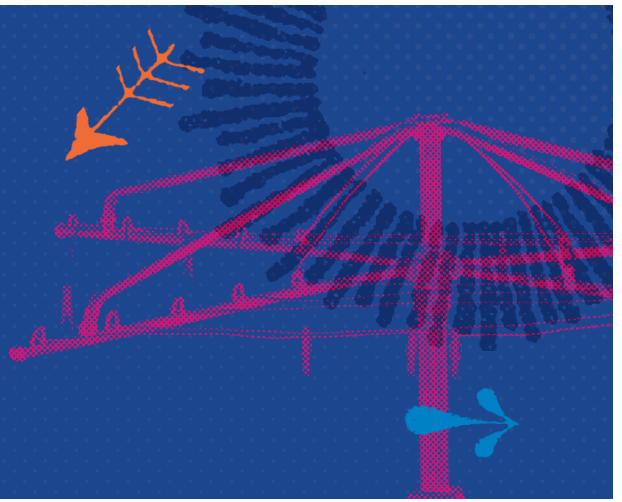


# Poverty in Brisbane

Anti Poverty Week, 2025  
(13 – 19 October)



In Australia, the poverty line is generally defined as 50% of median household income. Inclusive of housing costs, the poverty line is \$1,241 per week for a family comprising two adults, one of whom is working and two dependent children. (Melbourne University, March 2025)

People experiencing homelessness, particularly those sleeping rough, experience one of the most harmful kinds of poverty, impacting health, safety, and access to basic rights.



## 462 families

**are on the By-Name List.**  
(Brisbane Zero, August, 2025)

The By Name List contains the names of families with children in Brisbane experiencing homelessness.



**Family and domestic violence should never end in homelessness**, yet it is the main reason women and children experience homelessness. Poverty deters women from leaving violent relationships.



**We can relieve the pressure on people's lives** by providing pathways out of poverty, starting with housing.

## Increasing Visibility

Shannon\* is a 21-year-old mother of 3 young children. In early 2023, her relationship ended while she was pregnant with her third child. Forced to leave the home they had rented together, Shannon fell into homelessness. She was unable to secure a private rental due to her limited rental and employment history. For the following two years, Shannon moved between couch surfing and motel, giving birth to her third child amid unstable and overcrowded living conditions. Without basic facilities or appropriate supports, Shannon's mental health began to deteriorate.

Since she moved into a motel in early 2024, service providers within the Brisbane Zero Collaboration have worked together, alongside the Department of Housing and Public Works,

to find Shannon and her family a home. In May 2025, they moved into their own home. Services helped Shannon settle in, regain stability and begin to rebuild the family's life.

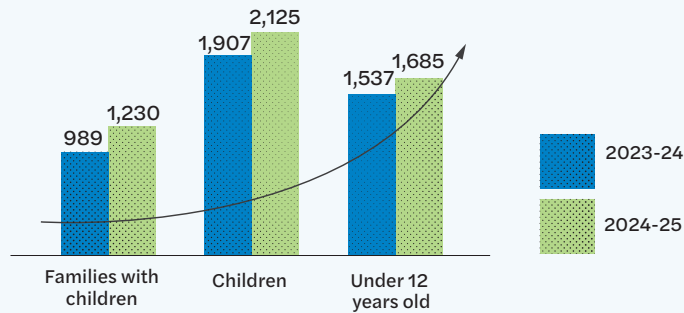


\*The names have been changed for privacy and confidentiality purposes. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

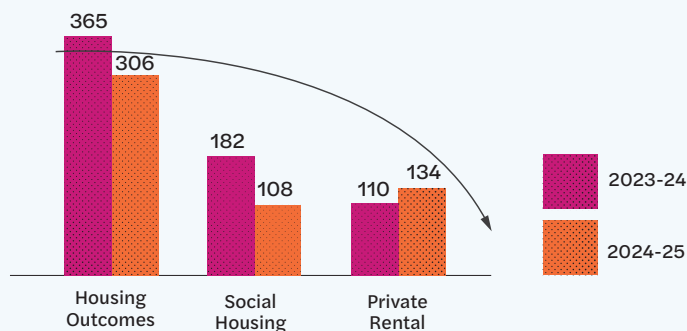
Homelessness is worsening, the system is failing families and children.

Housing stress is at an all-time high.

→ The number of people experiencing homelessness is increasing.  
**A 48% increase in children experiencing homelessness, since June 2024. (Brisbane Zero, 2025)**



→ Housing availability is decreasing. Social housing is not available.  
**Affordable housing is out of reach. (Brisbane Zero, 2025)**



#### Income Support



**\$1,056.74**

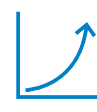
per week.  
(Services Australia,  
March 2025)

#### Private Rental Market



**\$778.1**

per week.  
Average of asking rent  
for homes in Brisbane  
(SQM data)



**28.19%**

increase in Private rents  
from Q2 2021-2025.  
(AIHW, 2025)

#### Social Housing



##### Increased Wait Times

The **average wait time** on the register across Queensland increased from 15.5 months (June 2017) to **27.1 months** (June 2024), with a significant portion of applicants (27.2%) waiting three years or more by June 2024. (QCOSS 2024)



##### More Homes Needed

**3,746** identified at risk of homelessness on Qld Govt Social Housing Register. **945** of these are families with children. **2,775** in Brisbane City Council LGA, 652 are families with children. (DHPW Social Housing Register, 30 June 2025)

Investing in social housing is just, equitable and builds communities where everyone has opportunity.

Access to good quality, affordable housing is fundamental to wellbeing.

It can help to reduce poverty.

It enhances equality of opportunity, social inclusion and mobility.

(AIHW, 2025)

**References :** Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. (2025, March). *Poverty Line*. University of Melbourne | Services Australia. (2025). *A guide to Australian government payments*. Australian Government. Retrieved from <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au> | SQM Research. (2025). *Weekly rents – Brisbane*. SQM Research Pty Ltd. Accessed October 2025 | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2025). *Housing Data Dashboard*. Rental market: Change in rental prices - CPI Australian Government. | Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS). (2024). *Queensland social housing register: Data release evidence brief* | Queensland Government. (2025, June 30). *Queensland social housing register*.