

Making a Home

Impact Report

AUG 2022



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SETTING PEOPLE UP FOR SUCCESS

Our Housing Crisis

Australia has an affordable housing crisis, twenty years in the making and super charged by the current pandemic and world events. This crisis is contributing to a rise in homelessness across Australian communities. During 2021 and 2022 we have seen a significant increase in the cost of rent and general cost of living, a continuing restricted supply of housing

within the private rental market and financial stress due to disrupted employment. There is also a chronic lack of available Public and Social Housing with lengthy wait lists in all States, often over 10 years. These factors have meant that homelessness services are again seeing a rise in rough sleeping, couch surfing and overcrowding, and a decrease in affordable rental housing. Many people on the margins, who rely on a

number of part-time or casual jobs in hospitality, retail, arts and tourism, have seen their income and employment being severely affected. As a result of this growing housing crisis, homelessness services are meeting new people who have found themselves homeless, unemployed and without support, accessing services for the very first time in their lives. These people are from all walks of life and all ages.

OUR RESPONSE. MAKING-A-HOME.

Securing any type of affordable housing is incredibly difficult, especially for those on a low income. But when affordable housing is eventually secured, it is crucial that people are supported in making their house a home, and avoid going into immediate debt when purchasing essentials like furniture, white goods, or kitchenware. For people who are fleeing domestic violence, recovering from natural disasters, or moving into accommodation after experiencing homelessness,

these types of essential household items are items they just don't have. Setting up someone for tenancy success is a vital part of any homeless support service but funding for household items is hard to come by. This is where StreetSmart's 'Making-a-Home' initiative steps in. StreetSmart raises funds and distributes community grants to front line homeless services to give people the best possible chance of a successful new start. Funds are used to purchase everyday items such as: White Goods

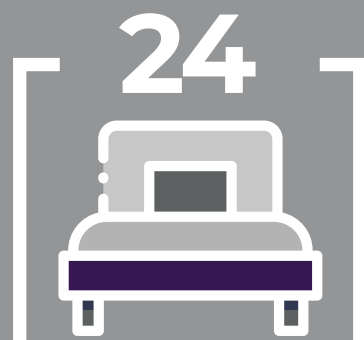
(fridge, washing machine), Furniture (beds mattresses, couches, dining tables chairs), kitchenware (plates, glassware, pots pans, cooking utensils), Kitchen Appliances (toasters, kettles and microwaves), Soft furnishings (bed linen, towels, curtains, pillows), Household Items (vacuum, mops, brooms, cleaning materials) and moving and delivery costs.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE HELPED INTO HOUSING

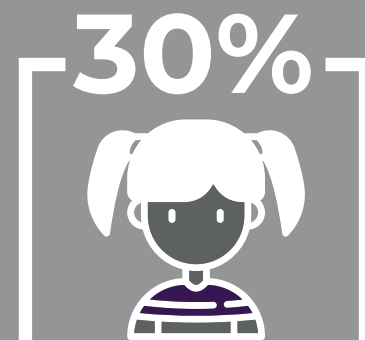
327

TOTAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

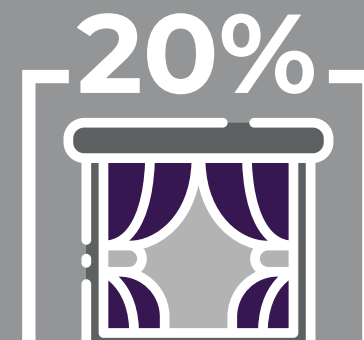
\$129,000



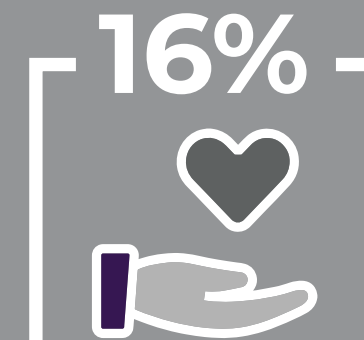
homelessness
organisations
funded



of recipients are
youth, aged
between 18-25



of recipients are
domestic violence
survivors



of recipients are
Indigenous
Australians

SUPPORTING SUSAN INTO HOUSING

Susan became homeless after her husband died and for 10 years slept under bridges and in parks across the Brisbane area. Susan had been offered housing placements previously, but had turned them down saying there were ‘people who need it more’. In 2021, our Street to Home team finally convinced Susan to accept a placement, and she moved in a few weeks prior to Christmas.

