

# A STEP FORWARD

2016 CENSUS

Of the 116,427 Australian's homeless on census night

**20%** Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Compared to only 3% of the Australian population

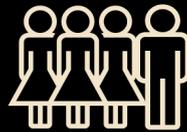
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016

STUDY POPULATION

This infographic shows changes in health service use for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander public housing tenants comparing 12 months before to 12 months after entering their public housing tenancy.

**998**

Aboriginal public housing tenants in WA between 2009-2013



76% female  
24% male

**housed by:**

20% NPAH\*  
80% priority housing



“ The fear of being homeless again, makes me want to do whatever I need to stay here. ”

- Tenant Survey respondent



**12%**  
**decrease**

in the number of people presenting to the **emergency department**

**10%**  
**decrease**



of people admitted to an **inpatient unit**

“ The day we got the phone call for our own house was such a relief! Everyone was so happy to have our own place called **HOME** ”

- Tenant Survey respondent

\* NPAH= National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness

Findings in this summary are generated from:

Wood, L., Flatau, P., Zaretsky, K., Foster, S., Vallesi, S. and Miscenko, D. (2016) What are the health and social and economic benefits of providing housing and support to formerly homeless people? AHURI Final Report No. 265. <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/265>

**59%**  
decrease



in the number of **days**  
spent in ICU

*“ I would just to thank  
all my support people for  
there help because I  
wouldn't be where I am  
today ”*

- Tenant Survey respondent

*“ Myself and my 4  
children were living in my  
sisters house, sharing one  
room with mattresses on  
the floor. It wasn't very  
comfortable and my kids  
were unhappy about our  
living arrangements but  
they knew we had nowhere  
else to go. We were so  
excited when we got the  
news that we had been  
given our house ”*

- Tenant Survey respondent



**24%**  
decrease

of people admitted to  
**psychiatric care**

**\$959k**

health system cost savings  
across the 998 formerly homeless  
participants in a single year

## IMPLICATIONS

- 1** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's vastly over-represented in homelessness statistics
- 2** Alternative and innovative solutions are needed to help address Aboriginal homelessness
- 3** Housing alone is not sufficient; support is needed
- 4** Housing is healthcare and can help significantly reduce health utilisation costs

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