



A change for the better

Thursday 7th February 2013

211 people have now been helped into permanent accommodation thanks to the 50 Lives 50 Homes Campaign, coordinated by Micah Projects

Vivian Curry and Adrian Melham, for example, know all too well the debilitating experience of homelessness. Vivian, aged 44, has spent the last 25 years of his life sleeping rough and has the physical scars to show for it.

Recently, however, things took a turn for the better for Vivian and Adrian when they came into contact with outreach workers from Micah Projects, working on the 50 Lives 50 Homes campaign.

As a result, they're now both enjoying all the comforts of home as tenants of Brisbane Common Ground in Hope Street, South Brisbane.

They're just two of 211 people who receive regular, ongoing support from specialized housing workers, and can take advantage of a number of activities to help make their transition to secure housing a permanent one, thanks to the 50 Lives, 50 Homes Campaign, launched in June 2010 as a collaboration between Micah Projects and a number of Government Departments and Community Agencies.

"It's a great result," says Micah Projects Coordinator Karyn Walsh, "and it shows that with proper support and an innovative approach, even people experiencing chronic, long-term homelessness can make the transition to secure, permanent housing."

The collaboration between community service providers and government was a first for Brisbane and has received strong support from businesses, schools, community groups, individuals and families who have donated furniture and household items to help furnish homes.

"We took the Australian Government's White Paper's 2020 targets to reduce homelessness very seriously," says Karyn. "The targets state that as a nation we commit to halving homelessness and offering supported accommodation to all people who sleep rough by 2020."

"We thought that if we focused on housing the people of whom it was said, 'they couldn't be housed; they don't want to be housed', then we could house anyone. Given the right housing with the right support services to meet the needs of individuals, anyone can make the move into housing," says Karyn.

Karyn Walsh has called for bipartisan political support for the National Partnership on Homelessness, and a recommitment to the Australian Government White Paper's 2020 targets to reduce homelessness.

For more information, please contact:

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Hi Resolution Photos of Vivian Curry and Adrian Melham available at
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/guqwawhq9z7kyxu/Ckxt_pp8wa

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