“Thanks to the support of the network behind StreetSmart’s Making-a-Home initiative, she did not just move into ‘housing’. Susan moved in with everything she needed to make a home. This included a refrigerator, a vacuum cleaner, a toaster, bedding, and more.

The continued contributions from the StreetSmart’s Making-a-Home initiative have made an impact on Susan’s life and the lives of other individuals and families by enabling them to move into a permanent home and emergency accommodation with a housing set up. Together, we can end homelessness in Brisbane.”

MICAH Projects, QLD



SUPPORTING A SINGLE MUM AND HER CHILDREN

Juno supported a single mother with two children who had lost their home due to a relationship breakdown. They were supported in emergency hotel accommodation but due to one of the children living with physical disability and the family experiencing financial difficulty, it was challenging to find a property that was accessible and affordable.

After 6 months of sharing one hotel room and much advocating, the family finally received an offer of long-term public housing, but because of their situation, they had no household items or furniture to move to the new property with.

Through Streetsmart funding, Juno was able to provide \$600 worth of funds, so the family were able to purchase essential kitchenware and bedding items. This funding greatly assisted the family in establishing their new long-term tenancy and settling into their home comfortably, after almost half a year of instability and uncertainty.

Juno, VIC



SUPPORTING LGBTIQ+ YOUNG PEOPLE

Supporting LGBTIQ+ young people

“Most twenty10 housing clients experience homelessness or risk of homelessness before entering our housing program. For many of them it’s their first opportunity to experience stable and safe housing. A place they can call home, feel safe and decorate just how they want it. Often, they move in with very little possessions let alone

what they need to live and thrive in their own place.

The making a home grant has enabled workers to purchase new items for the housing tenants that they will be able to take with them to their next home when they leave Twenty10. Mostly these are essential items such as fridges, washing machines etc, but every now and then it has also included something special like a

few flowering plants to brighten up the space.

This year we were able to purchase new beds, clothes storage, fridges, washing machines, kettles, toasters, bed linen, a television and some plants to redo a small garden. The recipients have expressed a sense of pride and belonging in having a stable home with everything they need.”

Twenty10, NSW



OVERVIEW OF LATEST GRANTS AUGUST 2022

MAKING-A-HOME x ZERO PROJECTS

In August 2022, with funds raised through our annual End of Financial Year Appeal, we have made a series of grants to support Housing First 'Zero' projects across five States and 9 local regional collaborations. Targeting and supporting the most vulnerable in our community, identified through registration weeks, the Zero programs are a response to rough sleeping with the aim of ending street homelessness.

"We work together to coordinate supports and improve housing outcomes for people sleeping rough, however the program has received no external funding over the past two years and have limited access to brokerage funding which can act as a barrier to outcomes for these more vulnerable persons. The Making-a-Home grant funding will directly support these persons to access accommodation and set-up a tenancy, providing rapidly accessible, person-centred, and flexible brokerage option to respond more effectively to the needs of people sleeping rough."

**Ending Rough Sleeping
Byron Shire Collaboration**

"Brisbane Zero, in partnership with our Home for Good outreach services, help to set up people's homes after working with the Department of Housing to allocate them to their long term permanent housing. To maximise the potential for tenancy success and prevent a return to homelessness, it's necessary that some basic items such as beds, mattresses, linen, towels and kitchen essentials are provided and this is what we do for each individual or family. This is an ongoing work we do through our local collaboration and will always require funding."

Micah Projects, Home for Good- Brisbane Zero, QLD

"The RUAH mobile outreach and Housing First Support Service teams identify, engage and support people who are rough sleeping to access and live stably in their permanent forever homes. This making-a-Home grant will provide immediate relief, support and tools for people moving into their tenancies and enable them to have the best chance of successful, keeping them housed and off the streets. The people we are supporting often have complex housing histories and face challenges moving into permanent and stable accommodation so this extra support is required as they move into permanent and stable homes."

