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Leading Hunter CEOs brave cold conditions to raise funds for Vinnies homeless services

The 8th Vinnies CEO Sleepout took place in capital cities across Australia on Thursday 20 June, raising over to \$5 million to support Vinnies homeless services across the country.

In Newcastle where the CEO Sleepout was held for the first time CEOs braved chilly conditions armed with nothing more than a sheet of cardboard and a sleeping bag to raise an amazing \$100,000 already.

St Vincent De Paul Society Newcastle/Maitland Executive Officer, Denise Lucas said that money raised as part of the Hunter Region Vinnies CEO Sleepout will go to address the increasing problem of homelessness in the local region.

“The area is experiencing a growing trend of homelessness and lack of affordable housing. Funds will be directed towards existing programs such as the Matthew Talbot Centre in Wickham and the Coachstop Caravan Park in Maitland. Money will also be used to support families struggling with the rising costs of housing and living expenses, preventing them from falling into homelessness,” said Ms Lucas.

Participating CEOs included John Cootes, CEO John Cootes Furniture; Kristen Keegan, CEO Hunter Business Chamber; Matt Gidley, CEO Newcastle Knights; Christopher Wallis, MD GWG Partners; Greg Holmes, GM Kooragang Island Site, Orica; Ray Collins, Catholic Schools Office Newcastle; Paul Hughes, CEO Newcastle Airport; John Fahey, GM Newcastle Rugby League; Wayne Stewart, MD Century 21 Five Star Properties; Caroline McMillen, University of Newcastle; Lyndell Fogarty, PerformHR; Sean Scanlon, Vice Chancellor Administration, Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle; Adam Boyle, CEO Pegasus; and Sharon Smith, CEO Hunter Valley Training Group.

To donate to any participating CEOs visit www.ceosleepout.org.au. For further information or interviews please contact Sophie Bawden 9568 0278.