



## Seeking volunteers for local action to address homelessness

15 March 2018

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census data just released has shown a 37% increase in homelessness in NSW. We are seeing this reality **literally** right on our doorstep at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.

The recent street count in Newtown identified 28 people sleeping rough. Last year we only identified 2 people. These massively increased numbers are unfortunately consistent with the numbers of people we are seeing through our regular monthly outreach program.

Across the Inner West the ABS Census data indicates 2215 people are homeless – the third worst LGA in Sydney.

At Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) we want to eliminate rough sleeping in Newtown and ensure everyone is on a pathway to safe secure housing. This will require a serious investment in social and affordable housing, and we will continue to advocate with others for this to happen.

In the meantime, we are seeking local community volunteers who want to do what they can to practically assist people who are experiencing homelessness.

"By working together we believe we have the best chance of making a real impact on homelessness in our local neighbourhood," explains Liz Yeo, CEO of NNC.

"We know a lot of people in our local community want to "do something" about this," continued Liz, "but we sometimes lack the knowledge or confidence to know what we could do, or how we could assist".

Our new Community Homelessness Volunteer Outreach Project seeks to address this by recruiting and training a team of volunteers to work with staff and engage with people experiencing homelessness around Newtown. No experience in the community services sector is necessary as comprehensive training will be provided. This is a chance for you to be able to feel more confident and informed if you choose to stop and potentially assist someone.

Our first information night for potential volunteers will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 6-7pm. For more information and to register go to <http://www.newtowncentre.org/homeless-outreach.html>

*The Newtopian Dream homelessness project, is made possible by a combination of sources including grants from the Inner West Council, Uniting and Westpac and through the generous support of the community at fundraising events like Newtown Festival, and the Newtopian Dream sleepout.*

### 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 works closely with boarding house residents through its Boarding House Outreach Service, and offers forums for boarding house owners twice yearly.

### Contact

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