

## A summary of Registry Weeks across Australia: 2010 - 2017

Working with local communities begins with a Registry Week. Registry Weeks are conducted over 3 early mornings in a row with 4.30am starts. Early morning starts are required because it is important to be able to identify who is homeless and sleeping in the streets and parks of the community.

The Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool has been used as the 'triage' tool to understand exactly which people identified through registry week have high, medium or low needs and who will require:

- Housing and permanent support to end their homelessness
- Housing and short-term support to end their homelessness
- Just housing

During Registry weeks volunteer community member teams who have been trained in the use of the tool, visit the same locations each morning and ask people who are homeless to complete the survey with them. Homeless families and individuals in temporary or crisis accommodation or in cars are also invited to participate. Each day, after teams have completed surveys, each survey is entered into a secure data base. At the end of the week – non-identifiable data on the results are analysed and presented back to the community and local and State policy makers to help better understand the extent and nature of homelessness in that particular community. After registry week, community partner organisations work together to ensure that those people with high needs are matched with housing and support as soon as possible. Those with lower or no support needs can also be assisted into housing.

Since 2010 Registry Weeks have been conducted in:

- Brisbane
- Melbourne
- Inner Sydney
- Perth
- Hobart
- Townsville
- Sutherland (Sydney)
- Waverley (Sydney)
- Newcastle
- Nepean/Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury (Sydney)

Since Registry weeks started 7628 surveys have been completed with households across Australia.

Registry Weeks have been carried out by local community collaborations and supported by Micah Projects and the Mercy Foundation.

The most important aspect of registry week is the work that continues after each community has established their register. People are followed up and prioritised into available and appropriate housing and removed from the register. Any newly identified homeless people or families are able to be interviewed and added to the 'register'. This helps each community to understand:

- By name, who is homeless in their community
- What each person's health, support and housing needs are
- Who and how many people and families have been permanently housed (and supported, if also required)

Understanding the actual 'demand' for housing and support services in each community also assists local organisations and agencies to understand what level of housing and support 'supply' that their community requires in order to end street homelessness. It also focusses communities on ending homelessness rather than simply managing/ servicing homelessness (food vans, showers etc). Once each community sees that the problem is a solvable number, resources can be directed into actions that can end people's homelessness.