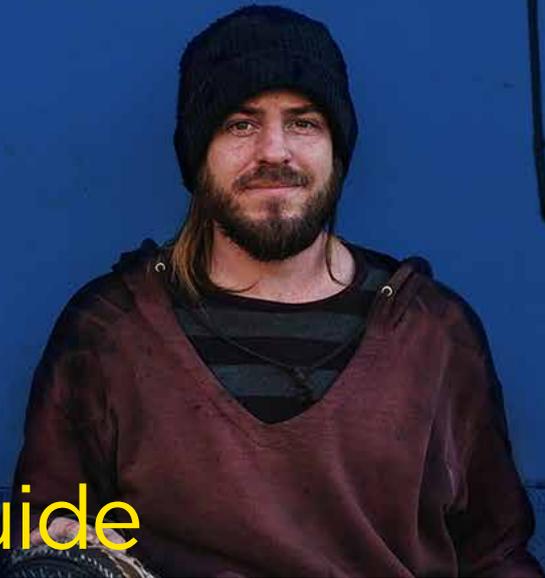




Participants' Communication Guide



Thank you for participating in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout.

This document provides some quick facts, figures and messages to help you share news about your sleepout experience with your social networks. This information is to be used as a suggested guide - we encourage you to use your own unique voice in spreading the word about #CEOSleepoutAU

ABOUT THE VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT

- The Vinnies CEO Sleepout raises money for crisis accommodation, food, healthcare, counselling, education, employment, and support to find a permanent home for thousands of people across the country.
- Hundreds of business, government and community leaders sleepout on one of the longest and coldest nights of the year, gaining a small glimpse into the daily reality for tens of thousands of Australians.
- As well as fundraising for essential services, participants hear from people with lived experience of homelessness and learn about the factors that contribute to the growing number of people facing housing instability.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 event will be live-streamed with participants taking part from their homes. Participants will nominate to sleep in either their cars, on their couches or in their backyards to gain a sense of the housing insecurity faced by thousands of Australians every night.

- Nationally, almost \$60 million has been raised since the Vinnies CEO Sleepout first started 15 years ago in Sydney. This year's fundraising goal is \$2.4 million nationally.
- You are one of approximately 1,000 leaders in the Australian business, government and community sectors who will be taking part in the first online Vinnies CEO Sleepout!

ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTRALIA

- More than 116,000 people in Australia don't have a safe and secure place to live, including an increasing number of young people and older women.
- Homelessness is a complex issue that cannot be solved with simplistic, short term solutions. It affects people of all ages and backgrounds who find themselves without a safe and stable place to live; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as recent migrants are disproportionately affected.
- Of those people experiencing homelessness in Australia, around 8,200 'sleep rough' in improvised dwellings, tents or outdoors. But the majority of people facing homelessness are living in cars, on the couches of friends or family, or in overcrowded, temporary or unsuitable accommodation.
- There is no single cause of homelessness. A shortage of affordable and available rental housing, domestic and family violence, poverty, unemployment, mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, financial crisis, exiting state care and/or prison, and economic and social exclusion are all factors that contribute to the current state of homelessness in Australia.

ABOUT VINNIES

- The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded by a 20-year-old student named Frederic Ozanam in 1833. Frederic and his friends put their faith into action by alleviating the suffering in the slums of Paris.
- Our founder showed that determined individuals can make a difference in the lives of others, and we carry on this vision today. Vinnies has close to 50,000 members, volunteers and staff across Australia, helping people to overcome homelessness, poverty, domestic and family violence, addiction and other forms of hardship.
- We offer “a hand up” to those in need; respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.
- We don’t just want to help individuals, but to transform our community into a place built on compassion and justice. Vinnies advocates for several pressing social justice issues, including the urgent need for more government investment in social housing.

SHARING YOUR #CEOSLEEPOUTAU EXPERIENCE

You’ll get the most engagement on social media platforms by sharing news both in the lead-up to the Vinnies CEO Sleepout (with increasing frequency the closer we get to the big night), and during the event itself (post as often as you can to get the event trending!).

Don’t forget to link to your fundraising page so that friends and colleagues can support your efforts.

