

A woman wearing a black hijab and a patterned cardigan over a black top is smiling and watering purple flowers in a garden. She is holding a black watering can. The background shows a residential area with trees and a fence.

Making a Home

Impact Report

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

As an organisation that operates from inner Melbourne, we acknowledge the peoples of the Kulin nation, the Traditional Owners of this land. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. StreetSmart delivers our work on unceded land across Australia which always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

We recognise and celebrate the resilience, histories and cultures of the First Nations peoples across all Nations in which our work has an impact, and their continuing connection to Country. We

acknowledge theirs as the oldest continuing culture on Earth.

With acknowledgement of the importance for self-determination, StreetSmart funds and supports First Nations led organisations and their programs, where possible, to assist people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage in their communities.

In the Financial Year 2021-2022, we have supported 33 Indigenous run organisations, with 19% of grantrecipients and 34% of SleepSafe recipients identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.



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SETTING PEOPLE UP FOR SUCCESS

Our Housing Crisis

Decades of underinvestment in affordable housing and fuelled by the pandemic and world events, Australia's housing crisis is contributing to a rise in homelessness across Australian communities. We have seen a significant increase in rents, the general cost of living, a continuing restricted supply of housing within the private rental market, and financial stress due to disrupted employment. With some public housing waitlists over 10 years and vacancy rates below 1%, people on low incomes have few options.

These factors have meant that homelessness services are seeing a rise in rough sleeping, couch surfing and overcrowding, and a decrease in affordable rental housing. 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.

0.8%

National rental vacancy rate in the early months of 2023

13%

The increase in average Capital city rents throughout 2022

640,000+

low-income households experiencing homelessness, overcrowding, or spend over 30% of their income on housing

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. Our Making-a-Home grants to frontline homeless services 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),

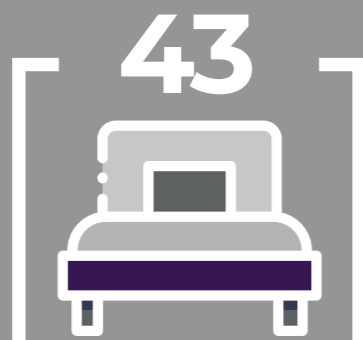
Furniture (beds mattresses, couches, dining tables chairs), kitchenware (plates, glassware, pots pans, cooking utensils), Kitchen Appliances and Food Supplies (toasters, kettles, microwaves, and food), Soft furnishings (bed linen, towels, curtains, pillows), Household Items (vacuum, mops, brooms, cleaning materials), Tenancy Support (bill support, rent arrears, and emergency accommodation) and moving and delivery costs.

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED

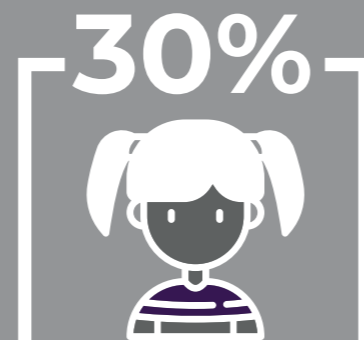
265

TOTAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

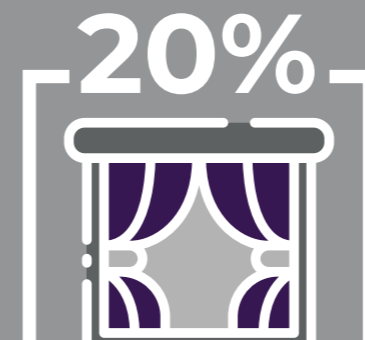
\$226,000



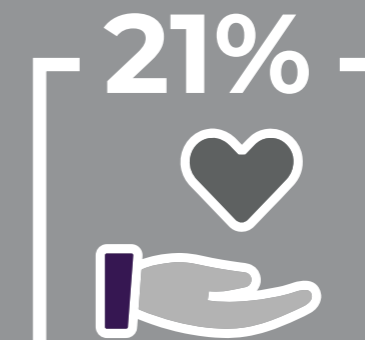
organisations
supported



of recipients are
youth, under the
age of 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, on Turrbal Country (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, on Wurundjeri Country (VIC)



SUPPORTING LGBTIQA+ 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, on Gadigal Country (NSW)



