

# LIVES



A campaign to house and support Brisbane's most vulnerable homeless people





An interviewee during the 50 Lives 50 Homes Registry week. Photography, above and front cover: Patrick Hamilton.

## Taking action on homelessness in Brisbane

In June 2010 the **50 Lives 50 Homes** campaign was launched. This ground-breaking campaign is housing Brisbane's chronically homeless people, one by one.

Micah Projects Support and Advocacy Workers were joined by outreach workers from other agencies and scores of community volunteers to survey people sleeping rough. Using a Vulnerability Index,\* we surveyed 231 people who were homeless, establishing a baseline register. We continued the surveys over the following months and currently have 273 people on the Brisbane register.

The survey revealed that 65% of Brisbane's homeless people have significant chronic health conditions, indicating a high risk of mortality. Many experience a considerable level of disability and the length of time they have been homeless is alarming – the average is 6.31 years among the most vulnerable, with many people sleeping rough for decades.

\*The Vulnerability Index is based on research by Dr. Jim O'Connell of Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program. His research shows certain medical conditions place a homeless individual at a higher risk of dying, than others, if they remain on the streets.

## Reaching our first target

In January 2011 we reached the first milestone target of permanently housing 50 vulnerable people from the register. We are now working with the next 50 and will continue to focus on housing rough sleepers.

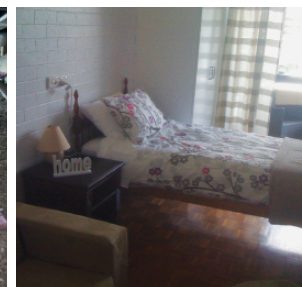


Robert with Paul from Micah Projects at the 50 Lives 50 Homes Breakfast hosted by Minister Karen Struthers at Queensland Parliament House on 22 December, 2010.

## Government and community working together

Robert had slept under a tree in the Dutton Park cemetery for 18 months and was interviewed during registry week. In October 2010, he moved into his new community housing unit managed by 4Walls at Moorooka. The unit complex was recently built with funds from the Australian Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan.

Micah Projects Supportive Housing Outreach Team assist Robert and many others who were formerly homeless to maintain their tenancies.



From city squat to welcoming home. Through the support of generous donors, we are able to furnish units with the basics to make a 'house' a home.

Micah Projects would like to acknowledge the leadership of Karen Struthers, Minister for Community Services, Housing and Minister for Women, for supporting the campaign. We thank the Department of Communities, Housing and Homelessness Services for establishing a dedicated housing allocation process that matches people from the 50 Lives 50 Homes register to appropriate, permanent housing.

## Campaign partners assisting us to successfully house and support people include:

- 4Walls
- 50 Lives 50 Homes volunteers and donors
- Christian Brothers (donation of \$10 000)
- Homeless Health Outreach Team (HHOT)
- Mater Health Services
- St Vincent de Paul Housing Services
- Tender Disposals (furniture).

## Future milestones

Micah Projects will continue to work through the registry by housing and supporting people, and coordinating services to assist all those on the register. We look forward to the challenges this will bring as we journey with people out of homelessness.

## 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign partners

50 Lives 50 Homes would not have been possible without our partnership with Mater Health Services and the generosity of the Mater Foundation as well as almost 100 volunteers.

### We would like to thank:

- 4Walls
- 50 Lives 50 Homes community and stakeholders committee
- 50 Lives 50 Homes volunteers and donors
- 99 Consulting
- 139 Club
- All Hallows' School
- Brisbane City Council
- Brisbane Youth Service
- Centacare
- Common Ground USA
- Department of Communities, Housing and Homelessness Services
- Footprints
- Goori Referral Centre Ltd
- Grocon
- Homeless Health Outreach Team (HHOT)
- Homeless to Home Healthcare Network
- Mater Foundation
- Mater Health Services
- Minter Ellison
- Mission Australia
- Murri Watch
- OzCare
- Pindari Womens Accommodation, Salvation Army
- Queensland Health
- Queensland Police Service
- Queensland Public Interest Law Clearing House
- SANDBAG
- Spiritus
- St Vincent de Paul Housing Services.

## MICAH PROJECTS INC

Micah Projects is a community organisation with an unswerving commitment to social justice. We believe that every child and adult has the right to a home, an income, healthcare, education, safety, dignity and connection with their community of choice. Micah Projects provides a range of support and advocacy services to individuals and families.

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### To find out more:

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### Follow us on Twitter:

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To donate to the 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign visit the Micah Projects website at [www.micahprojects.org.au](http://www.micahprojects.org.au) and click on donate.

MICAH PROJECTS INC



Breaking Social Isolation  
Building Community

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Micah Projects Inc is funded by

