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Australia gets behind people without a home

South Australian CEOs, politicians, managing directors and community leaders are all getting behind Vinnies' annual CEO Sleepout on Thursday 20th June 2013 to raise awareness and important funds in support of essential homeless services.

This year's Sleepout will be held on Thursday 20th June at the iconic Adelaide Showground. Participants will be able to experience this beautiful location without the crowds and reminisce of shows gone-by while they search out a place to 'bunk down' for the night.

Last year CEOs from leading South Australian businesses braved the elements and slept outside for one night during winter to experience just how tough it is for the thousands that sleep rough every night. Since the inaugural Vinnies CEO Sleepout, Australian executives have raised over \$8 million to support our work with those facing homelessness.

This year our aim is to have an even greater support from the South Australian business community.

Registering for this year's CEO Sleepout is simple. Log onto ceosleepout.org.au and fill out the registration form under the *Get Involved* tab. CEOs can then direct family, friends, colleagues and contacts to the website to sponsor them for sleeping one night out in the cold.

The St Vincent de Paul Society are using this event as an opportunity to call on both sides of government to recommit to the 2008 Road to Home White Paper's call for a halving of homelessness by 2020.

"It is imperative that both sides of the political fence commit to finding real and lasting solutions to homelessness. There is still a need to ensure that services can intervene early to break the cycle of homelessness by providing sustainable housing and improving social and economic participation," says St Vincent de Paul Society National CEO, Dr John Falzon.

Homelessness – the facts and key messages

- There are more than 105,000 Australians homeless every night, including 7,500 families.
- More than 12,000 Australian children under the age of 12 have no home.
- A further 22,000 young people aged 12 to 18 are homeless, most of them estranged from their families.
- Most families who are homeless are women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

- 44% of homeless Australians are staying temporarily with family and friends; 20% are living in boarding houses and other temporary accommodation; and 18% are sleeping rough on the streets.
- Homelessness Australia estimates there are “over 1,300 homeless assistance services across Australia. Each year the homeless service system provides almost 3 million nights of accommodation.

Interviews are available from David Wark, CEO, the St Vincent de Paul Society SA and participants of this year’s event.

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