



MEDIA RELEASE

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GREATER SYDNEY LOCALS INVITED TO SWAP THEIR BEDS FOR SLEEPING BAGS AT VINNIES NSW COMMUNITY SLEEPOUT

The NSW Vinnies Community Sleepout returns to Greater Sydney on Friday 29 August, with residents encouraged to brave the cold for a night to raise funds and awareness for locals experiencing hardship.

Held annually as a powerful opportunity for community members to learn more about hardship occurring locally and support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW in Greater Sydney, participants will bed down for the night at Western Sydney University – Parramatta South Campus.

Funds raised from the night will remain in Greater Sydney, enabling the work of Society NSW members, support centres and vans across the region.

“Everyone can play a role in addressing hardship occurring in communities and we hope to see people join us for the NSW Vinnies Community Sleepout next month,” said Louis Hearnden, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Regional Director – Metropolitan.

“Every day our members and services meet with people in times of need. The NSW Vinnies Community Sleepout is an opportunity to highlight the ongoing need that exists in the local community and the role the Society NSW plays in providing assistance.”

Last year, close to 300 people took part in the NSW Vinnies Community Sleepout, raising \$230,000 statewide to support the Society NSW’s work in local communities throughout the state; 125 participants took part in Greater Sydney in 2024 raising \$81,000.

More than 122,000 people are experiencing homelessness across Australia, including 35,000 in NSW. Across Greater Sydney, the latest census figures revealed over 25,000 people were experiencing homeless, while the number of people sleeping rough has risen from 574 to 663 over the past year.

“A lot of people are facing difficult decisions right now due to cost of living and housing pressures. Hardship comes in many forms, which is why the work Vinnies does in the local community is so vital to ensuring everyone has support in their time of need,” said Peter Houweling, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State President.

Register to take part or donate at www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout.

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