Remember to use the hashtag #CEOSleepoutAU and tag us in your posts:

- Facebook: @VinniesCEOSleepout and @VinniesAU
- Twitter: @CEOSleepout and @VinniesAust
- Instagram: @CEOSleepout and @vinniesshops
- LinkedIn: Vinnies Australia
- YouTube: Vinnies Australia

Here are a few suggested social media posts to get you started:

1. Every night more than 116,000 people experience homelessness in Australia. I’m fundraising for vital services to support them by taking part in the #CEOSleepoutAU with @VinniesAU. Please support me by donating to keep our fellow Australians safe and sound: [link to your fundraising page]
2. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused great uncertainty for people around the world and at home. Many face the prospect of falling into homelessness due to job losses and financial insecurity. Please help me support the work of @VinniesAU by sponsoring my #CEOSleepoutAU: [link to your fundraising page]
3. COVID-19 has changed the way we live our lives, yet homelessness and insecure housing remain issues confronting thousands of Australians every night. Please help me raise money to ensure @VinniesAU can continue to be there, providing support services to get people experiencing homelessness back on their feet. [Link to your fundraising page]
4. On 18 June I’ll get a small glimpse into homelessness when I do the @VinniesAU #CEOSleepoutAU. There’s more to homelessness than what you see on the street – every day tens of thousands of Australians are caught in a cycle of insecure housing or live in severely overcrowded conditions. It’s up to all of us, especially leaders in business and government, to advocate for #socialhousing and robust community services. <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au>
5. Tonight I’m sleeping out to raise funds for food, shelter and support for people who are homeless or at risk. Help me make a difference by donating to my #CEOSleepoutAU [link to your fundraising page].

EMAIL TEXT

We suggest sending an email to your colleagues and contacts to let them know you'll be participating in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout and ask for their support.

Here is some suggested text that you might like to use:

Dear colleagues,

As you might already know, I'm participating in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout on 18 June.

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout is an annual event to raise money for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of finding themselves without a safe place to call home. Money raised goes to Vinnies' not-for-profit services, which include food, accommodation, education, counselling, employment and health programs.

I'll be joining business, government and community leaders across Australia in sleeping out. Our goal is to ensure that Vinnies' vital services can stay up and running – meeting the increasing demand as the impacts of COVID-19, sky-rocketing energy prices along with other social and economic pressures keep homelessness on the rise.

I would greatly appreciate your support for this important cause. The Vinnies CEO Sleepout happens for just one night, but it raises vital funds to support people all year round. Please feel free to make a donation at <https://ceosleepout.org.au/donate>.

CURLY QUESTIONS

The facts and figures at the top of this document should equip you to answer most questions that come your way.

However, from time to time our participants have to field some curlier enquiries. Here are some suggested ways of answering:

How does sleeping out for one night help people who experience homelessness year-round?

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout isn't intended to be a real experience of homelessness, but a way of encouraging empathy and awareness, while raising money for vital support services. While the Sleepout does not expose participants to the longer-term impacts of homelessness – such as the social isolation, physical danger, and long-term mental and other health impacts – it does provide a glimpse into what tens of thousands of Australians experience every day.

The money raised through just one night helps Vinnies provide important homelessness services all year round, including food, accommodation, education, counselling, employment and health programs. Since the annual event began in 2006, almost \$60 million has been raised for Vinnies' homelessness services across Australia.

How much does the Vinnies CEO Sleepout really 'raise awareness'? How much can you learn about real homelessness by sleeping outside for one night?

Sleeping out is just one aspect of the Vinnies CEO Sleepout. Participants also hear from real people who've experienced homelessness, and learn about ways to use their power and privilege to make an ongoing impact.

Research conducted by Western Sydney University, consisting of interviews with CEOs who took part in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout in Sydney, found that the impact of the event extended far beyond the money raised. Besides affecting participants emotionally, many reported taking practical steps to effect change within their companies, their communities, and their homes.

By focusing on 'sleeping rough', does the Vinnies CEO Sleepout give a misleading impression of what homelessness really looks like?

More than 116,000 Australians experience homelessness, and of these, around 8,200 people are 'sleeping rough' in improvised dwellings, tents or outdoors. People sleeping out on the street, in parks and other public places are often the most visible members of the homeless population.

In 2020, we are drawing more attention to the majority of people experiencing homelessness who sleep under shelter, but nonetheless lack a suitable home. Many of these people live in overcrowded dwellings, sleep on the couch of a friend or family member, or reside in crisis accommodation or boarding houses.

How can I find out where the money goes?

This information is available on the Vinnies CEO Sleepout website at <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/where-your-money-goes>.

As a not-for-profit organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, Vinnies fully complies with transparency and reporting requirements. Our annual reports are a good source of information about our impact and responsible stewardship of donor funds.