



# THIRD EVALUATION

## A HOUSING FIRST RESPONSE TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS

JUNE 2020

This snapshot provides an overview of the **50 LIVES 50 HOMES** program after its third evaluation. The program is the first Housing First response to ending homelessness in Western Australia and is delivered by more than 30 organisations from the community, housing, health and justice sectors.

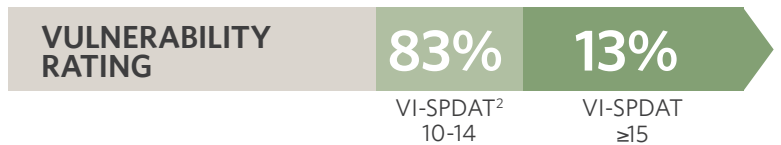
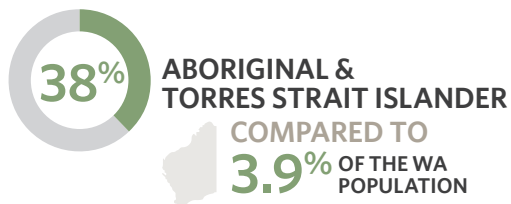
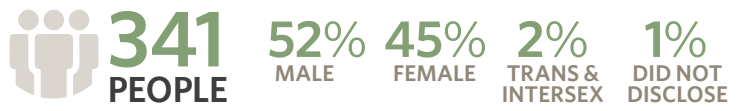
For the last four years, **50 LIVES 50 HOMES** has been housing and providing wrap-around support to Perth's most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, while also creating opportunities for them to connect and participate with their communities for a safe and meaningful life.

### 50 LIVES 50 HOMES FAST FACTS



### CHANGING LIVES

50 Lives 50 Homes supports some of the most vulnerable, chronic rough sleepers in Perth, many of whom have experienced decades of rough sleeping and extensive trauma and adversity.



### HOUSING FIRST

BY SEPTEMBER 2019:



I wouldn't have survived without them, seriously. Even now just knowing they're there and just touching base with them even though it might be once a month... It's really comforting to know you have someone to call on if things get a bit wobbly. There's no judgement, they're really just there to help.

50 Lives 50 Homes participant

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1 By the end of December 2019, a further 11 people housed.  
2 VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool) assesses current state of vulnerability of people rough sleeping, their future risk of housing instability and risk of premature mortality on a scale of 0 to 20 with 20 being the most vulnerable.

## IMPROVING HEALTH

People supported by 50 Lives 50 Homes come into the program with very poor health – most have multiple health conditions, and tri-morbidity (a combination of physical, mental health and alcohol/drug issues) is common. Being housed enables people to address health issues in a way that is not possible when they are trying to survive day-to-day on the streets.

### HEALTH CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE IN 50 LIVES 50 HOMES<sup>3</sup>



**DEPRESSION 56%** THAT'S **6X** HIGHER THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION

**ANXIETY 39%** **3X** HIGHER

**HEPATITIS C 32%** **46X** HIGHER

### CHANGES IN HOSPITAL USE AMONG PEOPLE HOUSED FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE



**75%** had presented to an Emergency Department on at least one occasion in the three years before 50 Lives 50 Homes



**47% DECREASE** in ED presentations for the 97 people housed for at least one year



**34% DECREASE** in ED presentation for the 50 people housed for at least two years

### CASE STUDY

**BACKGROUND** Ben is in his thirties and sustained severe brain damage after a motor vehicle accident over a decade ago. He has spent extended periods in hospital rehabilitation, and as a result of his injuries, lost his job, and long-term relationship. Since the accident, he has struggled with emotional regulation, executive function and impulsivity. This led to difficulties in maintaining stable accommodation, resulting in homelessness.

**50 LIVES SUPPORT** Ben was connected to 50 Lives in August 2019 and received public housing in October 2019. He has received significant support via the Homeless Outreach Dual Diagnosis Service (HODDS) through this period and once housed.

**HOSPITAL UTILISATION AND COST<sup>4</sup>** Between May 2018 and September 2019, Ben had 42 ED presentations and 12 days of inpatient admission resulting in a cost of \$70,104 to the health system. Since September, he has had no further presentations or admissions to hospitals in WA.

**CURRENT SITUATION** Ben remains housed, he is growing vegetables in his courtyard and is now budgeting for his bills. He has regular contact with the After Hours Support Service, continues to receive mental health support from HODDS, and is interested in looking for employment.

## REDUCING CONTACT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM



Homelessness frequently intersects with the justice system, both as a part of the complex cycle of homelessness, and as a consequence of surviving day to day on the streets.

### IN THE THREE YEARS BEFORE 50 LIVES 50 HOMES<sup>5</sup>

**67%** had a recorded offence  
**61%** had received a 'move on' order  
**65%** had appeared in court

### CHANGES IN OFFENDING

#### AMONG THE 104 PEOPLE HOUSED FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR

**35%** reduction in offending  
**62%** reduction in 'move on' orders  
**68%** reduction in court appearances

#### AMONG THE 49 PEOPLE HOUSED FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS

**43%** reduction in offending  
**57%** reduction in 'move on' orders  
**74%** reduction in court appearances

## 50 LIVES 50 HOMES KEYS TO SUCCESS



- ✓ **COLLABORATION** and collective impact
- ✓ Regular **FEEDBACK** and support loops
- ✓ Established **BACKBONE PROGRAM SUPPORT**
- ✓ **INVOLVEMENT** of organisations **BEYOND THE HOMELESSNESS** sector
- ✓ **COORDINATION** and continuity of care
- ✓ **AFTER HOURS SUPPORT** provided
- ✓ Support is **NOT TIME LIMITED**
- ✓ People being supported have **CHOICE** and **SELF DETERMINATION** relating to housing

<sup>3</sup> Based on the 282 people supported by 50 Lives 50 Homes who are also HHC patients

<sup>4</sup> Independent Hospital Pricing Authority. National Hospital Cost Data Collection, Public Hospitals Cost Report, Round 21. 2019. WA hospital average ED presentation \$838 and inpatient stay \$2,909.

<sup>5</sup> Based on police data for 315 people supported by 50 Lives 50 Homes which has enabled pre and post housing comparisons of statistics relating to offending and/or being a victim of crime, prior to housing and following.