in December. The case, led by Basic Rights Queensland, argues that the Council's actions may have breached the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) by failing to properly consider the applicants' rights to housing and dignity (Basic Rights Queensland, 2025).

Justice Smith found the applicants had a prima facie case, and that the balance of convenience favoured allowing them to remain. The Council, while complying with the decision, expressed disappointment and reiterated its investment in homelessness responses, including the \$3.7 million Peninsula Support Hub, mobile sleep services and pet foster care programs (City of Moreton Bay, 2025).

This case reflects growing legal recognition of housing as a human right, following the ACT's recent amendment to its Human Rights Act. As Commissioner Dr Penelope Mathew stated, "Adequate housing is about more than just shelter. It is the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity" (ACT Human Rights Commission, 2025).

The urgency of this recognition is needed following the recent data from 9 Brisbane homelessness services, which make up the Brisbane Zero collaboration. CEO Karyn Walsh said that the collaboration has supported 2125 children and 1230 families, a 48 per cent increase in the number of children supported over the past financial year, half of whom are under four years old, highlighting the deepening crisis driven by housing unaffordability and its disproportionate impact on single-parent families (Lavelle & Murray 2025).

LOCALLY

Service Coordination

Sunshine Coast Zero launched its Rough Sleeper Service Coordination meetings in September, co-facilitated by Taylor Grills from Community Solutions. The first meeting brought together 32 stakeholders and focused on service coordination training, including expectations, guidelines, and coordinated actions for three individuals.

The second meeting in October, attended by 25 stakeholders, explored who the most effective participants are to have in the room. So far, coordination efforts have supported eight individuals from the By-Name List, resulting in 17 actions completed and two people successfully housed, a significant milestone!

Gympie Zero kicked off its Rough Sleeper Service Coordination meetings in October. The first session focused on training and establishing guidelines, with 19 stakeholders participating. Services were coordinated for three individuals, with five actionable steps identified to support their housing journey.



POSITION *Vacant*

A New Wide Bay Team Member will be joining Zero! A Service Coordinator will sit in IFYS Hervey Bay Office and operate Zero functions including AHVTT & CSnet training and holding Service Coordination meetings.

Please [apply here](#) or forward to anyone you know!

Welcome Romy!



ROMY COLE

Service Integration Facilitator

Romy recently joined the IFYS team as our new Service Integration Facilitator, and we're thrilled to have you on board! Romy will join Zero's Service Coordination meetings and run the normal Service Integration Group meetings ensuring the right supports wrap around our most complex and vulnerable.

Romy brings a strong background in mental health and housing support, having worked with Queensland Health's Mental Health & Addictions Transitional Housing Team program in Brisbane. Romy supported individuals facing complex mental health challenges, recurring homelessness and significant barriers navigating systems and services.

Romy's experience has deepened commitment to integrated, person-centred approaches, and strengthened the understanding of the importance of cross-sector collaboration in achieving sustainable outcomes.

Welcome to the Zero community, we're excited to work alongside you!

