Of the 116,427 Australian’s homeless on census night, 20% are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, compared to only 3% of the Australian 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.

Aboriginal public housing tenants in WA between 2009-2013:
- 998 tenants
- 76% female
- 24% male
- 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

10% decrease of people admitted to an inpatient unit

12% decrease in the number of people presenting to the emergency department

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

Findings in this summary are generated from:

* NPAH= National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness
59% decrease in the number of days spent in ICU.

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.

I would just to thank all my support people for there help because I wouldn’t be where I am today.

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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