

Geelong
Zero

Community
Connection
Week

Collective Impact



Connections Week

Oct 10th to 14th 2022



Conversations on Outreach



"I've been in prison for 17 years. The whole world has changed. I want to speak to you."

-Male rough sleeper during Connections Week

"If you need to find me, the police will know where I am. Just call them."

- Female rough sleeper during Connections Week



"The cops are really good here. They look out for you."

-Female rough sleeper during Connections Week

"What you're doing, keep doing it. This is so badly needed. Thank you"

- Male rough sleeper during Connections Week



Staff and Volunteers

“Fantastic, it captures all of the relevant information.”

“The VI-SPDAT is great. This is an instant referral to our program.”

“Why haven’t we done this before!”

“If we hadn’t done this [the VI-SPDAT], we wouldn’t have known or understood how unwell this person is.”

“The volunteer used his persistent charm to help engage a reluctant rough sleeper to build rapport and complete a survey.”

**Geelong
Zero**

Rolling out Connections Week

Monday:

Meeting with Neami and GenU to ensure preparations on track

Tuesday:

Three training sessions across multiple agencies

- Team Leaders
- VI-SPDAT/Outreach
- Data Entry to BNL

Wednesday and Thursday:

- Daily briefing and debriefing sessions
- 6 of outreach shifts across 2 days
- 45 of outreach staff/volunteers
- 2 of data entry shifts
- 6 of data entry staff/volunteers
- 22 Surveys Completed
- 30+ outreach locations accessed

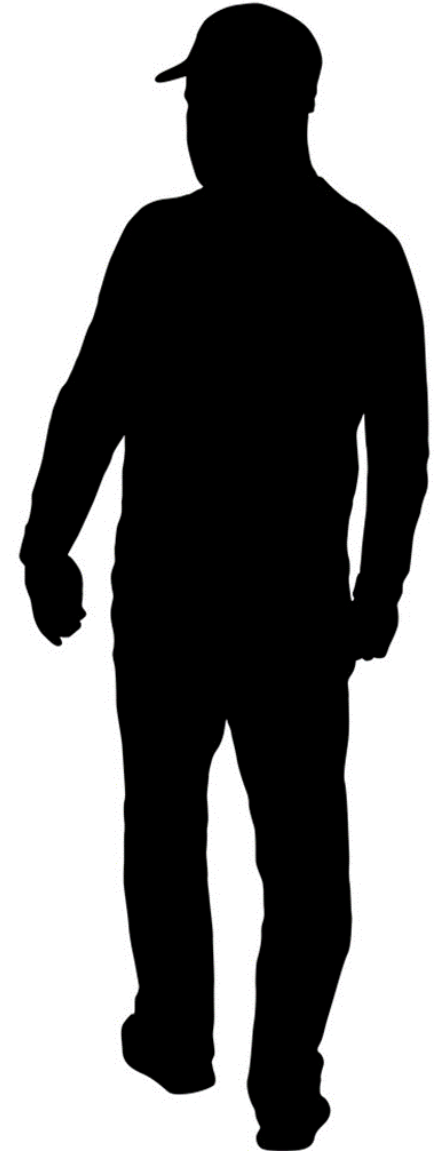
Summarising the Surveys

- 84% of respondents scored in the **High Needs** category
- 80% disclosed chronic health problems
- 88% disclosed mental health conditions
- 84% disclosed substance use history
- 64% of respondents are experiencing **Tri-morbidity** (chronic health, mental health and substance use)

5.96 Average number of years sleeping on the streets or in emergency accommodation

5.17 Average number of years since last stable housing (with a tenancy)

Highest age group is 50 years and over





Emergency Services

In the last 6 months have you...	% of Respondents
Received health care at the Accidents and Emergency at the hospital?	60%
Taken an ambulance to the hospital?	40%
Been hospitalized as an inpatient in a medical, surgical or maternity unit?	48%
Been hospitalized in a specialized mental health care facility?	32%
Used a crisis service, including any phone hotlines?	44%
Talked to police because you witnessed a crime, were the victim of a crime or the alleged perpetrator of a crime or because police told you that you must move along?	60%
Stayed one or more nights in a watch house or prison, whether that was a short term stay, longer stay for a more serious offence, or anything in between?	24%



Risks and Safety

- 65% disclosed feeling discriminated against by housing and support services
- 40% disclosed experiencing violence from a partner/relative/family member/friend
- 60% disclosed that there is someone who is threatening them or whom they are afraid of
- 76% disclosed experience physical abuse or harm while experiencing homelessness



