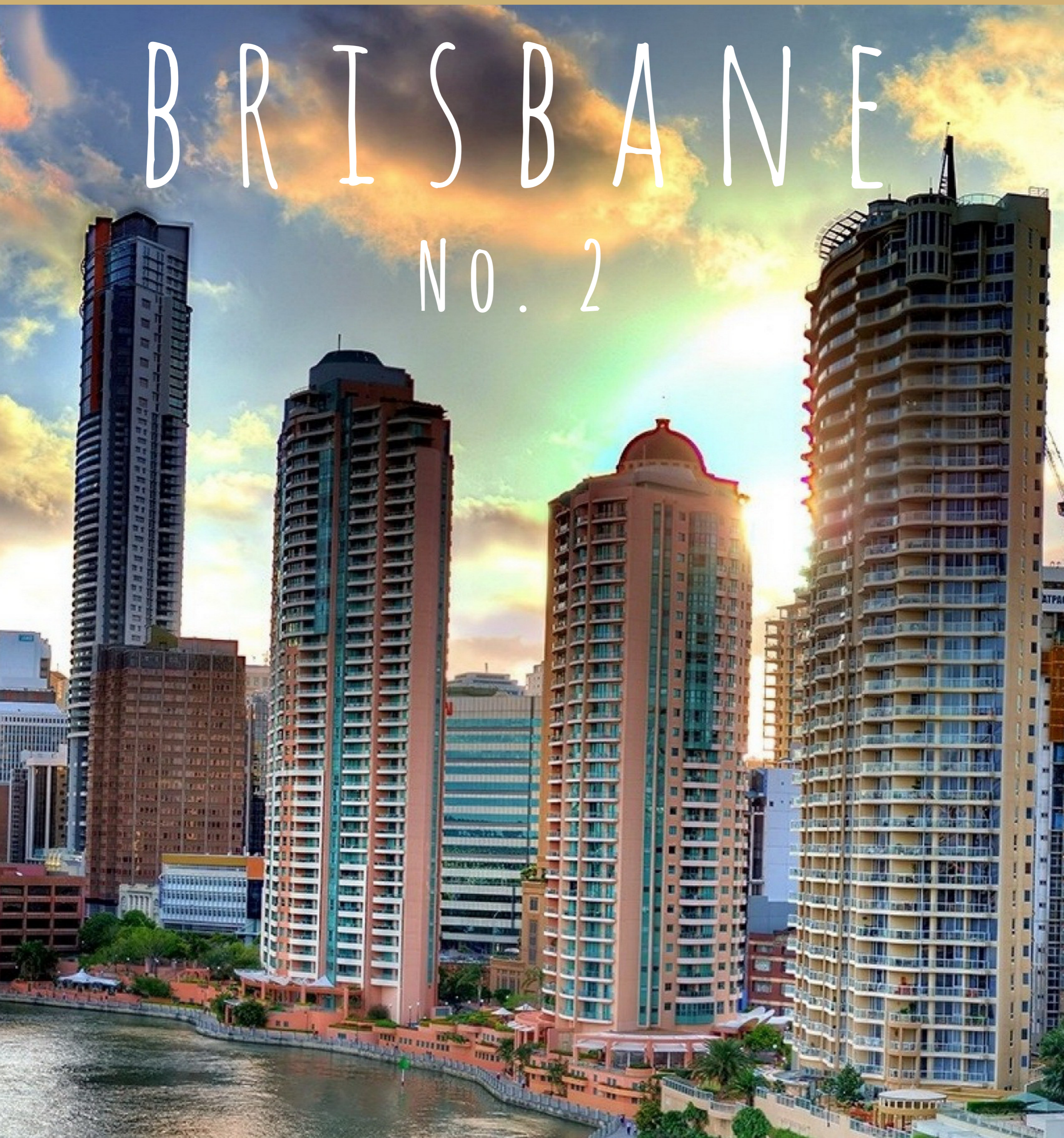


HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS

BRISBANE

NO. 2



A NATIONAL INITIATIVE BY



Australian Government
National Mental Health Commission

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS

This initiative has involved 8 workshops during March – April 2017 (one in each capital city) aimed to get jurisdictional input to better understand the national picture of housing, homeless and mental health in order to develop policy and research directions by injecting 'housing affordability and supply' into the national mental health debate.

