



## MEDIA RELEASE

7 August, 2018

### **Vinnies announces affordable housing solutions for Queensland's homeless during National Homelessness Week (6-12 August)**

St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland (Vinnies) has announced a major project to help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness ahead of National Homelessness Week (6-12 August).

Vinnies has purchased nine units in Maroochydore to provide affordable housing solutions for vulnerable individuals and small families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless at Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast.

The charity is also exploring opportunities to establish units of accommodation for women over 60 on the Gold Coast, using funds raised from the Vinnies CEO Sleepout Gold Coast event.

The units in Maroochydore come on the back of the establishment of a safe and secure housing complex in Brisbane for women and children escaping domestic and family violence earlier this year.

With Australian Bureau of Statistics data showing more than 21,700 people are considered homeless in Queensland, Vinnies Queensland CEO Peter Maher said the charity has a housing first approach to homelessness.

"We are strongly committed to investing in bricks and mortar to help alleviate the growing homelessness crisis in Queensland," he said.

"In 2017 alone we dedicated \$6.5 million to the purchase of affordable housing solutions across Queensland.

"Short to mid-term accommodation with support for individuals and families not only gets them off the street, it allows them to address other issues which may be affecting their ability to establish their own accommodation.

"Vinnies provides a range of other programs and services to tenants of properties we either own or manage, aimed at helping them rebuild their lives."

Mr Maher said Vinnies could not make solutions such as the units in Maroochydore a reality without the support of the community.

"When you donate to Vinnies events such as the CEO Sleepout or Community Sleepout events those funds are used to help Queenslanders experiencing or at risk of homelessness," he said.

Vinnies Corporate and Community Sleepout Sunshine Coast 2018 event will be held on 23 August at Maroochy Surf Club with funds raised going towards furnishing and refurbishing the Maroochydore units.

More information at [communitysleepout.org.au](http://communitysleepout.org.au)

**ENDS.**

Media contact: Marnie Finster– State Communications Manager - Vinnies Queensland 0428 759 814.