REACHING THOSE MOST VULNERABLE

SUPPORTING A HOUSING FIRST APPROACH

The Housing First approach offers safe and affordable homes to the most vulnerable people and then continues to support through wrap-around services. In Australia, the Housing First approach to ending homelessness is championed by the Zero programs - collaborations across services in particular communities. 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, on Gadigal Country (NSW)

“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, in Meanjin (Brisbane, 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, on Whadjuk Noongar Country (WA)

Grants FY 2022-23

Grants Round	Recipient Organisation	Amount	State
Aug 2022	Australian Alliance to End Homelessness - Adelaide Zero Project	\$6,000.00	SA
	End Street Sleeping Collaboration - Byron Shire Collaboration	\$6,000.00	NSW
	Gold Coast Homelessness Network - Gold Coast Zero	\$6,000.00	QLD
	Micah Projects - Brisbane Zero	\$6,000.00	QLD
	Neami National - Frankston Zero	\$6,000.00	VIC
	Neami National - Geelong Zero	\$6,000.00	VIC
	RUAH - Zero Project WA	\$6,000.00	WA
	Wollongong Emergency Family Housing - Illawarra Zero	\$6,000.00	NSW
	YFS - Logan Zero	\$6,000.00	QLD
Nov 22	Catherine House	\$5,000.00	SA
	Hope Street Youth and Family Services	\$5,000.00	VIC
	Housing for the Aged Action Group	\$5,000.00	VIC
	NOVA for Women and Children	\$5,000.00	NSW
	The Gender Centre	\$5,000.00	NSW
	Community - Hart 4000	\$5,000.00	QLD
Mar 23	Addison Road Community Organisation	\$5,200.00	NSW
	ARC Justice - Housing Justice	\$5,200.00	VIC
	Community Accommodation and Support Agency Inc	\$5,200.00	QLD
	Diamond Valley Community Support	\$5,200.00	VIC
	Karinya Young Women's Service	\$5,000.00	TAS
	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	\$5,000.00	NT
	Morwell Neighbourhood House Inc.	\$5,200.00	VIC
	Noongar Mia Mia	\$5,200.00	WA
	St John's Youth Services	\$5,000.00	SA
	Tamworth Family Support Services	\$5,200.00	NSW
	Wombat Housing Support Services	\$5,200.00	VIC
	Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC)	\$5,200.00	NSW
	Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre	\$5,200.00	QLD

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



WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS



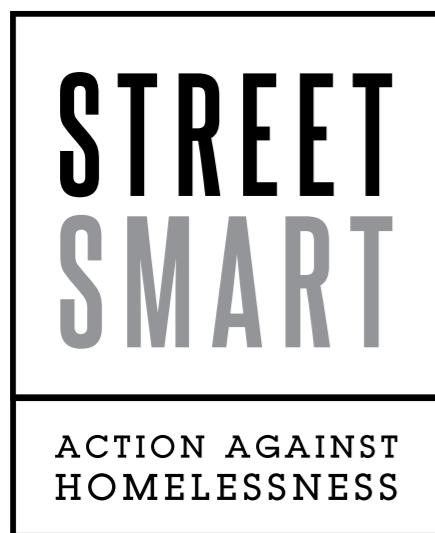
*“When women/families have experienced homelessness through poverty, unemployment or after fleeing domestic violence, most are left with nothing & trying to survive on New Start or Parenting Payments. Setting up a new home with essential items is near impossible. We’ve been able to buy washing machines and dishwashers for clients - two essential items a family just can’t be without, providing dignity & peace of mind, with the means to simply wash their own clothes & feed the family with safely stored food.” - **NOVA for Women and Children, on Awabakal and Worimi Country (NSW)***

*“As young people set up their First, Happy, Home they need flexible brokerage to purchase essential items. Young people often don’t have the resources or funds to kit out their new homes with necessities like electricals, cleaning materials, kitchen, laundry, and pantry items, furniture, white goods etc. This support will go a long way in making their First Happy Home a success.” - **Hope St Youth and Family Services, on Wurundjeri Country (VIC)***

*“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, On Gadigal Land (NSW)***

Thank You for Making Making-a-Home Possible.

These stories of safety and hope as people are assisted into new homes and offered housing support are made possible through the generous and committed efforts of StreetSmart donors, including our National lead and program sponsor, Origin Energy.



Lead National Sponsor
and Partner

Contact

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