



# 100 Families WA

## What is 100 Families WA?

100 Families WA is a collective action research project with a vision to address the issue of entrenched disadvantage or hardship, as experienced by families living in WA.

## Why collaborate?

This wicked problem is agreed to be complex and beyond the scope of any one agency to impact upon significantly. This is the reason that the ten partner organisations involved have joined forces and are working towards a broad set of objectives to achieve a common goal of reducing entrenched disadvantage in WA.

The project is unique as it is based on a deep collaboration between eight not-for-profit organisations from the community service sector and the University of Western Australia. There is also an ongoing commitment to engage and work alongside individuals who hold lived experiences of hardship to help guide project practice.

## What do we hope to gain?

By conducting this research, 100 Families WA aims to gain a deep understanding of entrenched disadvantage in Western Australia through investigation of lived experience.

In broad terms, the project will address the following questions:

- What are the lived experiences of families experiencing entrenched disadvantage?
- Why is it so hard to break through entrenched disadvantage?
- What are the impacts of current policy settings and agency practices for families in entrenched disadvantage?
- What positive and negative impacts does prevailing practice and policy have on breaking the cycle of disadvantage?
- What policies and practices are working and what activities should be expanded?

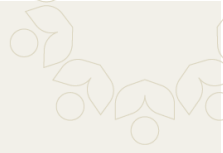
## How will data be collected?

Data will be collected from over 400 families over a three-year period. Collection methods include a longitudinal survey administered on an annual basis as well as fortnightly interviews alongside participant families for a 12-month period.

## Who is funding this project?

100 Families WA acknowledges its principal funder Lotterywest for its long-term support to this critical project. Also acknowledged is the significant in-kind and cash contributions made by the project partners. Seed funding for the project was provided by E/Prof D'Arcy Holman through the School of Population and Global Health and from the Bankwest Foundation.

100 Families WA was inspired by Auckland City Mission's research project, 100 Families.



## Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

### What is entrenched disadvantage?

Disadvantage or hardship can be understood as the coming together of issues including; poverty, the inability to afford basic essentials of life, and being unable to fully participate in everyday activities within a community. Entrenched disadvantage is the persistence of disadvantage for many years, and in some cases, over multiple generations. Living in entrenched disadvantage can have a detrimental impact on individuals' well-being, their families and local communities.

### What do you mean by 'family'?

In the case of this project, family is a flexible term that is defined by the person themselves. This means that while many of the families involved in this project do have partners and children, some do not.

### How are you collecting data?

Participation in 100 Families WA happens in several ways. The main data collection streams are; a longitudinal survey over three years (four surveys in total), and the completion of an in-depth interview every fortnight for a year. The purpose of this mixed methods approach is to support a deep understanding on what families are experiencing day-to-day and over time.

To ensure the research journey itself is explored and recorded, the 100 Families WA team also collects data from other sources, including reflections from internal project staff and stakeholders.

### How were participants selected?

Participants who took part in the longitudinal survey were referred into the study by the partner agencies, making 400 participants. To form the 100 family, in-depth interview cohort, 86 participants were randomly selected from the larger 400 group. A further 14 families were purposively selected by partner agencies for their unique situation or experiences.

### How is this project funded?

The project has received a \$1.75m grant from Lotterywest to support the first two years of the project. All project partners contribute a significant amount of in-kind resource to the project to further support its implementation. Additional funding is being sought to support later stages of the project as well as project expansion to a regional site.

### What will you do with the evidence you produce?

100 Families WA is committed to improving outcomes for low income individuals, communities and families, particularly those experiencing social exclusion and entrenched disadvantage.

With the evidence collected, the project aims to provide the policy, practice and research community with a deep understanding of entrenched disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion in Western Australia. We further aim to find out what the barriers, challenges and facilitators are that people encounter when attempting to exit disadvantage, and the impact of services and programs in breaking the cycle of disadvantage.