

MEDIA RELEASE

4 June 2018

FIRST DAYS OF WINTER MUST BE LAST DAYS OF HOUSING CRISIS

With evening temperatures now dropping, no-one feels the bitter conditions more than people without a place to call home.

The St Vincent de Paul Society holds the annual CEO Sleepout fundraiser on 21 June, and in Sydney 327 business leaders have already raised half a million dollars for Vinnies services.

But there's a long way to go before homelessness is solved once and for all. That's why Vinnies is calling on the NSW Government to assemble all the players and take concerted action.

"The Crisis Summit on Homelessness we're proposing needs to be convened immediately," said Vinnies NSW CEO Jack de Groot. "It must be focused and evidence-based, and should lead to a properly-established, fully-funded public policy approach to affordable housing.

"There'll be parliamentarians and councillors taking part alongside the business community at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout this year, and I hope we can start the conversation right there."

"Why? Because all NSW citizens should have access to safe and affordable housing. Yet the release of census data in March clearly demonstrated that NSW faces an unparalleled and unprecedented housing crisis," concluded Jack de Groot.

According to the ABS, on census night in 2016 there were 37,715 people facing homelessness in NSW compared to 27,479 five years earlier – a shocking 37% increase.

CEOs and executives from across the board will be attending the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, from retailers such as Showpo, Carousell and King Living to financial sector representatives including Zurich Insurance, CBA, Genworth and QBE.

Event Details

When: 6.00pm Thursday 21 June 2018 to 9.00am Friday 22 June

Where: White Bay Cruise Terminal, Rozelle

Media contacts: Philip Sen | philip.sen@vinnies.org.au | 0477 778 850

Felicity Moody | felicity.moody@vinnies.org.au | 0417 446 430

About the CEO Sleepout

Since its inception in 2006, the Vinnies CEO Sleepout has raised almost \$36.5 million to fund Vinnies homeless services across Australia. This unique event enables business leaders to actively combat the issue of homelessness by learning more about the issue and experiencing a little discomfort by sleeping out themselves. <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/>