Socialisation

- 40% have debt concerns
- 84% feel disconnected and lack meaningful activity
- 68% disclosed their homelessness is due to a relationship breakdown



Daily Function

- 60% of respondents disclosed that they do not seek help when feeling unwell
- 20% disclosed that they have a physical disability that limit their housing options
- 28% disclosed that they have been told that they have a learning/intellectual disability
- 68% disclosed experiencing recent or past abuse or trauma



Chronic Health

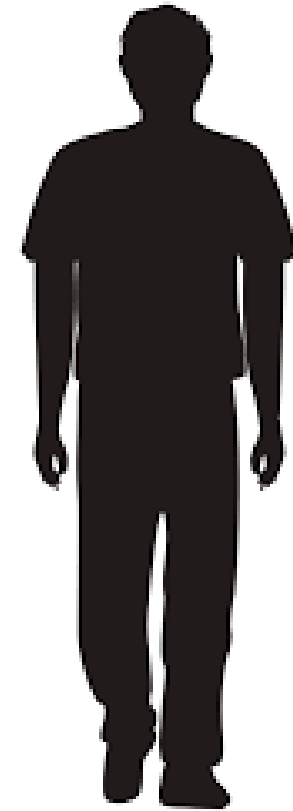
Top 5 Chronic Health Conditions Disclosed

- Dental Issues 68%
- Dehydration 44%
- Asthma 36%
- Heat stroke 24%
- Foot/skin infections 28%

Mental Health

Top 3 Mental Health conditions disclosed

- Anxiety 68%
- Depression 68%
- PTSD 44%



Substance Use History

- 80% of respondents disclosed that had a history of problematic drug or alcohol use
- 44% disclosed that they had consumed drugs or alcohol almost everyday for the past one month
- 44% disclosed that they do not take their medication as prescribed because they cannot store them

Institutional History

- 24% disclosed that they have lived in foster care or institutional care as a child
- 32% disclosed having been in institutional care as an adult

What do you need to be Safe and Well?

