



MEDIA RELEASE

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Vinnies to help Townsville's homeless

Growing homelessness continues to be an issue of concern for Vinnies in Townsville.

During National Homelessness Week Vinnies are hoping to raise \$12,000 to help fund their efforts to help people out of homelessness in Townsville.

Vinnies have assisted more than 5,500 Townsville families and individuals in the past year and many of these people are experiencing housing stress with February's floods in the region placing additional pressure on vulnerable households.

Vinnies volunteers will showcase their program and ask the public for donations at Castletown Shopping Centre from 5-11 August, in an effort to raise vital funds to help more people in crisis.

Vinnies in Townsville works with some of North Queensland's most vulnerable people and Executive Officer Edwina Wagland said demand for services in Townsville has never been higher.

"People are turning to us for help for a variety of reasons, including family breakdown, mental health, domestic violence, and unemployment," she said.

"We are asking Townsville residents to visit us at Castletown and make a donation in cash or via eftpos, as all funds raised will help us to assist young people at risk in their community.

"We have set ourselves a target of raising \$12,000 during National Homelessness Week which will help us continue the vital work of our local front-line team.

"Donations of non-perishable food are also very useful, along with linen and hygiene products."

"We are always so appreciative of the generosity and support we receive from our local community and we are hopeful once again with the community support we can reach our fundraising goal."

The display will be located upstairs in the centre near the entrance to Big W.

ABS Census data indicates more than 800 people in Townsville are considered homeless.

ENDS.

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