**RUAH Community
Services, Zero Project WA**

GRANT RECIPIENT ORGANISATIONS 2021-2022

Grants Round	Recipient Organisation	Amount	State
Jul-21	Juno (formerly WISHIN)	\$5,000.00	VIC
Jul-21	Micah Projects Inc	\$5,000.00	QLD
Jul-21	Twenty10	\$5,000.00	NSW
Nov-21	Anchor Inc - Scoresby	\$6,000.00	VIC
Nov-21	Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	\$6,000.00	NSW
Nov-21	Open Doors Youth Service	\$6,000.00	QLD
Nov-21	Women's & Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC)	\$6,000.00	NSW
Nov-21	You Matter (Aus) Ltd	\$6,000.00	VIC
Nov-21	Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre	\$6,000.00	QLD
Mar-22	Wombat Housing and Support	\$4,000.00	VIC
Mar-22	WAYSS	\$4,000.00	VIC
Mar-22	Taldumande Youth Service	\$4,000.00	NSW
Mar-22	DV West	\$4,000.00	NSW
Mar-22	Immigrant Womens Support Service	\$4,000.00	QLD
Mar-22	Chameleon Community Housing	\$4,000.00	QLD
Aug-22	Australian Alliance to End Homelessness - Adelaide Zero Project	\$6,000.00	SA
Aug-22	End Street Sleeping Collaboration - Byron Shire Collaboration	\$6,000.00	NSW
Aug-22	Gold Coast Homelessness Network - Gold Coast Zero	\$6,000.00	QLD
Aug-22	Micah Projects - Brisbane Zero	\$6,000.00	QLD
Aug-22	Neami National - Frankston Zero	\$6,000.00	VIC
Aug-22	Neami National - Geelong Zero	\$6,000.00	VIC
Aug-22	RUAH - Zero Project WA	\$6,000.00	WA
Aug-22	Wollongong Emergency Family Housing - Illawarra Zero	\$6,000.00	NSW
Aug-22	YFS - Logan Zero	\$6,000.00	QLD

The Making-a-Home program is ongoing and further grants will be made when funds are available.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND FUNDING PARTNERS



"Often, when women come to WAGEC, they don't have much besides a small bag of essential items. Therefore support to set up a new home is essential as women rebuild a safe future. Ending gender-based violence and creating safe futures for women and their children takes all of us. This is why your involvement in the WAGEC community is so important. Thank you once again for your generosity."

**Chloe Sarapas, WAGEC,
NSW**

"The generous grant will enable us to support young people moving from crisis and short term accommodation into longer term affordable housing with household goods including bedroom furnishings, bedding and essential whitegoods and furniture. On behalf of the young people we support, thank you StreetSmart Australia!"

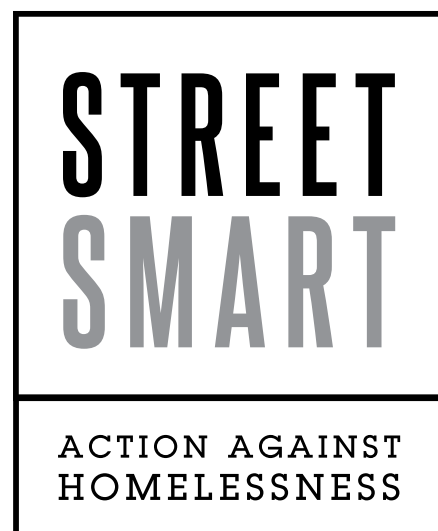
WAYSS, NSW

"To date the grant helped T a young Aboriginal man move into his first home with the purchase of a sofa and coffee table, truly making the place feel homely and somewhere he can relax. It helped a 63-year-old man buy a bed, who up until now he was sleeping on a doona on the floor and living with increasing physical discomfort. It also helped to buy a fridge for another older man, who had been living without one despite having his new home for 5 months. They are all extremely grateful for the help we've been able to provide with this generous donation, thank you."

**Paul Adabie, Newtown
Neighbourhood Centre,
NSW**

Thank You for Making Making-a-Home Possible.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our organisation is located and where we conduct our business, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and emerging. StreetSmart is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.



Contact

For further details of the Making-a-Home Initiative and the work of StreetSmart Australia please contact Geoff Hills, CEO, geoff@streetsmartaustralia.org