



Sleep with us to eliminate homelessness in the inner west

12 July 2018

This winter up to 100 brave souls will spend a night on the streets to raise money and awareness for those who aren't there by choice.

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) is running its second annual event "Newtopian Sleepout" on Tuesday, 7th August with the goal of raising \$100,000!

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.

"Unfortunately the problem of homelessness is not going away quickly due to the lack of safe and affordable housing available in Sydney for people who are doing it most tough," said Liz Yeo, CEO of NNC. "In the last 12 months we have seen a significant increase in people sleeping rough in Newtown – often right on our doorstep."

Newtopian Sleepout is about giving the community the opportunity to take practical local action on homelessness.

Each "Sleeper" will be seeking sponsorship of at least \$1,000 from friends and colleagues 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.

"We believe nobody should have to sleep on the streets if they don't want to and we have a dedicated team who can assist those who are at risk of homelessness," says Yeo. "But the demands on services like ours are only growing, and without this support from the wider community it is challenging for us to assist everyone to get on a pathway to safer affordable housing."

Since the inaugural Sleepout last year, NNC initiated a regular monthly outreach to rough sleepers in Newtown. Just last month, seven people were assisted to get ongoing temporary housing until permanent housing is found. This would not have happened without the outreach team getting to know those people over the last few months.

We have also started a community homeless outreach, and 20 volunteers have now been trained in homelessness related issues, and are undertaking regular weekly outreach.

"We invite you to sleep with us and help eliminate homelessness in the inner west," said Yeo.

Visit <https://www.newtopiansleepout.org> to register or donate today!

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

Liz Yeo, CEO, 0403 441 159, liz@newtowncentre.org

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre

1 Bedford St/PO Box 19, Newtown NSW 2042 | ABN 96 884 462 833

E admin@newtowncentre.org | P +61 2 9564 7333 | F +61 2 9519 2509 | W newtowncentre.org