Contact: Romy Cole, Ph: 0459 874 917 Email: SunshineCoastSII@ifys.com.au

SUNSHINE COAST ZERO

Progress

Members

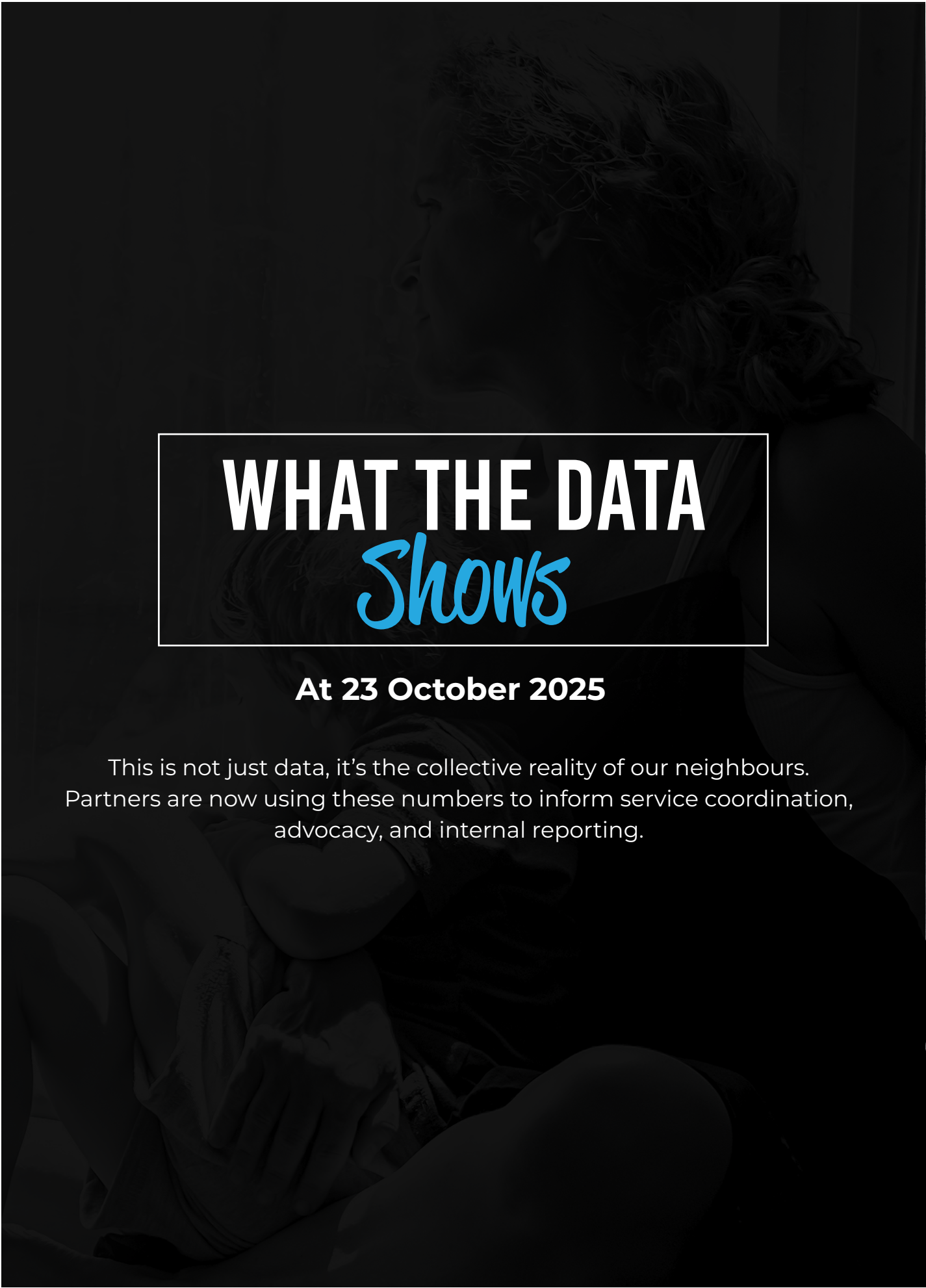
Organisations who contribute to the AtoZ Database.



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.





WHAT THE DATA *Shows*

At 23 October 2025

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.

