

Media Release

22 May 2017



Jeff Horn throws his weight behind fight against homelessness

Professional boxer Jeff Horn has thrown his weight behind the fight against homelessness.

The Logan-born fighting schoolteacher, who is due to take on boxing legend Manny Pacquiao on July 2 for the world welterweight title, has come out in support of the Gold Coast CEO Sleepout.

With more than 1400 Gold Coasters homeless every night, Horn is encouraging business and community leaders to sleepout for one night and experience the reality of homelessness.

“Homelessness is a real problem here, so I want to do whatever I can to support the Sleepout. It’s not just rough sleepers, but the men, women and children in boarding houses, couch surfing or getting ready for school from the back of a car,” said Horn.

“I’m challenging Gold Coast business and community leaders to step up and fight for those who can’t fight for themselves. Together, we can make a real difference.”

The 2017 Gold Coast CEO Sleepout will be held on 22 June at CBUS Stadium. More than half a million dollars has been raised in past years, and been put to good use with the establishment of a Cornerstone program dedicated to helping people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness find safe, stable accommodation.

St Vincent de Paul Society has put a call out for Australians to support the Sleepout, saying 27% of homeless Australians are children.

“One of the biggest issues leading to people experiencing homelessness is domestic and family violence. More than 24,000 Australians are homeless because they’ve fled violent or unsafe households, so a key focus for us is finding families safe housing,” said St Vincent de Paul Society South Coast Executive Officer Shane Klintworth.

“Our Cornerstone program helps people connect with safe and stable accommodation, and can prevent people from falling into homelessness in the first place.

“Funds raised at this year’s Sleepout will help us expand the program so we can help more people.”

Mr Horn will be visiting the Cornerstone program in support of Vinnies and the CEO Sleepout.

VISION AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Vinnies Executive Officer Shane Klintworth, on what Vinnies is doing across the city and the state to combat homelessness and why Vinnies needs your help
- Jeff Horn, on why he is supporting Vinnies and the sleepout
- Noel Sweeney, Diocesan President, on how funds raised will help people in need

MEDIA CONTACT: Hayden Calderwood – P: 0428 759 814 E: hayden.calderwood@svdpqld.org.au

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/>

-----ENDS-----