



# Vaccinating priority populations in Brisbane south

At Brisbane South PHN, our vision is the best possible health and wellbeing for every person in our region. Some population groups, such as people experiencing homelessness, our multicultural and First Nations communities, people in aged care, and those with significant disabilities or frailty are often at risk of poorer health outcomes. That's why we are working with Metro South Health, our neighbouring PHNs, councils, partners and commissioned services, to improve access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD)

Culturally and linguistically diverse people, especially older people, asylum seekers, refugees and those who do not have a Medicare card, or are not eligible for Medicare, may find it difficult to access vaccination services. We work with our service provider partners to provide a variety of solutions to improve vaccination outcomes, including providing:

- refugee health nurses to work in general practices with CALD populations to assist with education, vaccination and identifying unvaccinated patients
- additional staff to multicultural primary care, to increase vaccination of their patients
- culturally appropriate education and vaccination information in-language, in culturally familiar settings
- vaccine-outreach activities in collaboration with Metro South Health and other community and faith-based organisations.

Achieved:

**281** vaccines administered through outreach

**9** GP clinics supported by refugee health nurses

**791** vaccines administered in primary care

**27** outreach activities (pop-up clinics, schools, community centres and religious meeting places)

**166** vaccines administered to CALD non-Medicare-eligible persons

**48** community education sessions held

**229** patients linked to other available vaccine providers

**3000+** patients' vaccination status verified

## In-home

Some people with disabilities or frailty are housebound or have other obstacles that prevent them from attending a vaccination facility.

With support from the Commonwealth Government, Brisbane South PHN, Brisbane North PHN and partners developed a referral process to provide in-home vaccinations.

Achieved:

**58**

in-home vaccines administered



## People experiencing homelessness

People experiencing homelessness often struggle to access a vaccine because:

- they don't have a regular General Practitioner (GP)
- they are uncertain about visiting large medical facilities
- they are hesitant about receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

These people may live in boarding houses, social housing, emergency accommodation, on the streets, or are between temporary shelters.

We worked with Micah Projects (co-funded with Brisbane North PHN) and Street Doctor, to target locations where people experiencing homelessness often gather. We hosted pop-up clinics and provided vaccinations at:

- crisis accommodation
- hostels
- homeless community services
- local hangouts.

Together we achieved:

**58** pop-up clinics

**890** vaccinations

## First Nations

Working with our partners, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane and Yulu-Burri-Ba, we provided tools to improve vaccination outcomes for First Nations peoples.

These included:

- education sessions at Beaudesert and North Stradbroke Island
- a video series discussing frequently asked questions (FAQ) raised by First Nations communities
- an in-home COVID-19 vaccination program focusing on areas with low vaccination rates.

Achieved:

**2** education sessions hosted

**6** FAQ videos created  
**312 views**

**30** in-home vaccinations administered

Brisbane South PHN would like to acknowledge the support of the many contributors including Metro South Health, Metro North Health, Brisbane North PHN, other neighbouring PHNs, councils, community organisations, Micah Project, Street Doctor, World Wellness Group, Mater Refugee Health Service, Oceania Pacific Health Association, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane, Yulu-Burri-Ba, the Commonwealth Government and many others. To those who aren't listed but also contributed, we thank you.

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