

INTRODUCTIONS

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY QLD NORTHERN DIOCESE - HOUSING

The St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland helps all people in need through a number of ways, giving them a hand up to make life changing decisions in their lives.

The type of support delivered differs from region to region, but our Conferences remain central to the good works undertaken by the Society. They are the driving force that connects people in need to our support services and programs.

The Northern Diocese of Queensland offers a number of Programs including Housing (Long Term and Transitional), Homelessness Support, Compeer (Mental Health Companionship Program), Child and Family Services, Youth Programs, Give a Child a Chance, Vinnies Retail and Distribution Centres, Food Division and Regional Disaster Response.

Our Housing Program Consists of:

- 1 Senior Housing Officer
- 58 Tenancies
- 2 properties on the Sunshine Coast:
 - ▢ Transitional Accommodation – Rendu Lodge (17 units)
 - ▢ Long Term Housing – Mackillop Village (41 units: 17 one bedroom and 24 two bedroom)
- •Compliance to the Department of Housing

RENDU LODGE

- ❑ Rendu Lodge is a CMSU (Community Managed Studio Units)
- ❑ Rendu Lodge was previously a 14 Unit Motel converted by the Department of Housing and Public Works into 17 Units: 6 being Studio configuration with Ensuite and shared kitchen facility, and 11 being Studio with Private kitchen facilities
- ❑ St Vincent de Paul Society was offered the Management rights in 2007 which was eagerly accepted as it was identified as a positive solution for local homelessness and housing issues identified by our local Conferences



PRESENTING CHALLENGES

- Alcohol – Drinking culture through the day
- Lack of gainful activity
- High density, close proximity accommodation
- Drugs (Dealing and Use)
- Frequent Police Call outs
- Assaults
- Thefts
- Scamming
- Anti Social behaviours
- Vandalism
- Agencies advocating for clients without full disclosure of clients need and challenges



REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE

- ❑ Could not place vulnerable clients in the Facility
- ❑ Multiple Agencies and consumers impacted
- ❑ Neighbourhood fatigue
- ❑ Crisis point



PARTNERING FOR A SOLUTION — SUCCESS FACTORS

- ❑ St Vincent de Paul Society's openness to be transparent about the presenting difficulties
- ❑ Opportunity, by virtue of Regional Housing Network, to discuss circumstances and brainstorm solutions as a collective
- ❑ Close connection between Regional Housing and Mental Health Networks
- ❑ Collective impact – shared goal as multiple Providers impacted by the state of the Facility
- ❑ Trust
- ❑ St Vincent de Paul Society's receptiveness to letting go of “control” of the 6 quarantined Units for the Project

PARTNERS FOR RENDU PROJECT

- ❑ St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Diocese
- ❑ Approval from the St Vincent de Paul Society Diocesan Housing Committee
- ❑ Department of Housing support for Direct Referral – fast tracking of applications and bond loan approvals
- ❑ Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service- - Mental Health Services
- ❑ Community NGO Mental Health Services



RENDU PROJECT DETAILS

- ❑ Dedicated resources provided without additional funding
- ❑ 6 Units “quarantined” for the Project
- ❑ Clear Governance with ongoing commitment by Partners
- ❑ Dedicated, resourced and expert intake and triage provided through Partners – Matching for Success
- ❑ Reverse engineering of practice (support at front end rather than when tenancy failed)
- ❑ The Mental Health service take responsibility for risk assessment and screening appropriate referrals
- ❑ Reliable and ongoing/long term support – Critical!



KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Trust
- Full disclosure
- Shared goals
- Collective impact
- Mitigating risk
- Regional Network framework
- Cultural shift



