

# 7 Years of Local Campaigns to End Homelessness and Registry Weeks in Australia

## **Australian Alliance to End Homelessness**

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Dr Heather Holst, COO Launch Housing

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Keith Bryant, Chair WCH

David Pearson, ED Don Dunstan Foundation

# But first.....who are the AAEH?

We focus on **practice, policy and research** –  
based on the NAEH (US) and CAEH  
(Canada)

We are not a peak

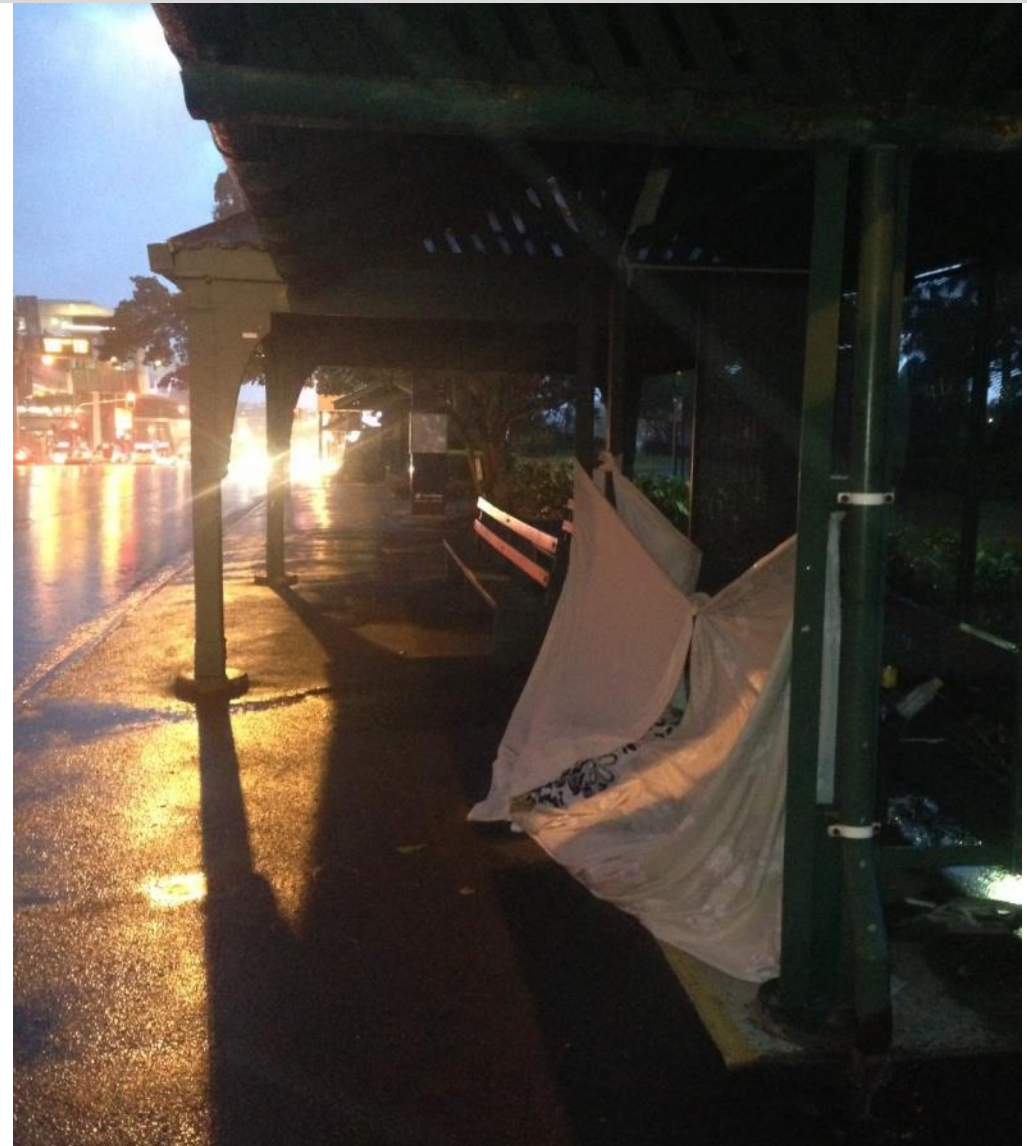
We are a national network that is working to end  
homelessness in collaboration with all who share the  
principles of:

