



advance to zero

The Advance to Zero Campaign Detailed Fact Sheet

The Advance to Zero (AtoZ) Campaign is a ground-breaking national initiative of the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH) that supports local collaborative efforts to end homelessness, starting with rough sleeping - one community at a time.

The campaign itself is a collaboration (or what's sometimes called a Collective Impact Initiative) between a broad range of communities, organisations and individuals that are all committed to making homelessness rare, brief and a one-time occurrence - how we define an end to homelessness.

Using a range of proven approaches from around the world communities are supported not just to address individual instances of homelessness, or even reduce overall homelessness but to end it.

The Advance to Zero (AtoZ) Campaign utilises a methodology that has been developed by the various partners of the AAEEH across Australia and brings together knowledge of what is working from efforts around the world including work by Community Solutions, the Institute of Global Homelessness, OrgCode and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness as well as the many organisations and campaigns associated with the AAEEH.

The Campaign supports community-based efforts to build public support for ending homelessness and political support for renewed commonwealth, state and local government investment in the type of housing, support services and healthcare needed to end homelessness

in each community.

The AAEH supports communities participating in the AtoZ campaign through a series of six monthly improvement cycles, through which communities work together and share knowledge about their efforts to end homelessness. With our international and domestic partners, the AAEH provides training, coaching and other infrastructure or tools based support through these improvement cycles.

Whilst the campaign starts with rough sleeping it doesn't finish there. Some communities also focus on all chronic homelessness, families, veterans and others. Our strategy, based on what has worked overseas, is to break the problem up and to focus on changing the system of support services, not just at improving the way individual services in a community operate. It is by focusing on this system change effort and putting the individual needs of the people at the centre of that system can we actually end homelessness, by making it rare, brief and a one-time occurrence. More information about the methodology can be found below.

The campaign is also supported by a series of allied networks focused on particular sectors like health, business or veterans, places like states and territories, or service models like the Common Ground and Youth Foyer communities of practice. The AtoZ Campaign is inspired by the Build for Zero Campaign in the USA and Canada and has sought to incorporate many of the lessons and insights from these and other efforts including the 100,000 Homes Campaign in the USA and the local equivalents - the Brisbane 500 Lives and the Perth 50 Lives campaigns.

Homelessness is solvable, we know this because a growing number of communities around the world have demonstrated it. Through the collective effort of communities across Australia working together to better identify, triage, coordinate and advocate for the permanent housing and support real-time data shows that we can end homelessness not just at a point in time, but to sustain this over time too.

Ending Homelessness starts with a shared goal, shared data, and a shared commitment - this is what the AtoZ Campaign seeks to support communities to build.

Want to get involved?

Please get in touch with us to learn more about the AtoZ campaign and how you can get involved by emailing us at: info@aaeh.org.au

Want more Information?

See below for further information about what is involved with the methodology, implementing it and who is involved.

The Advance to Zero Homelessness Methodology - Overview

The methodology is driven by a shared vision to end all homelessness, starting with rough sleeping. It is guided by the four approaches to ending homelessness and eight proven solutions as set out below:

A Shared Vision			
To end all homelessness in Australia, starting with rough sleeping, by ensuring that when it does occur it is rare, brief one-time.			
Four Approaches to Ending Homelessness			
A Housing First approach.	A person-centered, strengths based approach.	An evidence based systems change approach.	A place-based Collective Impact approach to collaboration.
Eight Proven Solutions			
Assertive Outreach		Continuous Improvement	
Common Assessment		Data-Driven Prevention	
A Real-Time By-Name List		Data-Informed System Advocacy	
Coordinated Systems		More of the Right Housing & Support	

We work with communities across Australia to seek to implement this through continuous improvement cycles consisting of:



The Advance to Zero Campaign Communities

The Following are the communities and organisations supporting the campaign.



The Advance to Zero Homelessness Methodology In Detail

The AtoZ Campaign is about bringing community, business and government together to end homelessness. Our shared vision is to end all homelessness in Australia, starting with rough sleeping, and we intend to do this by ensuring that when homelessness does occur it is rare, brief and a one-time thing.

The Advance to Zero Homelessness Methodology has been developed collaboratively by the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH) and its many partners since we were established in 2013. It incorporates what we have learned about implementing the successful work of our partners from around the world in Australia. These international partners include: Community Solutions International, the Institute of Global Homelessness, OrgCode, the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the Institute For Helathcare Improvement and many others.

