

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 2022-2023, we have supported 21 Indigenous run organisations, with 15% of grant recipients and 32% 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.

1.06%

National vacancy rate in September 2023.

13.2%

The increase in average Capital City Rents throughout 2023

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),

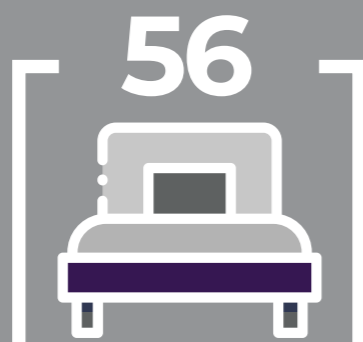
Furniture (beds mattresses, couches, dining tables chairs), kitchenware (plates, glassware, pots pans, cooking utensils), Kitchen Appliances and Food Supplies (toasters, kettles, microwaves, and food), Soft furnishings (bed linen, towels, curtains, pillows), Household Items (vacuum, mops, brooms, cleaning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

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED

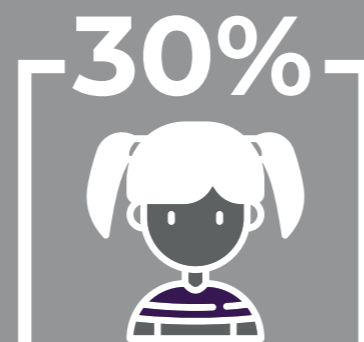
400

TOTAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

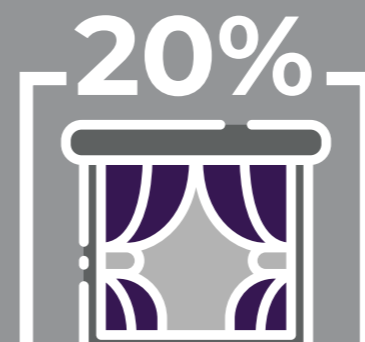
\$341,000



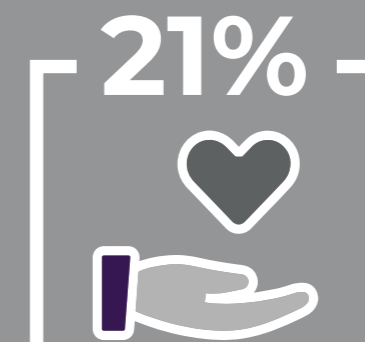
organisations
supported



of recipients are
youth, under the
age of 25



of recipients are
domestic violence
survivors



of recipients are
Indigenous
Australians

HOUSING SUPPORT FOR WOMEN OVER 55

Recent grants have been able to support the Shelter Collective ARC20 project which is a 100% community funded and community driven response to Central Queensland's Housing Crisis.

"Women over 55 are one of the highest increasing demographic of homelessness in Australia. Marriage break downs, and domestic and family violence forcing women from the family homes without the superannuation or financial stability to sustain ever increasing cost of living pressures."

"We are renovating 10 cottages that have sat unused for almost 15 years to provide homes for over 55's who are facing homelessness. This funding means that women will enter a home ready to be lived in."

Shelter Collective on Darumbal Country (QLD)



SUPPORTING HOLLY IN A NEW SAFE HOME

Holly is a 24-year-old single mother of a 6-year-old boy, and she is currently 8 months pregnant. Having suddenly left a Domestic and Family Violence experience, Holly was homeless.

With a support worker, secure housing was found and our Making a Home grant helped Simone to purchase beds, mattress, chest of draws, tallboy, fridge and a washing machine. Setting up her first independent living house, Holly would never have been able to afford all that was required to make this house a home.

Holly and her children are now settled into their new home and enjoying this forever home providing the stability much needed to move forward to focus on their life ahead.

Hope Street Youth and Family Services on Wurundjeri Country (VIC)



MAKING A STABLE HOME FOR MATT

Making a Stable Home for Matt

“Matt had been living in many boarding houses and short-term accommodations after a relationship breakdown. Without stability, Matt was exposed to unsafe and violent situations which exacerbated his mental health challenges.

