



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Even in Sydney a toothbrush can be a luxury**

Having a toothbrush and toothpaste is something most people take for granted but for many Sydneysiders experiencing homelessness they are a luxury they cannot afford. That is why the volunteers at the Sydney Vinnies Van Services always have a stock to hand out to the clients they assist.

According to Jessica Wishart, Sydney Vinnies Vans Coordinator, they are running dangerously low and are calling on the public to donate basic toiletry items.

“We make up kits in snap lock bags containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner (travel size), soap, tissues, deodorant and a razor. We are running out of items and so we are calling on the public to please get in touch if you can help donate these items,” said Jessica.

Sydney Night Patrol is a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society and a part of the Sydney Vinnies Van Services. The service consists of two vans, operating in the Sydney CBD seven nights a week, excluding New Year’s Eve, providing a meal, blankets, snacks, hot beverages and most importantly, companionship to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness within the inner city of Sydney.

Every fortnight the service hands out toiletry kits to those who need them.

“Receiving these toiletries is just like receiving a present. Brushing my teeth is a luxury,” said a client of the Vinnies Van.

“Toiletries are a basic human need. The pride the clients have in having washed their hair is delightful to see,” said a volunteer.

Poverty is growing in Australia and on any given night in Australia 1 in 200 people are homeless. There are currently 105,237 people in Australia who are homeless and whom 44 per cent are female.

**TO DONATE TOILETRIES PLEASE CALL KAYE ON (02) 9532 3125.**

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