



**27 May 2013**

## **St Vincent de Paul Society opens new homelessness facility in Tweed Heads area**

The St Vincent de Paul Society will hold an official opening for Fred's Place, a brand new facility to assist people experiencing homelessness in the Tweed Heads area, on Wednesday 5 June.

Fred's Place received \$1 million funding from the Society and will offer a service model in line with the NSW Government's Going Home Staying Home strategy, which seeks to provide services and programs that break the cycle of homelessness.

Lismore Central Council President, Brian Goodall said, "Fred's Place will provide an opportunity for people experiencing homelessness in the Tweed Heads region to develop the skills and capacity to return to independent living in the community."

Fred's Place was also granted \$20,000 from the 2012 Vinnies CEO Sleepout to purchase equipment used at the service.

Mr Goodall says that a key message of this year's CEO Sleepout is a call on both sides of Federal Government to recommit to the targets set out in the 2008 'Road to Home' White Paper to halve homelessness by 2020.

"It is imperative that we have all levels of government committed to reducing homelessness. Without these targets the Society fears that the focus will be lost and homelessness will be out of sight, out of mind," says Mr Goodall.

The new site will be officially blessed by Fr. Bill Mills and the event attended by St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State President, Ray Reynolds.

All media are invited to attend.

**What:** Official opening of Fred's Place, a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

**When:** Wednesday 5 June 2013 at 11am.

**Where:** 9 Boyd St, Tweed Heads NSW 2458.

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