

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Keeping Newtown Vibrant, Open, Weird and Safe

Sydney, NSW, 9th May, 2016

As part of Neighbourhood Centre Week, the community is being asked to express their love for Newtown by making a vow to keep the Inner West suburb vibrant, open, weird and safe.

On Saturday May 14, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) is giving people the opportunity to exchange their vows at Newtown Community Market and even to immortalise their vow by writing it on the foyer walls.

“Love can make you do some weird and wonderful things,” says CEO Liz Yeo.

“We’re wanting to encourage people to think about how the Centre can help them take action on something that they love about Newtown.”

Newtown has a diverse community, which cherishes its open culture. This is seen to be under threat from influences such as a lack of affordable housing, Westconnex and the flow on effects from the lock-out laws.

However, community spirit is strong as witnessed by involvement in community consultations and events organised by NNC like Friday Night Vibes, as well as other community driven events such as Reclaim the Streets.

“Asking the community to tell us their Newtown VOW is another fun and creative way we can harness people’s energies to take action for positive change, as well as to protect what we most value,” says Liz.

Even getting a great meal on the day will be contributing to the cause. We are proud to be working with funky Newtown restaurant Bloodwood who will be selling some fabulous food. All proceeds will be going to NNC’s First Response Program which helps people who have become homeless to get a roof back over their head as quickly as possible.

“A vibrant community is an inclusive and diverse one and how we treat our most vulnerable says a lot about the kind of community we live in,” says Liz.

Donations to the First Response Program can also be made at [www.chuffed.org/first-response-program](http://www.chuffed.org/first-response-program)

#### Images

Please call to arrange a time to photograph the Newtown VOWS graffiti wall

#### About NNC

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre exists to create a more inclusive, resilient, vibrant and self-reliant community. We are a not-for-profit incorporated association serving Sydney’s inner western suburbs. Our vision is to achieve a just community that includes and acts.

[www.newtowncentre.org](http://www.newtowncentre.org)

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