- Evidence based responses to homelessness
- Housing First/Rapid re-housing
- Permanent supportive housing
- Initiatives and policy informed by robust data and  
research

- A brief summary of 7 years of local campaigns and registry weeks in Australia. What they are and how you do them. (Felicity Reynolds)
- Outcomes to date. (Karyn Walsh)
- Time to go national - Advance to Zero. (Heather Holst)

# Local campaigns and registry weeks

- First Registry Week in Australia was in Brisbane in June 2010 – coordinated by Micah Projects. 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign.
- Followed in 2010 by Melbourne and Sydney.
- Methodology used – from the US 100khomes campaign. Based on **Housing First**.
- Used the VI (Vulnerability Index) – best tool at the time. We have a better one now. VI-



## The early years – Registry Weeks/Campaigns

By late 2013 there had been **2,395 people** experiencing street homelessness surveyed across these cities/communities:

- Brisbane
- Melbourne
- Sydney
- Hobart
- Perth
- Western Sydney
- Townsville

# Australia 2013 summary

City/Region	Number of Interviews	Vulnerable count	% vulnerable
Brisbane	677	446	66
Hobart	229	143	62
Melbourne	536	343	64
Nepean (Western Sydney)	176	95	54
Perth	191	130	68
Sydney (Inner city)	530	356	67
Townsville	56	36	64
Total	2395	1549	65



# Campaign workers, volunteers & respondents





## Methodology:

- Plan registry week and work to line up additional housing supply
- Training volunteers
- 3 early mornings (4.30am) in a row – same teams to same places – inviting people experiencing street homelessness to VI (later VI-SPDAT)
- Data entry/analysis done each afternoon
- Final day of registry week – presentation of summary results: numbers, average length of time homeless, vulnerability etc.

# Registry week is where the real work starts

Registry weeks and local campaigns are not done to marvel at the statistics.

While the data is a useful advocacy tool, the **key reason for building a local register** is to:

- Know by name who is homeless
- Understand their health and housing needs
- Local services follow-up to assist those people into permanent housing (and if also needed – supportive housing)
- Community should also work on moving road blocks in local systems causing problems getting people into housing.

- The VI was good – but blunt. It only told us if someone was vulnerable or not (from 8 vulnerability factors – based on the research of O’Connell and Hwang).
- VI-SPDAT does more.** It helps us understand who has low, medium or high needs.
- People who score high will likely need permanent supportive housing. People who score low just need housing.



Interviewing a  
Boarding House  
Resident for the VI-  
SPDAT.

Photography: Robyn  
McDonald.

## Since 2013: VI-SPDAT Registry Weeks and Campaigns

- 2014 Brisbane (500 Lives 500 Homes)
- 2014 Western Sydney
- 2014 Sutherland, Sydney
- 2015 Inner Sydney
- 2016 Waverley, Sydney
- 2016 Perth, WA (50 Lives 50 Homes)
- 2016 Newcastle, NSW
- 2016 Western Sydney (Heading Home Campaign)



# Interview Methodology



- Patient
- Respectful
- Persistent
- Compassionate

Photography: Patrick Hamilton.

- Follow-up is made possible and easier because **people's names and identities are known**. Because it is not an anonymous survey, VI-SPDATs can be added as new people become known (and added to the data base).
- Overwhelmingly – people completing VI-SPDATs have stated that they want housing asap.
- Measurable results. Understanding who was homeless and who is now housed offers a way for communities to **track progress** in ending/reducing homelessness.

## Outcomes of some registry weeks/campaigns

- 50 Lives 50 Homes Brisbane (2010 – 2013)
- Sydney Registry Week (2010 – 2013)
- 500 Lives 500 Homes Brisbane (2014 – 2017)
- 50 Lives 50 Homes Perth (2016 – 2019)

# 50 Lives 50 Homes Brisbane 2010

**aaeh** australian alliance  
to end homelessness



50 Lives 50 Homes Registry  
Week, June 2010.

Photography: Patrick  
Hamilton.