SUNSHINE COAST

ZERO



ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

VULNERABILITY STATEMENT

23 Oct 2025



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 336 people surveyed 336 Individuals, Youth and Families

61%

Reported a diagnosed mental health condition

Have brain injury or head trauma

25%

50%

Have a serious ongoing health problem

Do not have access to food and water

18%

30%

Do not seek medical help when unwell

Been denied medical help while homeless

17%

40%

Do not have people they can rely on

Faced discrimination when trying to access services

38%

33%

Did not feel safe where they slept last night

Experienced violence in the past year

58%

18%

Has lived in out of home care

Do not have enough money to take care of their daily needs

51%

19%

Do not have access to a toilet

Been to the ER 5 or more times in the last year

32%

SUNSHINE COAST ZERO

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

VULNERABILITY STATEMENT

23 Oct 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.

As of **23 October, 336 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 336 people surveyed 336 Individuals, Youth and Families



Average Age:
33 Years



52%



48%



0%

Indigenous

33%

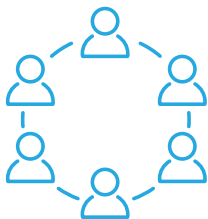
Identified as



Average time
homeless

7 Years, 9 Months

42% of individuals were sleeping rough, meaning they are sleeping on the streets, in parks, or cars at the time of survey



Safety

58%

Experienced violence in the past year

33%

Do not feel safe where they sleep

36%

Lost housing because they experienced violence



Daily Needs

51%

Do not have money to take care of daily needs outside of housing

40%

Do not have people they can rely upon or care about them

18%

Do not have access to food and water when hungry or thirsty

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

61%

have a diagnosed mental health condition

50%

have a serious ongoing health issue

26%

have a diagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

25%

have a brain injury or traumatic head injury

HEALTH SYSTEM USAGE



17% were taken in an ambulance to hospital 5 or more times in the past year



24% went to the emergency department 5 or more times in the last year



24% were admitted to the hospital for 5 or more nights in the past year

WIDE BAY ZERO Progress

A New Wide Bay Team Member will be joining Zero! A Service Coordinator will sit in IFYS Hervey Bay Office and operate Zero functions including AHVTT & CSnet training and holding Service Coordination meetings. Please [apply here](#) or forward to anyone you know!

Members

Organisations who contribute to the AtoZ Database.



KINDNESS WORKS



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 AHVTT's.



**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**



WIDE BAY

ZERO

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

VULNERABILITY STATEMENT

30 October 2025



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 19 people surveyed 19 Individual Adults in Wide Bay

63%

Reported a diagnosed mental health condition

Have brain injury or head trauma

26%

68%

Have a serious ongoing health problem

Do not have access to food and water

37%

53%

Do not seek medical help when unwell

Been denied medical help while homeless

16%

42%

Do not have people they can rely on

Faced discrimination when trying to access services

42%

47%

Did not feel safe where they slept last night

Experienced violence in the past year

68%

16%

Has lived in out of home care

Do not have enough money to take care of their daily needs

53%

21%

Do not have access to a toilet

Been to the ER 5 or more times in the last year

42%

SUNSHINE COAST

ZERO

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

VULNERABILITY STATEMENT

30 October 2025

Wide Bay 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 **2035** we aim to achieve this goal.

As of **30 October 2025**, 19 Individual Adults in Wide Bay 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 19 Adults Surveyed



Average Age:
48 Years

♂ 47%

♀ 53%

* 0%

Indigenous

26%

Identified as



Average time
homeless

11 Years, 3
Months

HEALTH 68% experienced at least one health or substance use issue

32% have a diagnosed
dental issues

32% have diagnosed
clinical
depression

36% have a diagnosed
Anxiety
Disorder

53% do not seek
medical help
when unwell

90% of individuals were sleeping rough, meaning they are sleeping on the streets, in parks, or cars at the time of survey

HEALTH SYSTEM USAGE 37% were high health service system users



26% were taken in an
ambulance to hospital 5 or
more times in the past year



42% went to the
emergency department 5 or
more times in the last year



48% were admitted to
the hospital for 5 or more
nights in the past year

RESEARCH & EVIDENCE-BASED

Outcomes

AtoZ, developed by AAEH, won the Bronze World Habitat Award (2025) with UN-Habitat for its innovative, data-driven, community-led approach to ending homelessness in Australia (World Habitat 2025). The model, which SC and WB Zero use, equips communities with real-time, by-name data and cross-sector support to drive systemic change.

