



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Greater Sydney community to unite for Vinnies NSW Community Sleepout**

As more Sydney families face financial hardship and housing stress, locals will come together on Friday 28 August to take part in the Vinnies NSW Community Sleepout and support people doing it tough in their own community.

Participants will sleep out at the Australian Catholic University's Strathfield campus as part of a statewide effort uniting communities to address hardship and support local programs and services delivered by the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW.

Demand for support across Greater Sydney remains high with over 44,000 people seeking assistance from the Society NSW over the past year, including one in three people requesting assistance for the first time and one in two people experiencing housing stress.

Funds raised from the event will support the Society NSW's work across metropolitan Sydney, providing financial and material assistance at Vinnies Support Centres and meals through Vinnies Vans.

"The Vinnies NSW Community Sleepout is an important opportunity to bring our community together, raise awareness of the challenges facing many people, and support the vital work the Society NSW does every day," said Louis Hearnden, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Regional Director Metropolitan.

"A growing number of people are facing hardship which is why we encourage everyone to donate and get involved next month. We know one night outdoors can never replicate the experience of homelessness, but it provides an opportunity to reflect on the challenges many people face every day and to stand in solidarity with those doing it tough."

The Vinnies NSW Community Sleepout brought over 230 people together last year, raising vital funds to support the Society's work across the state; over \$63,000 was raised as part of the Sydney Community Sleepout in 2025.

"We continue to see firsthand the growing impact of housing stress and hardship in communities across NSW. Our frontline services and members continue to report growing demand for support as housing insecurity and cost-of-living pressures impact more Australians." said Peter Houweling, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State President.

"Having a secure and stable place to live impacts so many aspects of a person's life – their education, employment, health and quality of life – and is vital to shaping communities where people can belong.

"The Vinnies NSW Community Sleepout lasts for just one night, but the funds raised help provide support, dignity and hope throughout the year for people who need it most."

The Vinnies NSW Community Sleepout will be held in Albury, Armidale, Dubbo, Greater Sydney, Orange and the Southern Highlands on Friday 28 August.

Community members, businesses, schools and local organisations are encouraged to take part or make a donation. To register or support a participant, visit [www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout](http://www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout).

**ENDS**

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