



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

Vinnies Western Sydney Community Sleepout

Across Australia there are more than 116,000 people experiencing homelessness, including right here in our community in Western Sydney. The NSW Street Count held earlier this year revealed 57 people are sleeping rough in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. There is also demand for social housing with 7,000 applicants, including 600 listed as priority, on the NSW social housing waitlist. More than 15,000 Australian children have no permanent home.

Due to the current COVID situation more people are facing financial hardship and turning to Vinnies for assistance; many of whom have never sought help previously from charities.

On Friday 27th August, staff, volunteers, and friends of St Vincent de Paul, slept on their couches or slept out in their cars or in their backyards while participating in the Vinnies Western Sydney Community Sleepout to raise awareness of and to raise needed funds to combat the scourge of homelessness affecting so many people in our community.

From the OLOL Community, Colette Rajan - Mum of Thea (6B) and Keira (2P), and Stefan Boffa and Larry Hegarty from OLOL Vinnies Conference participated in the Sleepout, Stefan in his car and Colette and Larry in their respective yards.

Although the Sleepout event has taken place, it is still possible to donate to the Sleepout by clicking on any of the following links:

Colette Rajan:

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-western-sydney-2021/colette-rajan>

Stefan Boffa:

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-western-sydney-2021/stefan-boffa>

Larry Hegarty:

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-western-sydney-2021/larry-hegarty>

Colette, Stefan and Larry have already raised a combined amount of \$10,870 for the Sleepout, from family, friends, work colleagues and parishioners. A heartfelt thanks from our participants and our Conference, and from our Vinnies clients to all who have donated so generously.

All funds raised locally will remain in the community to assist Vinnies Support Centres in Harris Park, Blacktown and Penrith, working through the local parish conferences, to provide material and financial aid for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

If you want more information on the Community Sleepout go to

www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout .

We appreciate that these times are tough for everyone, but any assistance you provide will help the more vulnerable in our community and will be greatly appreciated. Remember all funds raised through Our Lady of Lourdes will remain in and assist our local community.

Our Lady of Lourdes St Vincent de Paul Conference