Since 2018, AtoZ has expanded to 29 communities and helped over 4,000 people into permanent housing. Geraldton Zero, WA, backboned by Centacare with 30 organisational members, notably ended rough sleeping for people aged 55+ in 2023 proving homelessness is solvable with the right tools, collaboration and State investment (Department of Communities 2024).

In Brisbane, the Advance to Zero initiative reduced average homelessness duration from 7.7 years (2013) to 4.6 years (2022), a 40% drop, through coordinated responses using real-time data (Built for Zero, 2023).

Inspired by this success, the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay Zero campaign adapts the nationally endorsed methodology to local needs, aligning with the global Built for Zero movement led by Community Solutions and the Australian Advance to Zero led by the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH 2025).

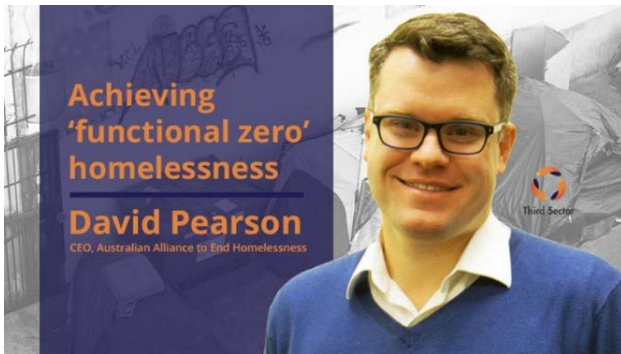
The World Habitat Award jury highlighted the adaptability and effectiveness of AtoZ's approach, stating:

“AtoZ shows it’s possible to adapt a great methodology for eradicating homelessness to a new context. It proves that communities are best placed to drive local, incremental solutions to end homelessness—they just need the tools to build effective data-driven approaches and the right support from government.”

David Ireland, Director of World Habitat.

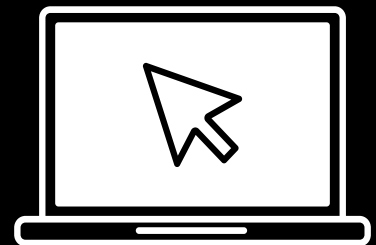
RESEARCH & EVIDENCE-BASED *Outcomes*

This international endorsement lends significant weight to local implementation efforts on the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay. It provides both credibility and momentum as IFYS and community partners engage in building the foundations for a real-time By-Name List, coordinated housing strategies, and stakeholder integration, critical steps to achieving Functional Zero Homelessness in the region. As AAEH CEO David Pearson noted:



“This global recognition shines a spotlight on communities doing the hard work. It reinforces the fact that homelessness can be ended in Australia—and that communities like ours are leading the way.”

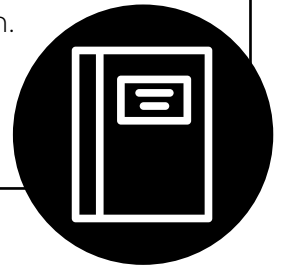
AUSTRALIAN HOMELESSNESS *Vulnerability* TRIAGE TOOL



Led by Dr Elizabeth-Rose Ahearn, researchers at The University of Queensland conducted a validation study of AVHTT. This study drew on and triangulated multiple data sources, including quantitative administrative data on outcomes, and qualitative data to examine how people experiencing homelessness understood and responded to the AVHTT questions. In addition, the study included observations of the dynamic between workers and service users in the administering of AVHTT in practice. The broader study led to a refinement of the AVHTT tool. The validation study is part of a continuous improvement process, where data will be collected and analysed to identify impacts and future potential for changes based on learnings from the field. To read more about some of the academic that are focusing research on the field please [visit here](#).