Get a house, to live alone, local GP

Housing, job, being safe and well

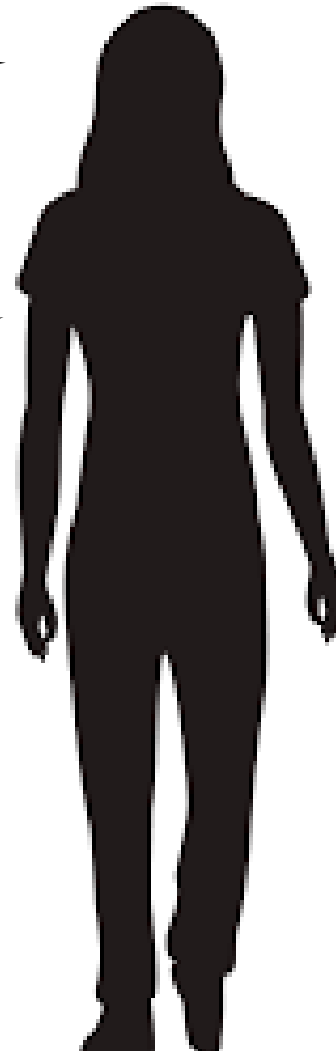
I want help

a safe and stable environment for myself and unborn (and other) children

A House

Connection with family

House, Food and help to pay bills





A House

Housing, Food, Help
with bills and
employment

Safe stable housing

housing

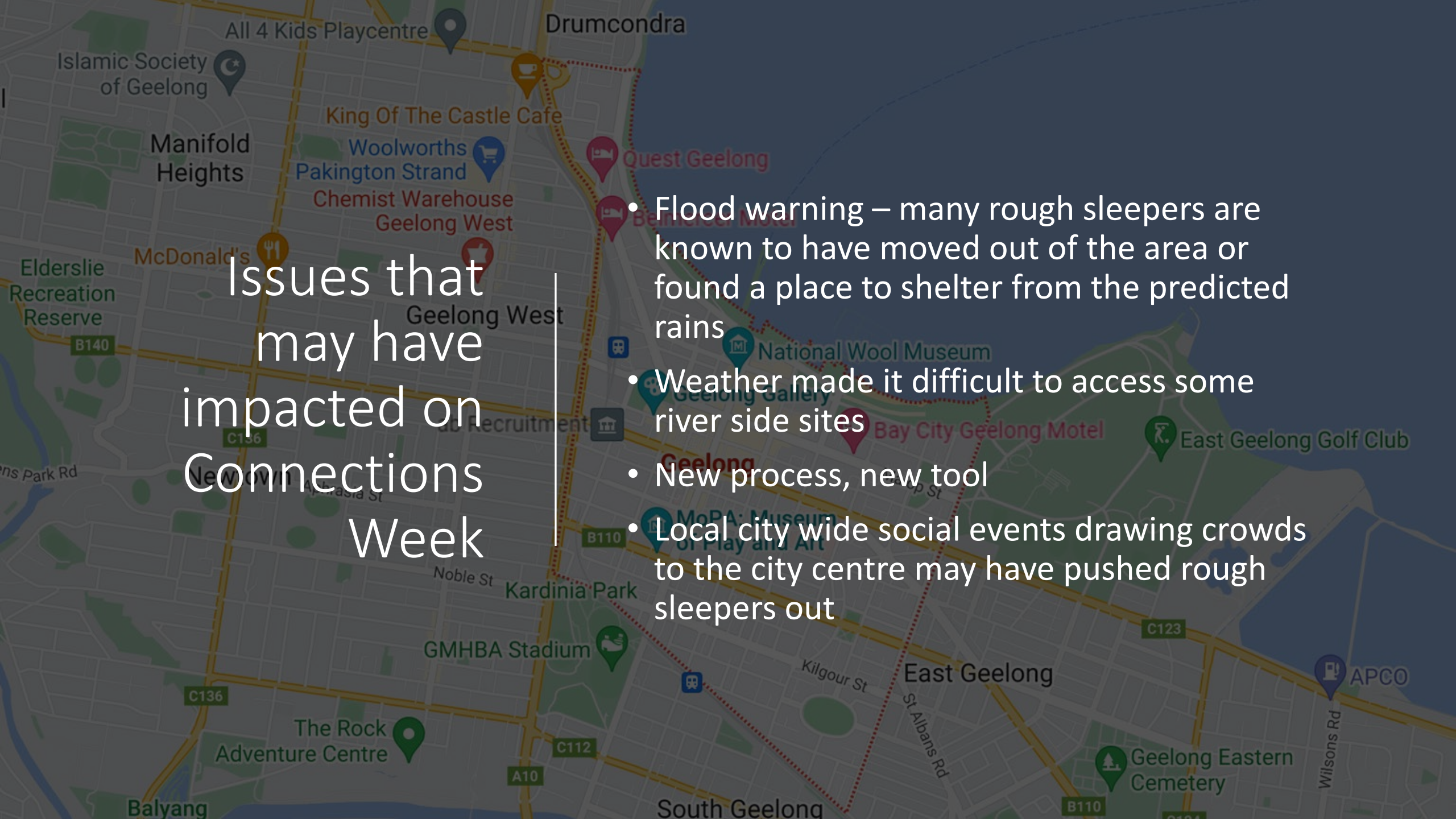
Home where I can have my kids,
medical appointment for ADHD
meds, sort out substance use -
remain sober

Somewhere to
live

Somewhere to
stay, Food

a house

What do you
need to be Safe
and Well?

A map of Geelong, Australia, with various landmarks and locations labeled. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue layer. A white text box is positioned on the left side of the map, and a list of bullet points is on the right. The map shows the city of Geelong, including areas like Drumcondra, Geelong West, East Geelong, and South Geelong. Landmarks such as the National Wool Museum, GMHBA Stadium, and various hotels and cafes are marked with icons and labels. A red dotted line outlines a specific area in the city center.

Issues that may have impacted on Connections Week

- Flood warning – many rough sleepers are known to have moved out of the area or found a place to shelter from the predicted rains
- Weather made it difficult to access some river side sites
- New process, new tool
- Local city wide social events drawing crowds to the city centre may have pushed rough sleepers out

Next Steps



Integrating Services

- Continue to build the Geelong By Name List
- Integrate the tool into practice to capture the snapshot of a person's experience in homelessness
- Develop and implement the Geelong Zero Coordination Meeting to use the data!
- Collectively advocate for those on the By Name List, match their needs to housing and supports

Let the evidence build community response and reform

Advocacy for access to safe and affordable housing

Reform for exits from prisons

Linkage to primary health care

Linkage to mental health care

Linkage to alcohol and drug support services

Unjust vagrancy laws

In home support services

Inter-departmental cooperation