

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 August 2022

Logan's campaign to end homelessness

Community organisations, services and government in Logan are working together on the Logan Zero campaign to end homelessness and rough sleeping in the region.

In line with the theme for this year's Homelessness Week - *To end homelessness we need a plan* - Logan Zero's plan is to ensure that everyone has access to safe and supportive housing through a coordinated, collaborative and person-centred approach.

"By working together across the community to know exactly who is homeless and what their needs are, we can advocate for system improvements to end homelessness in Logan," says Cath Bartolo, CEO of YFS, host organisation of Logan Zero.

"Logan Zero members are collating a 'By Name' list of everyone who is sleeping rough in Logan. This accurate, quality data will help us identify bottlenecks and gaps in the system and understand what support is required."

The initial data collected from the first 50 homeless households has already revealed the complexity of the issue, with most households needing a high level of support to sustain housing. The people surveyed were aged between 16 and 63 and represented 127 homeless people including 65 children.

- 67% were female
- 78% had at least one chronic health condition
- 84% had experienced trauma
- 65% experienced violence
- 53% first experienced homelessness as a child.

Jane's experience of long-term homelessness illustrates the complex needs of many people sleeping rough. Jane* is in her late 50s and has been homeless for five years since her relationship broke down. She has been living in a van on the streets with her dog for more than two years. Jane has a disability and significant health issues and has been to Accident and Emergency three times in the last seven months. She has been a victim of crime and has experienced physical and verbal abuse.

Jane says, "It's hard if you don't fit inside a square. We're all different and have different needs. Organisations need to be more flexible and listen to the person at the end."

"Homelessness in Logan is not inevitable," says Ms Bartolo. "We need to work together as a community to match people to the housing and support services that they need."

ENDS

* Not her real name

About Logan Zero

The Logan Zero campaign is an initiative to end homelessness and rough sleeping in the Logan region through a coordinated, collaborative, and person-centred approach. For more information about Logan Zero visit

<https://loganzero.org.au/>

FIRST 50 HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS

The Logan Zero campaign is an initiative to end homelessness and rough sleeping in the Logan region through a coordinated, collaborative and person-centred approach. 50 households completed a Vi-SPDAT survey between December 2021 and June 2022. This provides an initial insight into the housing and support needs of the region that will be built on over time.

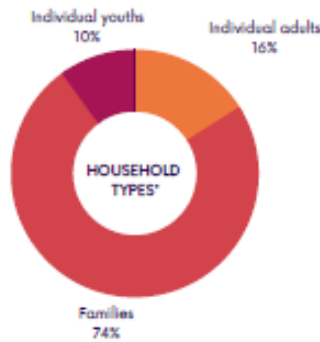
DEMOGRAPHICS

(n) 50 people between the ages of 16 - 65 were surveyed as the main presenting person per household. Most respondents were young families with children:

127 people* across 50 households including 65 children

Average age of main presenting person per household was 34 years old

67% of main presenting person per household identified as female



HOMELESS HISTORY

Many households experienced hidden and chronic homelessness:



48% slept most frequently with friends or couch surfed

Those that slept rough did so in toilets, parks, and cars

Average time homeless was 1 Year and 9 Months

Longest time a person experienced homelessness was 25 Years

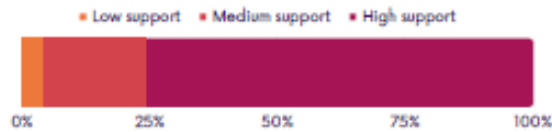
53% first experienced homelessness as a child (at or under 18 years old)



RISKS

Most households require a high level of support to sustain housing:

LEVEL OF SUPPORT REQUIRED



Relationship breakdown was a cause of homelessness for 60% of households

28% were at risk of harm from a spouse, parent, relative or friend

Crisis services were used 408 times in the last 6 months

84% experienced trauma

65% experienced violence

48% felt discriminated against when seeking supports



HEALTH OVERVIEW

Most households have a chronic or mental health condition:

HEALTH OVERVIEW

At least one chronic health condition (CH) 78%

At least one mental health condition (MH) 96%

Substance use (SU) 36%

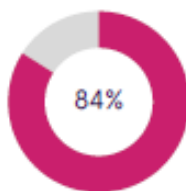
Tri-morbidity (CH+MH+SU) for same person in household 29%

Has a physical disability limiting housing 20%

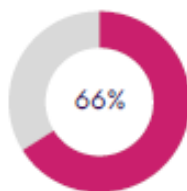
Avoids seeking healthcare when unwell 35%

TOPLINE HEALTH

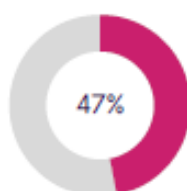
MOST PREVALENT HEALTH CONDITIONS



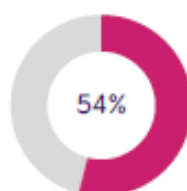
Depression



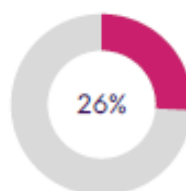
Anxiety



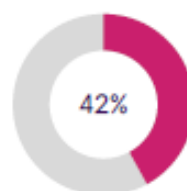
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)



Asthma



Problematic drug or alcohol usage



Learning or developmental disability



NOTES:
 - This data is representative of 50 households where main presenting person per household completed a Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (Vi-SPDAT) survey between December 2021 to Jun 2022.
 - Vi-SPDAT surveys provide an acuity score to indicate the level of support required to sustain housing as low (score 0-4), medium (score 5-9) and high (score 10+).
 - Household types: Individual adults (>= 26 years old), Individual youths (16-25 years old), Families are multiple groups of people presenting together regardless if they have dependents.
 - Total number of people include main presenting person (head of household), second head of household, and children that were with families at time of survey.