



## **MEDIA ALERT – immediate release**

# **Would you spend your birthday sleeping on the street?**

25 August 2017

Next Tuesday, 60 brave people will be sleeping out to raise money and awareness for those who aren't there by choice. Two of them will be waking up to their birthday and have asked their friends to donate to this cause rather than give them a present.

With so much focus on affordable housing at the moment, the average person may have noticed more people sleeping rough and wondered what they can do to help.

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre is making it easy for Sydney residents to lend a hand with the launch of Newtopian Dream.

Inaugural sleep out event "Newtopian Dream" is being held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August by Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) to raise at least \$60,000 and \$49,000 has been raised so far.

Participants will experience a night of sleeping under the stars in Newtown Square with nothing more than a sheet of cardboard and a sleeping bag between them and the elements.

The community can sponsor "Dreamers" who will be aiming to raise at least \$1,000 each in return for making it through the night.

Funds raised will help NNC provide frontline assistance to the growing number of vulnerable people in the Inner West who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

"Nobody should have to sleep on the streets and everyone deserves a safe place to call home. Unfortunately, like many other community organisations, we are seeing increasing numbers of people at risk of homelessness who are seeking our support," says Liz Yeo, CEO of NNC. "Ensuring access to safe and affordable housing is not just better for the individual, but for the community as a whole."

"We want to congratulate the people who have already signed up to sleep out at Newtopian Dream and encourage the community to show their support by registering to sleep out or sponsoring somebody who is," says Yeo.

To sponsor somebody or for more information visit [www.newtopiandream.org](http://www.newtopiandream.org)

### **Newtown Neighbourhood Centre**

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. The Centre runs a Specialist Homelessness Service working closely with boarding house residents and operators; as well as an Information and Referral Service available for anyone who comes to the Centre in need of support. .

### **Contact**

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#### **Newtown Neighbourhood Centre**

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