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

A sobering new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reveals the devastating reality faced by people experiencing homelessness. Overdose and suicide were the most common causes of death among those who accessed homelessness services in the final year of their lives. **The median age of death was just 55 (AIHW, 2025). In 2022–23, more than half of these deaths were potentially preventable, a heartbreaking average of nine lives lost every day.** These figures represent more than statistics; they are people whose lives ended far too soon. The findings underscore a critical truth: homelessness is not only a housing issue, it's a public health crisis. [▶ Read more.](#)



You're invited

AUSTRALIAN ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

Please join me here:

Advance to Zero Learning Session: November 2025

- › **Dates:** Wednesday 19 – Thursday 20 November 2025
- › **Location:** Adelaide CBD, South Australia
- › **Delivered by:** [Community Solutions](#) (USA) and AtoZ community leaders
- › **Audience:** Anyone involved in or interested in the Advance to Zero movement
- › **Registration:** Via [Humanitix](#)

WHAT IS ADVANCE TO ZERO?

Advance to Zero (AtoZ) is a 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 are supported not just to address individual instances of homelessness, or even reduce overall homelessness, but to end it altogether.

Learn more: <https://aaeh.org.au/atoz>

COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY



Sunshine Coast and **Wide Bay Zero** is dedicated to support those currently sleeping rough and as a community call for these evidence-based solutions:

1. On the ground support including increased Specialist Homeless Services Outreach and Health Outreach while increasing standards of living including 24/7 toilets, hot showers, clean water and working cooking facilities.
2. Dedicated Day Hubs otherwise known as Engagement Centres with all the amenities, food and emergency relief, lockers for safe storage, a range services with an emphasis on primary health care and specialist homelessness services.
3. Increase in social and community housing including purpose-built supportive housing such as a Common Ground.

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL

Update

As of August, Sunshine Coast Council has convened the regional Nambour Homelessness Response Forum bringing together council, Department of Housing and Public Works, and key sector partners in a genuinely collaborative effort to address the growing homelessness issue in the community. The forum is focused on identifying how all government organisations can work in partnership to help those experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough in public spaces and manage associated impacts on community safety and amenity. There has been commitment to explore short, medium and long-term solutions and hold regular Forums to ensure effective partnership and momentum. ►

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL

Update

The Community Working Group, established under council facilitation, includes members with lived experience, Chamber of Commerce, Councillors, Community Organisations and council officers. The group has been workshoping potential solutions to provide feedback to the Forum. Mayor Natoli shared these outcomes from the initial Forum;

- *The State Government will double mobile outreach visits in Nambour.*
- *Council will establish a working group to co-design solutions with community partners and those with lived experience. We are searching for alternative locations as a short-term solution.*
- *A supportive housing model for the Sunshine Coast is now a priority for a long-term solution.*

We are listening to our community and working across all levels of government to deliver immediate, medium and long-term solutions.

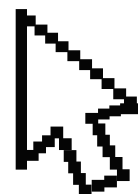
With homelessness not only a city issue, evidence based, Housing First models are needed in regional

local government areas like the Sunshine Coast. Many people sleeping in public spaces have experienced complex trauma and would benefit from supportive housing models, similar, to [Brisbane Common Ground](#).

During Homelessness Week in August, Sunshine Coast Council partnered with [Street Up](#) to provide opportunities for council staff to learn, connect and understand the causes and impacts of homelessness as well as solutions. The experiences shared by the Street Up Lived Experience Leaders were moving and inspiring. Council encourages and supports integrating lived experience into policy and program design at council as well as more broadly in the community, business, government sectors.



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



Check out Department of Housing dashboard to track Qld progress here: [OpenHome—Queensland's Housing Dashboard | Department of Housing and Public Works](#)

If you are requiring housing support, please follow this link here: [Housing options and help | Homes and housing | Queensland Government](#)

What's upcoming in our region for social housing: [New social housing on Peachester Road in Beerwah | Department of Housing and Public Works](#)

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

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

Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay

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