

EMBARGOED

Media Alert

5 April 2017



Vinnies committed to addressing Gold Coast homelessness

- **Official opening of dedicated space for homelessness services**
- **2017 Vinnies CEO Sleepout® launch**

More than 1400 Gold Coasters are homeless every night – and Vinnies are launching a dedicated program to prevent this number from rising.

The Homeless Prevention Centre, known as Cornerstone, will be officially launched with the opening of a dedicated space in Southport. Cornerstone works with families and individuals who are disadvantaged, vulnerable or at risk of homelessness to prevent them from becoming homeless.

The Cornerstone opening coincides with the launch of the 2017 Gold Coast Vinnies CEO Sleepout®.

With data indicating 1 in 6 Gold Coast households are experiencing housing stress and at risk of homelessness, money raised at the 2017 event will be used to expand the homeless prevention service.

Karen Phillips, the Gold Coast's first female event ambassador, will be joined at the Sleepout by leading Gold Coast names including ambassador Rob Molhoek MP, Councillor William Owen-Jones, Star Entertainment Group's Geoff Hogg, Ray White Surfers Paradise's Andrew Bell, Titan's Graham Annesley, Hickey Lawyers' Tony Hickey and James Frizelles Auto' Rebecca Frizelle among many others.

On the Gold Coast, statistics show more than 1400 people are homeless each night, including people who are sleeping rough, in supported accommodation for the homeless, boarding houses, and other temporary lodgings. Each night, another 19,838 Queenslanders have no place to call home.

INFORMATION FOR MEDIA

The official opening of Cornerstone and the launch of the 2017 Gold Coast Vinnies CEO Sleepout® is open to media, and there will be time for interviews and photography after the official proceedings. See below for information.

WHAT: Official opening, Cornerstone Homelessness program
Launch of the 2017 Vinnies CEO Sleepout® Gold Coast

WHO: Peter Maher, CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland, Gold Coast City Mayor Tom Tate, and event ambassadors Colin Wheeler, CEO Document Solutions and Karen Phillips, Karen Phillips Corporate Communications.

WHERE: 11 Hicks St, Southport. Limited on-street parking available.

WHEN: Wednesday 12 April 2017
Official proceedings begin 11 am
Media opportunities from 11:30am

VISION AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

It is expected opportunities will include:

- Vinnies CEO Peter Maher, on what Vinnies is doing across the city and the state to combat homelessness and why Vinnies needs your help
- Gold Coast City Mayor Tom Tate, on the importance of homelessness services on the Gold Coast
- Ambassadors/ participants speaking about the Sleepout including Karen Phillips, the first female ambassador for the Gold Coast event, and Colin Wheeler.

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Gold Coast event details: On the Gold Coast the event will be held on 22 June at Cbus Super Stadium, Robina. For a full list of participants who have signed up to sleep out so far, go to <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/events/gld-sleepout/group/39/>

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