SCHOOL SLEEP OVER
St Vincent de Paul Society
QUEENSLAND good works
SLEEP OVER KIT
There are ‘officially’ more than 105,000 Australians who are homeless. This figure includes 7,500 families. A quarter of these people live in Queensland.
Welcome

The St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland’s School Sleepover kit is designed to help you organise your own event.

It contains everything you need to know to get started including guidelines, activity suggestions and information about your responsibilities as a School Sleepover event organiser.

For any further information or to organise further materials, such as posters, please contact the Vinnies Youth department:

youth@svdpqld.org.au / 3010 1000

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OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL SLEEPOVER

The School Sleepover allows students and school communities to connect on a personal level with the issue of homelessness by sleeping out for one night, whilst raising funds to support the St Vincent de Paul Society’s work and enhance existing Winter Appeal fundraising initiatives within schools.

Through ‘sleeping rough’ for one night during Winter, the School Sleepover initiative hopes to bring about awareness of the realities faced by members of the community with no place to call home.

32% of young people are refused rental accommodation because of their age.
As a school community, you can do more than just provide a ‘hand out’ this winter; together we can increase awareness of the homelessness crisis Australia is facing.

For your school, this will:

- Encourage students to connect with an evident and increasing need in your local community
- Challenge your school community to make a difference to those living within your local area
- Raise awareness to the many faces of homelessness, in particular youth homelessness, in the hopes of breaking stereotypes
- Be a voice for those in need in your community
- Further educate
- Connect with pre-existing homeless services within your community, such as homeless vans or social justice groups
- Advocate and raise funds to show your school that you can make a difference this winter

**DID YOU KNOW**

Every night, over 4000 people sleep in one of the St Vincent de Paul Society’s many facilities across the country.
**HOW YOUR EVENT WILL HELP OTHERS**

**By Fundraising**
The St Vincent de Paul Society works to help alleviate the suffering of people living in crisis: most crucially, in being there to provide a hand up, not just a hand out to prevent people from falling into the cycle of homelessness.

In Queensland, the St Vincent de Paul Society operates a range of accommodation and support services to help people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness by working to provide long-term solutions.

The Society’s flagship ‘Families Back on Track Project’ provides a safe and caring environment to facilitate the re-establishment of homeless parents and their children back into the community through support, education, and one-on-one case management.

*Money and material goods raised will support your local community.*

**By raising awareness**
The commonly held stereotypes of the human face of homelessness no longer exists. Young women and children continue to be the biggest users of homeless services.

One in every 105 Australians need help: most commonly a meal or a shower. Of those who can’t be helped, accommodation is the greatest need.

Many families living on the edge are only three pay packets away from homelessness: everyday people living in your local community.

The St Vincent de Paul Society has been helping Queenslanders in need since 1894.
**How to organise a School Sleepover**

At least one school staff member or designated adult must be present during your School Sleepover event.

1. Register your school
   Complete the registration form on the website.

2. Plan your event
   You can hold your School Sleepover anytime from 8th July to 20th September 2013

   You can organise your School Sleepover anywhere safe within your school community. Some examples are within your parish grounds, school multi-purpose centre / hall, school undercover area, oval, classrooms or staff rooms etc

   Remember, your location should be:
   :: Safe
   :: Outside, but with some shelter from rain
   :: Near toilet facilities that can be open all night
   :: Near power facilities so you can make hot drinks / soup
   :: Near a water supply

3. Prepare
   Get as many people to sponsor you as possible - try asking your parents, your relative and their friends, as well as friends in clubs, schools and churches. Sponsorship can include collecting blankets and canned foods for your local St Vincent de Paul conference (branch) or raising funds go towards the Society’s Winter Appeal.

4. Check risk management
   Consider the potential risks associated with your event and plan what you can do to reduce or eliminate these risks.

5. Action for change
   :: Make people aware of the plight of homeless people. Refer to the information sheets provided
   :: Contact your local media and let them know what you are doing to make a difference!

6. On the big night
   :: Have a first aid kit on site (and someone familiar with it)
   :: Cardboard boxes or sheets to sleep on
   :: Torches or other lighting
   :: Sleeping bags and blankets to keep you warm
   :: Appropriate food to ‘set the scene’, e.g. soup, bread
   :: Take lots of photos

7. After the event
   :: Returning of donations / evaluation forms
   :: Upload your photos to Vinnies Youth QLD Facebook page
   :: We will send you a certificate for your school!

*Your event can be an inspiration to others! Please remember to capture it on camera and share it with others, especially the Vinnies Youth team. Email your memories to youth@svdpqld.org.au, along with a consent form.*
**Authority to Fundraise**

1. Authority to Fundraise

The St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland is legally required to approve and authorise all volunteer fundraising activities. Once your event is approved, the Society will provide you with a letter giving you confirmation of your legal authority to fundraise on behalf of the Society. This is issued following a receipt and approval of your fundraising application form.

2. Responsibility

The fundraiser will be run in the name of the person listed on the authorisation form and will be solely responsible for the activity. The fundraiser, not the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland, will be responsible for the event, finances, prizes, publicity and / or goods and services required to run the activity. Where possible, however, support and advice will be offered.
Homelessness facts

Do you know one of the 44,500 Australian young people who are homeless?

Over the past five years, there has been a 30 per cent increase in the number of families with children being assisted by homeless services. Most of the children in homeless assistance services are under 12 years of age - a crucial period of their development - and homelessness has a serious impact on their education, health and wellbeing.

“You drive to the beach about 5am, there’s no one around then. You can have a shower in the shower block and get out before anyone comes. Then I go to work from there...” Jamie, 31. Living in a car.

Yergona and Indooroopilly are suburbs just a few kilometers west of the Brisbane CBD. In this area, homelessness is rarely seen, however there is an increasing number of poorly housed people living uncomfortably in over-crowded buildings and sharing basic domestic facilities. If, for every homeless person in the state there are four poorly housed people, we are looking at a huge number suffering cramped, uncomfortable conditions living on the edge of homelessness.

Homelessness is defined as a person who does not have access to safe, secure, and adequate housing.
Types of Homelessness

Homelessness does not just mean sleeping rough on the streets. There are three different types of homelessness defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics considered to be the standard cultural definition of homelessness.

1. Primary homelessness
   People without conventional shelter, such as people living on the streets, sleeping in parks, squatting in derelict buildings, or using cars or railway carriages for temporary shelter.

   *Your school can simulate this by sleeping out in undercover walkways, locker areas, storage areas, etc.*

2. Secondary homelessness
   People who move frequently from one form of temporary shelter to another. This includes all people staying in emergency or transitional housing, or people residing temporarily with other households because they have no accommodation of their own.

   *Your school can simulate this by sleeping in school classrooms or staffrooms, sleeping in a carpeted auditorium or drama room.*

3. Tertiary homelessness
   Refers to people living in boarding houses for 13 weeks or longer. They are considered to be homeless because their accommodation is seen to be below “minimum community standards.”

   *Your school can simulate this by having students all sleep in a school hall or multi-purpose area with close access to toilets and food facilities. Students are allowed to have more bedding ‘luxuries’ for the evening, including blow-up mattresses.*
Thank you for taking interest in helping young Queenslanders who are marginalised or disadvantaged by raising funds and awareness to support our work.

We look forward to hearing a response from you soon!
For more information
Contact the Vinnies Youth QLD team:
Phone: 07 3010 1000
Fax: 07 3010 1099
Email: youth@svdpqld.org.au
www.vinnies.org.au/sleepover