- As at 31 December 2013 A total of **701 people had been surveyed** with the Vulnerability Index about their housing, healthcare and support service needs. **230 people had been housed** by the 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign partners.
- The results of the survey were astounding and demonstrated the high degree of disability and the incredible length of time spent homeless by the people we met. These results provided the information necessary for **planning the housing and support needs of each individual.**



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Elizah, Amenda and Ellidon with  
their Mother Elisa. The family  
were housed during the 50 Lives  
50 Homes campaign.

Photography: Katie Bennett.





This was not run as a campaign – however it did create an **energetic collaboration of inner Sydney services**. Main follow-up agency was the street outreach service.

By 2013:

- Total on register by 2013 was 530
- Not great at finding women (20% women)
- Average years homeless was 8.3
- Average age was 45.

# Sydney Registry Week 2010 - Outcomes by 2013

- 33 people from register housed at **Common Ground Camperdown** (PSH) – which opened in 2011
- 72 people housed in a scatter site PSH project – called Platform 70 (Bridge Housing)
- 96 people in **public housing** or a community housing provider
- 12 – some other form of housing

*Note: having those 2 PSH projects start after RW were crucial to these outcomes.*



# 500 Lives 500 Homes Brisbane 2014

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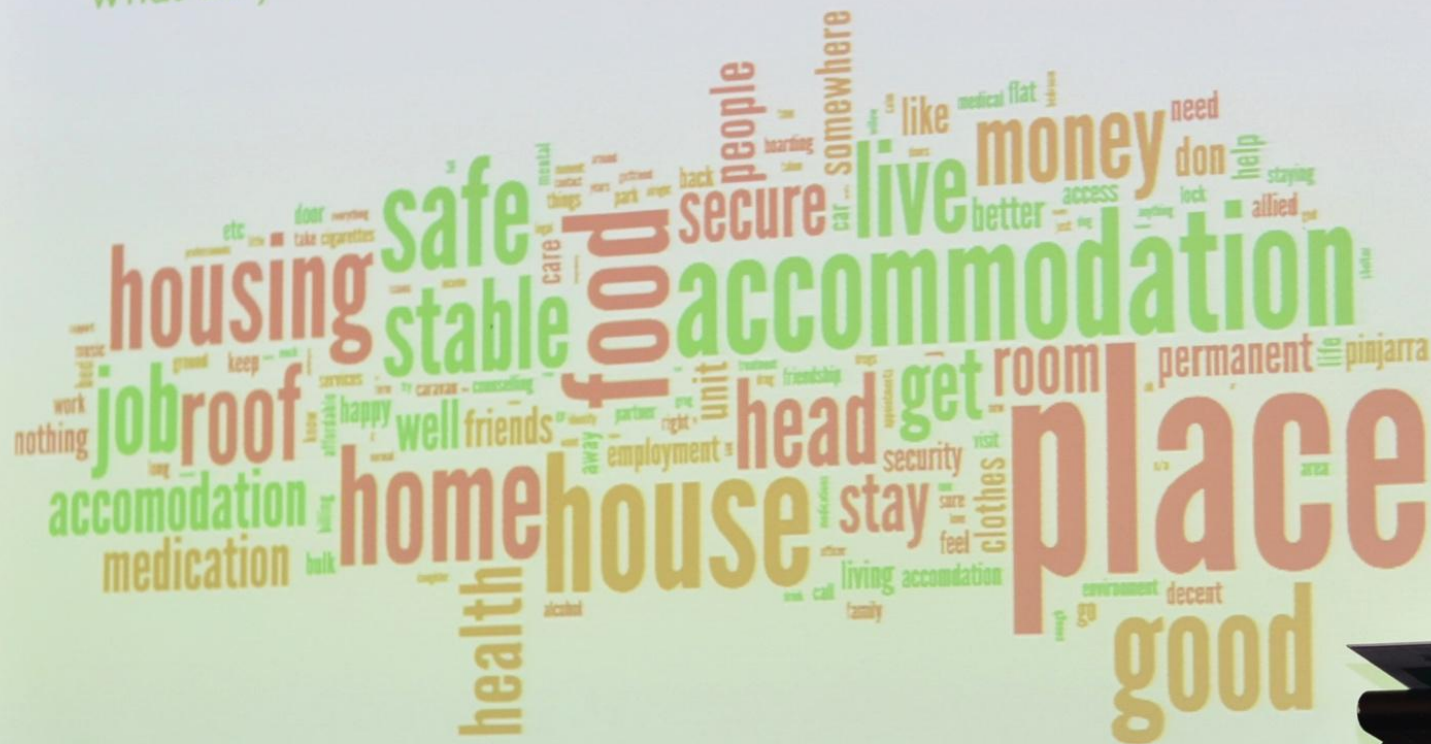


Launch of 500 Lives 500 Homes Registry Week, March 2014.