This second Brisbane workshop was held on 12 May 2017 to allow Brisbane participants full participation as the first workshop was abridged due to cyclone threat, making 9 workshops in all.

The workshops included highly participative exercises and were based on a discussion paper developed by the Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute (AHURI).

The feedback gathered in workshops will form a more detailed Consultation Report - this summary document is intended to disseminate major themes only, it is not the endorsed policy of the National Mental Health Commission.

The Consultation Report feedback will be analysed to form a Position Paper that the Commission will use to inform advocacy in the development of national and jurisdictional policy for housing, homelessness and mental health.

OUR FEEDBACK

This is a summary version of outputs captured during the workshop (a full report will be available)



POLICY & PROGRAM SUCCESS FACTORS

From the programs that are in place and effective, the following success factors were highlighted:

- Immediate case worker response as the first point of contact for housing crisis situations
- Good will of the sector to work together
- Frontline support that can connect to services to support access to housing
- Creating more choice and sense of self for people in recovery
- Full support of clinical resources such as therapists, psychiatrists and psychologists
- Whole of Government responses
- Early intervention to save tenancies at risk of hoarding or squalor

HOW TO INCREASE HOUSING SUPPLY?

- Keep people in the housing option that they have, using subsidies for private housing, subsidised private rental and wrap around support services
- Partner with real estate and promote the support available to landlords for rentals to mental illness consumers
- Minimise dislocation from services, support and employment
- Investment of capital into social housing supply, either through social impact Bonds or through private investor models similar to Defence Housing
- Percentage of supply for social and affordable housing in new developments, achieved through inclusionary zoning in Local Government Planning Codes
- Training and support for employers to ensure they provide flexible workplaces and meet the needs of employees with mental health issues so that housing can be maintained and not reach crisis stage



HOW TO PROVIDE MORE HOUSING CHOICE?

- Acknowledge preferences and offer choice in housing and rentals
- Allow for different housing options and designs to provide more choice
- Flexibility of density of accommodation to cater for different needs
- Involve mental health consumers in the upfront design of accommodation options
- Seek to support people in the housing that they already occupy, through easier and earlier access to wrap around services that are tied to the clients rather than the house
- Address the stigma in private rentals and lower the stress associated with private rental inspections for people with mental health issues

WHAT DATA SHOULD BE COLLECTED?

- Formalise the data collection, data integration and data linkage across the State and across major agencies
- Collection and capture of data from a range of operational and opportunistic sites, such as Primary Health Networks, NDIS, ED access presentations and hospital admissions
- Ensure knowledge of informed consent policies and procedures
- Implement a client driven outcomes framework that determines if the outcomes that matter to clients are being achieved
- Data that demonstrates economic benefit to the State from investment in social housing or that reduces the risk for institutional investment into affordable housing
- Longitudinal data to follow clients throughout their housing and accommodation journey

SUGGESTED FOCUS AREAS

The following key policy issues and research areas were suggested by the participants (in order of priority)

- **Collaboration across Government Departments** to develop policy, joint funded initiatives and high level advocacy
- Embedded funding for **evaluation of all programs** to develop the evidence base across all services
- **Consumer input for the homeless** into co-design of all services
- Matching the **episodic nature of mental illness** with appropriate models and practices of support
- Encouraging **a multidisciplinary approach** through co-location, shared client outcomes and training of Agency staff
- Advocate for mental health response policies and practices that support **access to NDIS for people with mental health issues**
- Development of policy that is based on **collaboration and shared outcomes** across the sector
- Research into the **deeper social needs and catalysts for life transitions**, for people with mental illness