Homelessness is a complex problem, in recognition of this, our efforts to end homelessness must be able to respond to this complexity. That's why we have identified four different 'approaches' that should all be taken to the problem, they are:

1. **Housing First** - the commitment to provide immediate access to housing with no housing readiness requirements, whilst simultaneously working with people to promote recovery and wellbeing.
2. **Person-centred and strengths-based** - a commitment to put the person sleeping rough at the centre of the service system, to build on their strengths to support an end to their homelessness. Listening to the voices of people with a lived experience of homelessness is central to this approach.
3. **Evidence-based systems change** - a commitment to seek to change the entire system of support for people experiencing homelessness, not just individual services, and to do so based on what the data and evidence show the people in that system need.
4. **A place-based collective impact approach to collaboration** - Commitment to work together in a specific place and in a coordinated way that hold everyone involved accountable to reach our shared goal of ending street homelessness.


In addition, there are eight proven solutions that need to be implemented in a way consistent with each of the four approaches to ending homelessness, these solutions are:




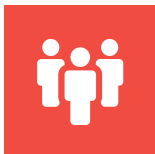
1. **Assertive outreach** – street outreach efforts are essential to helping to identify and support people who feel unsafe or otherwise unable to come into traditional services - including through the use of Connections (or Registry) Weeks.
2. **Common Assessment** - Supporting these efforts is a common assessment tool (i.e. the VI-SDAT) that enables the collection of data on an individual needs so that they can be assessed and

recommended for support in a consistent, evidence-informed way. Common assessment also aids with the implementation of no-wrong door approaches.

3. **A real-time quality by-name list** – of people experiencing homelessness and their individual needs, provides a shared understanding who needs support, whether efforts are working, how to best to target resources, and how to improve the service system as a whole. It enables scarce housing and support to be triaged according to local priorities and it enables a prevention focus, better advocacy and the implementation of the Housing First approach.
4. **Coordinated systems** – a community-wide coordinated approach to delivering services, supports and housing that is strategic and data-driven to allocate resources and deliver services equitably, efficiently, and effectively. This includes having governance structures, service coordination structures and documented practices, for housing allocation, case conferencing and system-level troubleshooting.
5. **Continuous improvement** – is about building problem-solving capability across a system through an ongoing process of learning, testing and adopting new ideas and ways that build on the successful efforts to drive reductions in homelessness through cycles of improvement. It is about shifting mindsets and utilises the plan, do, study, act approach. .
6. **Data-driven prevention** – the use of data and continuous improvement practices to ensure a shared understanding of how best to reduce the ‘inflow’ of people entering into rough sleeping through a range of prevention and early intervention measures.
7. **Data informed system advocacy** – using data to drive changes in policies and practices of all governments and organisations and to drive changes in the attitudes and behaviours within the community to effect broader based calls for social change that are needed to prevent and end all homelessness.
8. **More of the right housing and support** – using the real time data from the by-name list to support better systems planning and advocacy to get access to more of the right housing and support needed to support people existing homelessness to sustain their tenancy - particularly supportive housing for those with the most acute needs and chronic experiences of rough sleeping.

We understand that this is a lot for any community to process, that is why we have developed five improvement cycles to support communities wanting to end homelessness to break up the problem and start the journey. These phases and associated support tools are:

	<p>1. Action Planning</p> <p>You'll develop a community action plan to help get stakeholders on the same page, set targets, focus areas, allocate tasks, agree on next steps and build an improvement team that can take responsibility for getting to zero.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Planning Training and Toolkit - including
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	<p>accountability framework, templates, etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VI-SPDAT Training resources • Connections Week Toolkit and Training • Training - Introduction to the Advance to Zero methodology, assertive outreach, Housing First, etc.
	<p>2. Quality By-Name List</p> <p>You'll work with a coaching team to build a comprehensive real-time, by-name list of people experiencing rough sleeping homelessness in your community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Sessions & Coaching Calls • Score Card • Training - Continuous Improvement (i.e. quality improvement science, action labs etc), Coordinated Systems, BNL's & prevention, etc.
	<p>3. Reduce to Zero</p> <p>You'll learn the science of testing improvement ideas in rapid cycles to drive monthly reductions in homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Sessions & Coaching Calls • Coordinated Systems Checklist & Cultural Engagement Protocol (in development) • System Reviews, Solutions Labs, and other training.
	<p>4. Sustaining Zero</p> <p>You'll learn how to sustain functional zero for your target population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Sessions & Coaching Calls • System Reviews, Solutions Labs, and other training.
	<p>5. Zero for All *</p> <p>You'll expand your focus to new target populations and drive toward ending all homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Sessions • Coaching Calls • System Reviews, Solutions Labs, and other training.

** = not necessarily sequential*