Photography: Katie Bennett.



What do you need to be **safe** and **well**?



Individuals Response 500 Lives 500 Home 2014

Acting Inspector Corey Allen  
speaking at the 500 Lives 500 Homes  
Community Forum, April 2014.

Photography: Robyn McDonald.





# 500 Lives 500 Homes Brisbane – Outcomes by 2017

**580** individuals and families  
were housed (1,010 people)



**373** individuals

86 under 25

287 25 or over



**207** families with  
**430** children

66 with a parent under 25

141 with a parent 25 or over



- 56% public housing
- 31% community housing
- 13% private and other housing

**88%** tenancies were  
sustained



- 16% No Support
- 43% Short-term Support
- 29% Long-term Support
- 3% Breach
- 2% Abandonment
- 2% Tenant Termination
- <1% Incarceration
- <5% Unknown

Figures based on 406 households that had moved into permanent housing at least 3 months prior to follow-up in February 2017.

For more info visit:  
[500lives500homes.org.au](http://500lives500homes.org.au)

50 Lives 50 Homes Perth aims to:

- Sustainably house and support very vulnerable homeless people using a **Housing First Model**.
- Use a **collective impact model** to harness existing supports and services.
- **Evaluate the effectiveness** and relevance of the Housing First Model in the Western Australian context to inform future funding decisions in homelessness in Western Australia.

- In its first year, the campaign housed **43 people in 34 houses** (this includes 2 families and 5 couples).
- Provided after hours support to complement the role of existing services to help these people settle into and maintain their housing.
- Only **two have returned to homelessness and continue to be supported by the project to find a new home.**
- 50 Lives 50 Homes has also identified and address gaps in services and barriers that prevent vulnerable people from accessing housing and support.
- The work of the campaign is the **joint effort of 46 services from 30 organisations.**



**advance to zero**

**local communities  
ending homelessness**

[www.advancetozero.org](http://www.advancetozero.org)

aaeh an initiative of the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness

- **Advance to Zero is a campaign by AAEH to support local communities** to do Registry Weeks (using the VI SPDAT) and run a campaign to end homelessness in their communities.
- Not just about street homelessness, but also about families in TA; people moving in and out of crisis services.
- Will be supported through training/information sharing - but campaign is owned by each community.



## National Workshop – led by Community Solutions May 2017

From May 24-26 2017, the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness convened representatives from a number of Australian cities in Brisbane to map out a national, campaign-style action to end homelessness.

A workplan was developed for:

1. Clear **communications strategy** and assets needed to execute.
2. Establishment of **shared data measures** and repository for reporting.
3. **Core campaign roles** staffed, backed by working groups with identified team leaders.

# The shared goal and the definition of success

## *A Collective Goal*

**Advance to Zero** is a national action of communities working to end homelessness, starting by ending rough sleeping in 3 years.

## *Defining Success for One Person or Family*

Ending rough sleeping for a **single individual or family** will be measured by placement into permanent housing.

## ***Defining Success for One Community***

Ending rough sleeping in a community will mean that the number of people sleeping rough is less than that community's average monthly housing rate.

## # communities that are:

1. Engaged
2. Producing quality data
3. Reducing numbers of actively homeless
4. Achieving functional zero
5. Sustaining functional zero
6. Meeting housing retention benchmark

## To support this work:

- Robust communications strategy
- Quality data for measurement and improvement
- Effective campaign infrastructure
- Strategies for success adopted in communities
- Securing housing and service resources



For more information

[mercyfoundation.com.au](http://mercyfoundation.com.au)

[launchhousing.org.au](http://launchhousing.org.au)

[ruah.org.au](http://ruah.org.au)

[micahprojects.org.au/resources/factsheets](http://micahprojects.org.au/resources/factsheets)

[500lives500homes.org.au/publications](http://500lives500homes.org.au/publications)

[community.solutions.org](http://community.solutions.org)