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## Housing help for homeless cuts costs

THE State Government could save taxpayers thousands of dollars by providing supportive housing for long-term homeless, according to a new study.

The University of Queensland study found the Government spent \$48,217 a person to deal with homelessness.

But providing housing with integrated support services could cost just \$35,117 a year.

Lead researcher Dr Cameron Parsell said a supportive housing service, which only existed in a very small scale in Brisbane, should form part of Housing and Public Works Minister Mick de Brenni's 10-year housing strategy.

Costs to the Government to deal with chronic homelessness include emergency department presentations, inpatient costs, ambulances, lockup costs, police dealings, being victims and perpetrators of crime, prison, parole and probation costs.

Dr Parsell said these costs were reduced when people were in permanent long-term housing, integrated with voluntary support services.

The state-funded Common Ground supportive housing facility in South Brisbane is the best example of the concept in Queensland, Dr Parsell said.

Mr de Brenni said providing services to vulnerable people through supportive housing was an important part of the housing mix.

"The research shows that supportive housing is still evolving as a model in Queensland," Mr de Brenni said.

"To gauge long-term success it will be important to measure people's housing outcomes over time."