

Micah Projects and Partners Win National Homelessness Award

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Micah Projects and partners Mater Health Services, St Vincent's Brisbane, Greater Metro South Brisbane Medicare Local and Metro North Medicare Local, were today awarded a **National Homelessness Services Achievement Award for Excellence or Innovation in Partnerships**, in recognition of their tireless work to prevent and tackle homelessness.

Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Mark Butler today presented the award for Homeless to Home Healthcare at a luncheon in Melbourne.

Homeless to Home Healthcare engages nurses to work within multidisciplinary teams at Brisbane Homeless Service Centre, Brisbane Common Ground and an after hours service with Street to Home as part of Micah Projects response to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Brisbane.

In the first five months of the After hours response funded by Greater Metro South Medicare Local and Metro North Medicare Local, the partnership provided more than 1600 occasions of care to people as young as 14 and as old as 86 years.

Karyn Walsh, Coordinator of Micah Projects, said the Award demonstrated the importance of building partnerships to improve the access to services for people who are not only homeless but also dealing with significant health issues such as cancer and chronic disease. "We really value the partnerships we've formed and the Mater Healthcare Services and St Vincents Brisbane. They have been able to bring additional investment directly to service delivery, adding to the funding from National Partnership Agreement funding through Queensland Government," says Karyn. "This has made a difference to the lives of hundreds of people in Brisbane improving quality of life and in some cases ensuring people die with dignity."

The award means a lot to recognising the effort of workers who everyday are responding to people to ensure they can access housing, healthcare and community services rather than live on the streets or in overcrowded housing. Micah Projects calls for bipartisan support to renew the National partnership funding arrangements for the next four years so that partnerships and direct services to the most vulnerable in our communities can be secured into the future. "We have proved how effective services can be and now we are seeking security in funding so we can continue with confidence," said Karyn Walsh.

Karyn also congratulated CASA in Mackay for winning the award for excellence in addressing homelessness in a regional or remote area. "It's great that two Queensland organisations won National Awards," she said.

Photo Caption: Left to Right

Jim de Couto, Team Leader, Street to Home, Micah Projects

Karyn Walsh, Coordinator, Micah Projects

Madonna McGahan, Executive Director Mission Leadership,
Mater Health Services

Kim Rayner, Health Project Officer, Micah Projects

For more information go to www.fahcsia.gov.au/homelessnessawards

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