

# MEDIA RELEASE



## Vinnies Community Sleepout kicks off in Sunshine Coast

Wednesday 9 April 2014

Vinnies officially launched the annual Community Sleepout Sunshine Coast today calling on local business and community leaders to sign up to sleep rough and raise much needed funds to combat homelessness.

St Vincent de Paul Society spokesperson Ian Laherty and Todd Widdicombe were the first to sign up for their piece of cardboard for the event to be held later this year.

Mr Laherty said they were heading into their third year that would go towards Society services that help address homelessness in the community.

“Each participant will have the chance to experience a night of homelessness with only a piece of cardboard to sleep on, a sleeping bag and simple meals,” she said.

“Last year we had 70 locals take up the challenge. We have plenty of spaces left for this year and a good few months to raise the money.

“The challenge is on to see who in the community will rise to be our top fundraiser and it all depends on the support of their sponsors,” he said.

Every night there are almost 20,000 people facing homelessness in Queensland, with children making up 27 per cent of this group.

The Community Sleepout Sunshine Coast will take place on Thursday 26 June for participating business and community to experience a night of homelessness while raising money from their sponsors.

Registrations and donations can be made online at [www.communitysleepout.org.au](http://www.communitysleepout.org.au)

The Vinnies Community Sleepouts will be held throughout the month of June in capital cities across Australia.

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### Event background

The 2014 Vinnies Community Sleepout will be held on Thursday 26 June. The aim for the Vinnies Community Sleepout is not only to raise funds, but to raise awareness of homeless. Our goal is not just to service the homeless, but to bring about an end to homelessness. The discomfort of sleeping on the streets is a fragment of the larger reality we hope to impart upon influential leaders of our community. To be part of this year's Community Sleepout, business leaders can register online at [www.communitysleepout.org.au](http://www.communitysleepout.org.au) to participate and collect online donations. The Vinnies Community Sleepout is to raise funds for supporting the homeless in our local community.