



MEDIA RELEASE

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New CEO joins Vinnies NSW

This week Australians mark National Homeless Week (1-7 August). This year's theme is "Homelessness Counts" to tie in with Census Night on 9 August.

In marking the plight of Australia's 105,000 Australians living with homelessness, Jack de Groot, the new CEO of the St Vincent Paul Society of NSW said that one of the misconceptions about homelessness is most rough sleepers are in our city centres.

"However, the last Census found that 60 per cent of Australians sleeping rough were outside the major cities, that 40 per cent of couch surfers were in country towns and that 55 per cent of people sleeping in severely overcrowded dwellings were also in rural locations," said Mr de Groot.

"St Vincent de Paul Society is so effective because it spreads across the length and breadth of Australia, reaching into the homes of those who are doing it tough wherever they live.

"I'm looking forward to travelling far and wide to meet the members, volunteers and staff who are part of a grassroots movement fighting poverty and homelessness."

Jack de Groot commenced his role as CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW this week. An experienced senior executive in the not-for-profit sector, Mr de Groot joins the Society from St Vincent's Health Australia.

Prior to this Mr de Groot was CEO for Caritas Australia, one of the world's largest social services and community development organisations. Mr de Groot has also served as a member of a number of boards across government advisory, industry and community groups.

Acting President St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, Tony Corkeron, welcomed Mr de Groot.

"Jack has a wealth of experience in the not-for-profit sector and we look forward to his contribution as he steps into this role," he said.

Mr de Groot plans to get around NSW as much as he can to meet some of the 26,000 members and volunteers and the 1500-plus staff members located in the 10 Central Councils across the state.

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