OUTCOMES

18 Consumers through the program

3 - permanently housed

2 - entered residential Rehab

9 - remain in program/rendu

1 – Returned to live with family – relationship restored

2 - Evictions – ongoing difficulties and homelessness

1 – Supported accommodation – acquired brain injury unit – funded through DSQ

***Vulnerable clients can now be referred**

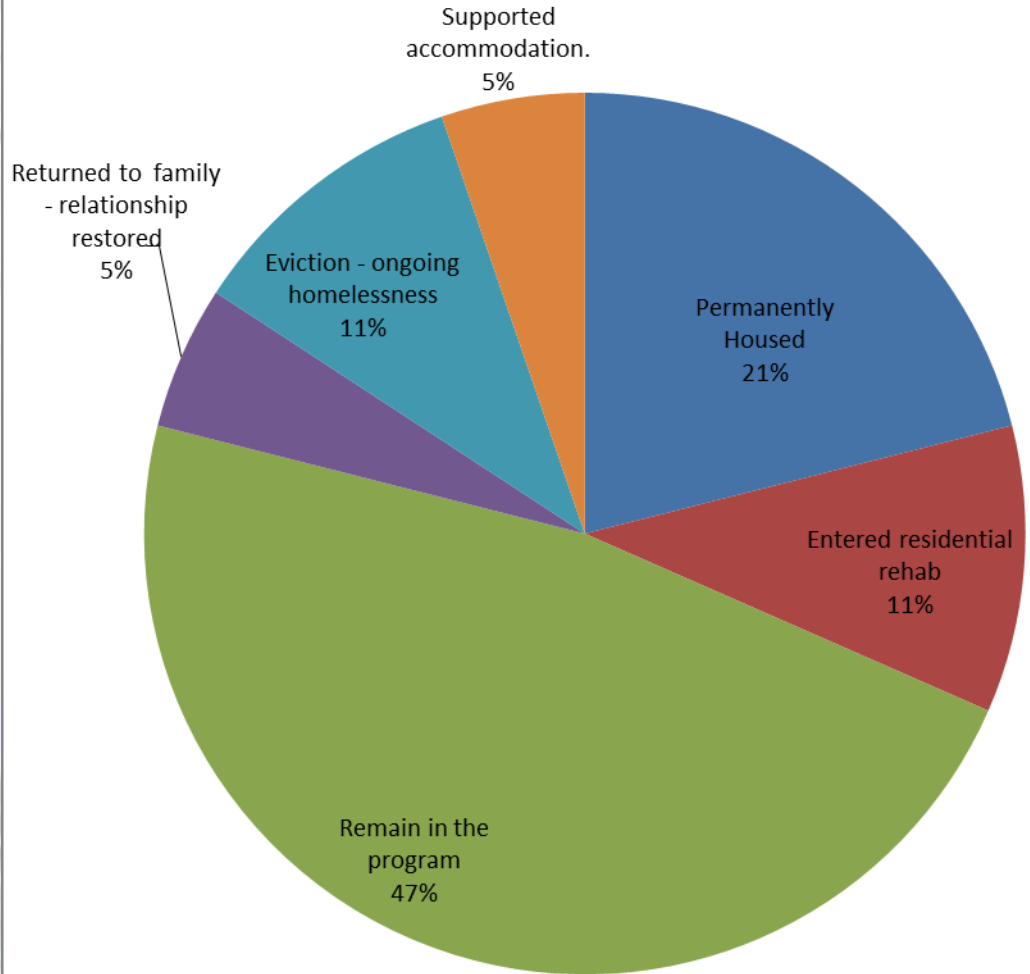


St Vincent de Paul Society

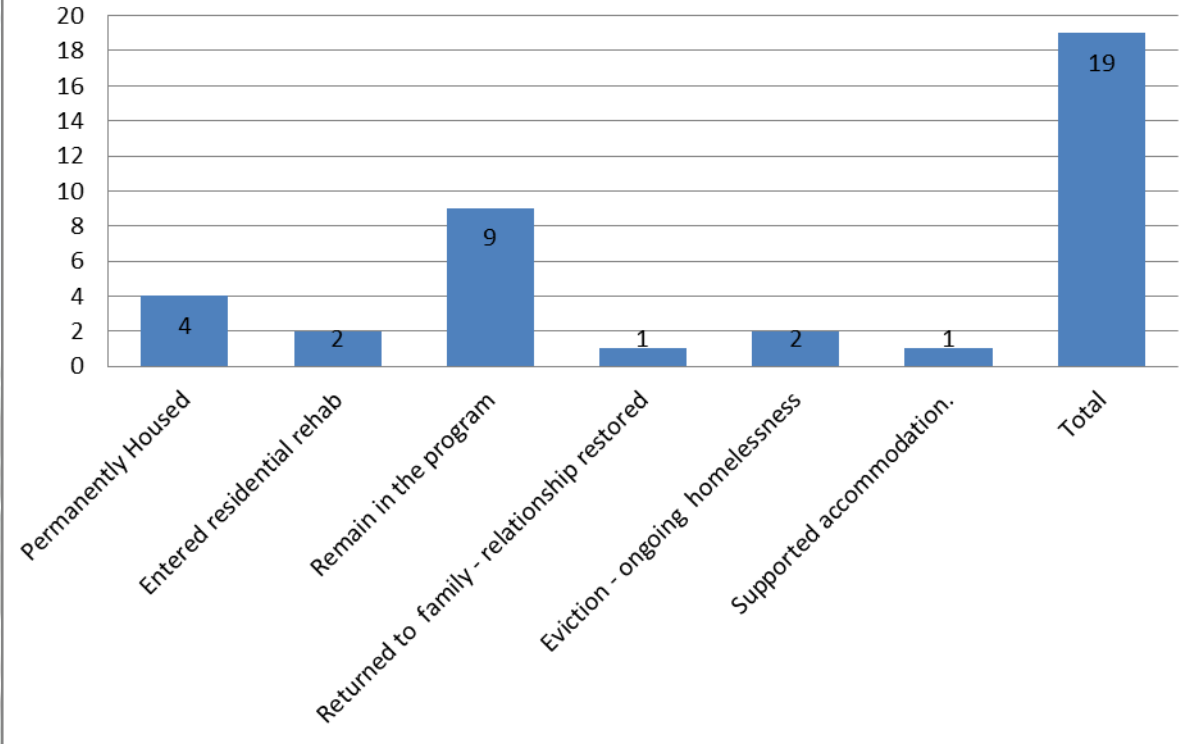
QUEENSLAND

good works

Rendu Lodge Program Participants



Rendu Lodge Program Participants



CLIENTS JOURNEY

CASE STUDY – “Luke”

- ❑ Became paranoid as young adult, isolated from his friends.
- ❑ Was in a music band but disconnected from this.
- ❑ Had a brief relationship and there was a child from this relationship but isolated and was paranoid, losing custody/access with his child.
- ❑ Increasing paranoia lead to multiple admissions, complicated by poly-substance abuse.
- ❑ Treatment resistant – tried multiple drugs without success.
- ❑ Finally found success with Clopine – which controlled symptoms.
- ❑ Stabilised by living with sister and then had opportunity for Rendu.
- ❑ First time that Luke had to manage his own lease/finances etc.
- ❑ Went from strength to strength.
- ❑ Ended up with offer of a unit with community housing.
- ❑ Stabilised to level where he was able to reconnect with his son and have access on a regular basis.





THANK YOU

AND

QUESTIONS