With the help of a support worker Matt obtained a long term- self-contained property and although it had a fridge, was otherwise unfurnished. Funding support made a

world of difference, allowing Matt to purchase household essentials including a bed.

Matt would not have been able to source furniture and move into his new unit with this support and this is a significant risk factor to people who have experienced chronic homelessness to return to homelessness.”

Community HAR4000 on Turrbal Country (QLD)



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.

“Our clients who have been sleeping rough face the dilemma of only having funds for either food or fuel, for example. The cost of living and chronic experiences of homelessness means that when eventually housed, the place is unliveable without support in establishing and maintaining their tenancy. Be that through material, food aid, or other essential items not accessible through other means.”

**Geelong Zero on
Wathaurong Country
(VIC)**

“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 2023-24

Organisation	State	Region	Grant \$
Adelaide Zero	SA	Adelaide	\$5,000.00
Community House Central Aust	NT	Alice Springs	\$5,000.00
Dignity	NSW	Sydney - Parramatta	\$5,000.00
Frankston Zero	VIC	Mornington Peninsula	\$5,000.00
Geelong Zero	VIC	Geelong	\$5,000.00
House of Welcome	NSW	Sydney West	\$5,000.00
Indigo Junction	WA	Perth -Swan	\$5,000.00
Innari	NSW	Sydney - Inner West	\$5,000.00
Larrakia Nation	NT	Darwin	\$5,000.00
Launceston Women's Shelter	TAS	Launceston	\$5,000.00
Mallee Family Care	VIC	Mildura/Swan Hill	\$5,000.00
North West Youth Accommodation Service	QLD	Brisbane	\$5,000.00
Northern Rivers Community Gateway	NSW	Northern Rivers	\$5,000.00
Port Phillip Zero	VIC	Melbourne / Inner city	\$5,000.00
Sisters Inside	QLD	Townsville	\$5,000.00
South East Women & Children's Services	NSW	Bega Valley	\$5,000.00
Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation	NSW	Sydney outer SW	\$5,000.00
The Shelter Collective	QLD	Rockhampton	\$5,000.00
Veterans Housing	VIC	Melbourne Inner city	\$5,000.00
Warrina	NSW	Coffs Harbour	\$5,000.00
WAYSS Youth	VIC	Melbourne SE	\$5,000.00
You Matter	VIC	Melbourne	\$5,000.00
YPA - Mithangkaya Nguli Indigenous Corporation	QLD	Mount Isa	\$5,000.00
Total Grants			\$115,000.00

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

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS



“We have many clients who have been homeless for a long time. This means they have very few possessions and are totally reliant on support services like ours. The grant will allow us to support tenants with long term homelessness to reestablish themselves as well as restock things such as basic housing needs. We have recently had an elder client who didn’t have a bed to sleep in, no plates or kitchen utensils, nothing really but a roof over his head. This funding helped us set him up for a new start”

**Tharawal Housing
Aboriginal Corporation
on Dharawal Country
(NSW)**

“When you’ve been without a home for much of your life it can be challenging just deciding what might be needed to support a different way of being. After paying for rent in advance and bond there is not much left over. It is not uncommon to go into client’s houses and discover they have been sleeping on the floor. This funding is helping clients purchase items to develop pride in their home.”

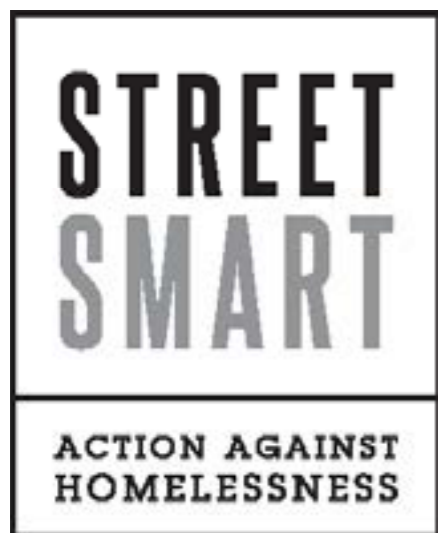
**Paul Larrakia Nation
Aboriginal Corporation
on Larrakia Country
(NT)**

“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)**

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