

HACKATHON TO HELP BRISBANE'S HOMELESS

Four teams, two days and one website to help end street homelessness in Brisbane.

(zero)seven

BRISBANE
ZERO

- The Hackathon for Homelessness was held at Zerosseven on August 7th and 8th
- Zerosseven, in partnership with Micah Projects and the Brisbane Alliance to End Homelessness, built an entire website for the Brisbane Zero campaign in two days
- Brisbane Zero recently achieved accreditation for its 'By-Name List', making Brisbane one of only two cities in Australia with a real-time list of all people experiencing homelessness in the community
- Zerosseven launched the website on 12 August

BRISBANE, QLD – As part of Homelessness Week (2–8 August), Brisbane web design and development house Zerosseven took part in the Hackathon for Homelessness, volunteering their time over 7-8 August to build a website for the Brisbane Zero campaign.

Led by Micah Projects, the Brisbane Zero campaign includes a collective of agencies and communities that aim to reach the goal of 'functional zero' street homelessness in Brisbane by 2023.

The timing of this website coincided with a huge achievement for Brisbane Zero, who received certification from US-based organisation Community Solutions, for their 'By-Name List', a real-time list of all people experiencing homelessness in the community. This certification means that the data captured from all persons experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough in the streets of Brisbane is of quality.

With the support of the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness and guidance provided by Community Solutions, Brisbane is only the second city outside of North America to officially be deemed to have a Quality By-Name List.

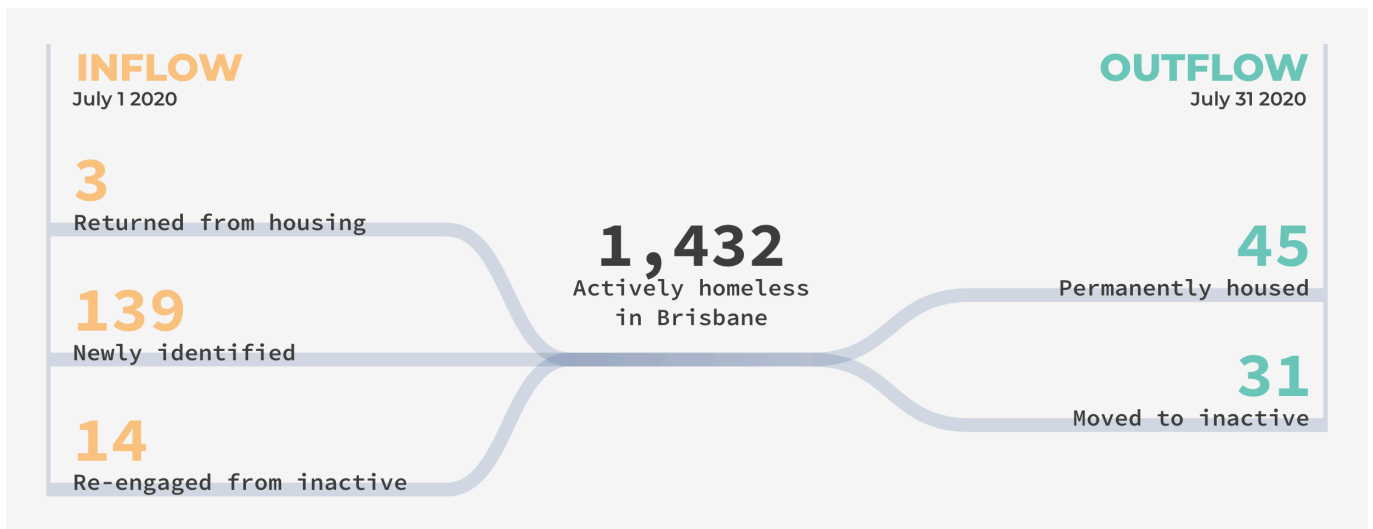
“Having access to real-time data is essential to addressing the problem, we usually rely on census data, which is four years old. But people are dying on the streets”

KARYN WALSH CEO Micah Projects

“Having access to real-time data is essential to addressing the problem,” said Karyn Walsh, CEO of Micah Projects. “We usually rely on census data, which is four years old. But people are dying on the streets – so in 2010 we started looking at how we can use more sophisticated data analysis to try and solve the problem.



“People become trapped in homelessness for many years. For us, getting to zero means that homelessness is rare, brief and nonrecurring. This website is such a great gift to us, because it combines the data with communication to help spread awareness. This is something we’ve been wanting to do for a long time.”



At the end of July, there were 1432 individuals and 250 families known to be experiencing homelessness in Brisbane, and working with Brisbane Zero participating services.

The Zerosseven team needed to build a website that not only showcased this data, but also provided an easy way to match those in need to the housing support and services available. Karyn said this function became especially important during COVID-19, due to uncertainty in the community that these services were open and functioning.

After two full days of development and further functionality testing, the Brisbane Zero website officially launched on 12 August.

Chris Thompson, Technical Lead and Managing Director of Zerosseven, said the hackathon demonstrated that when project teams come together and work towards a mutual goal, great milestones can be achieved in a short amount of time.

“It was great to see the whole company coming together to achieve a huge project, one that really makes a difference,” Chris said.

Karyn said the Brisbane Zero team were “thrilled” with the website. “It looks fantastic,” she said. “Thank you all for your enormous support and generous contribution.”

Check out the website and follow the campaign to get Brisbane street homelessness down to zero at www.brisbanezero.org.au

For more information, contact **Elizabeth Gibbons**: 0433 125 729 | elizabeth.gibbons@zerosseven.com.au

