

50 Lives 50 Homes

A Housing First Response to Ending Homelessness

50 Lives 50 Homes is a collective impact campaign supporting 50 of Perth's most vulnerable homeless people. It is being evaluated by The Centre for Social Impact, University of Western Australia (CSI UWA).

The main objectives of this evaluation are to:

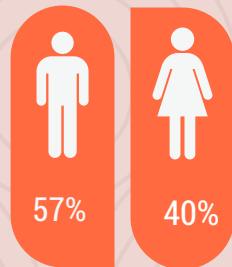
- assess how effective and efficient the 50 Lives approach is in providing sustainable housing and well-being outcomes for the most vulnerable rough sleepers in Perth.
- measure the impact of 50 Lives in **four client domains**: health outcomes; mental health and well-being outcome; housing outcomes (including risk of returning to homelessness), and; risk of offending and crime behaviours.



Client Demographics & Vulnerability

40 average age

38% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



72%

reported having disability, but only 41% receiving the Disability Support Pension

5.1 years

on average spent homeless, which is equivalent to:

1,861 nights

spent without a place to call home

61% have ever been to prison

76% have been in police custody

51% reported ongoing legal issues that could result in a fine or imprisonment

77%

experienced emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or other type of abuse or trauma



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

First Evaluation Snapshot



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Client Health Profile

prior to 50 Lives participation

50 Lives clients have significant physical, mental and substance use issues, often exacerbated by life on the streets.

- 97%** have a mental health problem
- 98%** have a substance use problem
- 82%** have a serious physical problem

75% have all three referred to as tri-morbidity



Before 50 Lives majority stated they would usually go to a hospital if feeling unwell

- 5.5** average visits to ED in past 6 months
- 3.0** average trips to hospital via ambulance in past 6 months
- 3.0** average number of hospital admissions past 6 months




"To discharge a homeless patient back to the street with no primary care or community service input in place represents a failure of our system to change the dismal health outcomes and reduced life expectancy. The 50 Lives project provides us with a unique opportunity to help some of our most vulnerable homeless patients' access the housing and support they need to break the cycle of homelessness and poor health." - Dr Amanda Stafford

Housing Outcomes

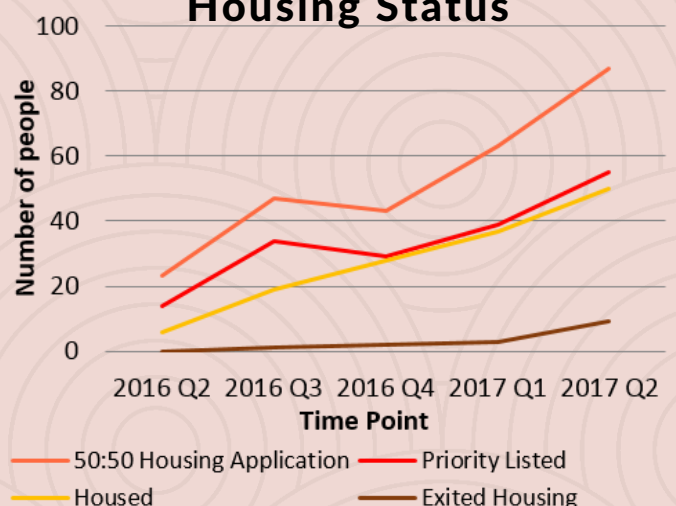
As at the end of June 2017:

50 housed  42 individuals
8 families

With an additional **53** supported

-  19 priority listed
-  44 completed housing application
-  9 to submit paperwork

Housing Status



Risk of Returning to Homelessness

People who have experienced chronic homelessness and have complex needs are at significant risk of returning to homelessness if not supported.

A unique aspect of 50 Lives is the dedicated After-Hours Support Service (AHSS). The AHSS is a partnership between Ruah support workers and Homeless Healthcare nurses, who support clients with health and social needs outside of normal working hours. AHSS works closely with each case worker to assist clients to remain housed.

AHSS Services Provided to 50 Lives Clients



"...being on the streets is hard. Not having my insulin, not being in the fridge. Just keeping on top of my medications, it was pretty hard. Now I've got a house I can keep on top of that. The after-hours people are really good. They'll come see us and check my sugars. Ask if I need anything." - 50 Lives participant

Economic Evaluation

Whilst the key aim of 50 Lives is to end homelessness, demonstrating the economic benefits of the project is also critical. The 50 Lives evaluation is focusing initially on the potential cost savings to the health system, using linked hospital data to look at changes in health service use once people are housed. Rough sleepers among the most frequent presenters to hospital Emergency Departments, and 50 Lives is working to break the revolving door between homelessness and health, as illustrated in the case study below.

"Wayne" has a complex medical history including mental health, alcohol & drug use and physical health conditions. He began presenting at RPH ED in 2015, and deteriorating mental health culminated in several suicidal attempts and psychiatric admissions in 2016.

Cost to health system: During 2016 Wayne presented to ED 23 times, had 6 psych admissions (totaling 56 days) and 4 other unplanned admissions (totaling 11 days). This equates to a total estimated cost in 2016 of \$107,453*.

Since 50 Lives... In October 2016 Wayne was housed through 50 Lives and receives regular support through the AHSS and Homeless Healthcare. His mental health has stabilised and he has had no ED presentations in 2017.

* Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (2017). Average costs for WA; \$656/ED presentation, \$2,415 inpatient day. \$1,175 average psych bed day WA.

The 50 Lives Collaboration

The 50 Lives collaborative approach:

Case workers from external organisations and relevant agencies



50 Lives Collaborative



Backbone support from Ruah Community Services

50 Lives is a collaboration across 27 organisations, representing 40 different services, with a growing number of collaborators getting involved.

Findings from the first round of the PARTNER Tool show:

94% saw improved client outcomes

88% saw increased communication between organisations

Some Key Findings

There is widespread and complex vulnerabilities among 50 Lives clients, including high levels of trauma and disability, and multiple health conditions.

The AHSS and HHC are widely used by clients, which is helping to ***reduce the risk of returning to homelessness.***

High levels of contact with the justice and hospital system places significant burden on the individuals themselves, police, hospital staff, and the wider justice/health system.

In the first year of 50 Lives 50 Homes, ***50 clients were housed,*** with many others currently being supported awaiting housing. Overall, the project has been able to house people more rapidly than would otherwise occur, but ***speeding up this process further remains a priority.***

"I've been homeless ever since I was 15. I've been going to the Ruah drop in since I was 20. Before that I didn't really think I'd be that lucky to get a house. I thought I'd be on the streets forever. Now I've got a house I feel we're safe. I can finally call something home" - 50 Lives participant

This summary was produced from the findings reported in:

Wood, L., Vallesi, S., Kragt, D., Flatau, P., Wood, N., Gazey, A. and Lester, L. (2017). 50 Lives 50 Homes: A Housing First Response to Ending Homelessness. First Evaluation Report. Centre for Social Impact: University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia.