

Poverty in Brisbane

MICAH PROJECTS



Breaking Social Isolation
Building Community

Anti-Poverty Week 2024 (13-19 October)

With a population of 1,242,825 (ABS, 2021), Brisbane is on its way to becoming Australia's new world city as the host of the 2032 Olympic Games. However, it is far from perfect for everyone. Many people still struggle to meet basic needs like employment, education, income, housing, health, and a sense of belonging. The numbers reveal a troubling reality: poverty and disadvantage are significant issues in this city.

WHAT IS THE POVERTY LINE?

In Australia, the poverty line is generally defined as 50% of median household income.

Inclusive of housing costs, the poverty line is \$1,150.39 per week for a family comprising two adults, one of whom is working, and two dependent children; \$612.47 per week for a single person; and \$786.29 for a single parent and one child (Melbourne University, March 2024).

IN BRISBANE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA²

INCOME

157,408 PEOPLE

BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

Unemployment is often connected to poverty, but the latest 2021 Census data (ABS, 2021) shows a more complex reality. In Brisbane, 85% of people who can work are employed but still live in poverty.



35,860

of those people are employed living in poverty.



6,495

of those people are unemployed living in poverty.



67,942

people reliant on government benefits and allowances (i.e. age pension, carer payment, JobSeeker payment, etc.) are in poverty.

HOUSING

The rate of homelessness is rapidly rising, globally, and here in Brisbane. Now, with a lack of social housing, unaffordable rents and mortgages, and a rising cost of living, many in our community are finding themselves without a home, or struggling to stay housed.

On Census night 2021 in Brisbane LGA



31,800

unmeet affordable housing need in Brisbane³



14,875

of them are families with children



4,490

experienced homelessness

40,835 FAMILIES

BELOW THE POVERTY LINE



From those families living under the poverty line, some ones are more at risk of poverty than others. Factors such as age, gender, family composition, paid work, sources of income and other characteristics can all have an impact.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

under the poverty line
in Brisbane by age



0 - 4 years

3,331

5 - 12 years

6,981

13 - 17 years

4,497

FAMILIES COMPOSITION



32,147

two persons in family are living under the poverty line.



8,674

three or more persons in family are living under the poverty line.



6,808

sole parent households are in poverty



19,532

of families reliant on government benefits and allowances (i.e. age pension, carer payment, JobSeeker payment, etc.) are in poverty.



56,917

of families with elderly person/s 65 years and older.

References

¹ Poverty Line, Melbourne University, March 2024.

² Australian Bureau of Statistics, Customised report, 2023.

³ Hal Pawson, Andrew Clarke, Joelle Moore, Ryan van den Nouwelant, Matthew Ng City Futures Research Centre, UNSW, 2023