



**Home and Healthy provides support for people experiencing severe and persistent mental illness who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. The program seeks to enhance participants’ wellbeing by working with them on their recovery plan and housing goals.**

The program has been operating since 2022 and is delivered by Micah Projects, YFS Ltd, and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIIH).

Home and Healthy is funded by the Australian Government through the Brisbane South Primary Health Network as part of the Commonwealth Psychosocial Support Program.

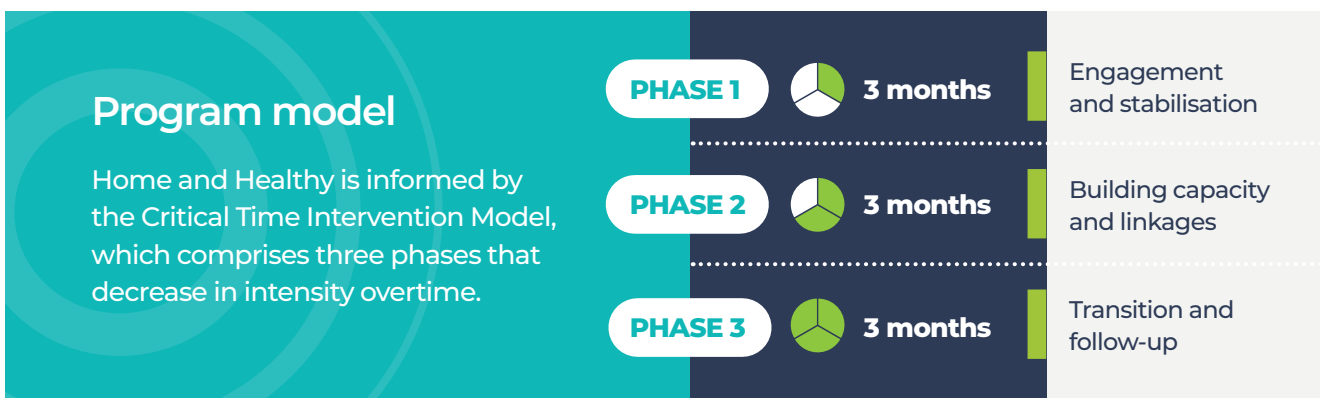


## Program evaluation

The evaluation was conducted by the University of Queensland’s School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work between October 2023 to March 2024.

It sought to provide insights into the implementation of Home and Healthy and the impact of the program on the lives of people who access the service.

The evaluation adopted a mixed methods approach, bringing together the perspectives of participants and practitioners and drawing on contemporary literature as a ‘benchmark’ for best practice when working with people with severe and persistent mental illness at risk of homelessness.





## Key findings

The evaluation found that:

- **Home and Healthy reflects best practice** in relation to service navigation and psychosocial support, resulting in improved health and wellbeing.
- **The program offers culturally appropriate support**, with the option for Aboriginal and or Torres Strait participants to connect with IUIH.
- By recognising participants' agency and working in non-judgemental ways, **Home and Healthy is responsive** to the complex and dynamic needs of participants, and their unique recovery journeys.
- The objective of the program to reduce hospitalisation lacks an appreciation of the **serious mental and physical health issues** most participants live with.
- The **limited supply of social housing** including supported housing, affordable private rental housing, and safe temporary accommodation in the greater Brisbane and Logan area seriously compromises the health and wellbeing of participants.
- There is a **lack of long-term support services** for people with severe and persistent mental illness.



Participants felt the program had positively impacted their health and wellbeing, housing, identity and hopes for the future.

*"[The practitioner] has been trustworthy as a person for me to go to when I'm at a crisis point and need support right then."*

*"[Without Home and Healthy] I wouldn't be where I am today – I'd be homeless on the streets again... that's a fact"*

*"My health and my mental wellbeing – everything is 100% better"*

*"We [normally] don't get listened to. That's the difference, [Home and Healthy] will always listen to what we've got to say"*

## Recommendations

Evaluation recommendations were largely directed at the funding body and government:

1. Undertake longitudinal research following participants engagement with the health system over time to better understand long-term impact
2. Increase staffing levels for enhanced capacity and responsiveness
3. Extend support timeframes to at least 12 months
4. Increase Government investment in long-term, case-management and supported housing, particularly for those who are ineligible for NDIS
5. Increase supply of affordable housing in Queensland.

For more information contact [yfs@yfs.org.au](mailto:yfs@yfs.org.au)

YFS acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's first peoples and the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and work.

