



Seeking volunteers for local action to address homelessness in the CBD

17 February 2020

Following a successful locally based initiative in Newtown, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) is seeking to replicate a model of volunteering that will harness goodwill and increase Sydney's capacity to more effectively assist people experiencing homelessness. The project will involve recruiting, training, supervising and supporting a network of volunteer "Newtopian Outreachers" in the City of Sydney LGA, to meaningfully engage with rough sleepers and assist them in connecting with housing related services.

At Newtown Neighbourhood Centre we want to eliminate homelessness 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 2018 we started our Community Outreach program in Newtown and trained 20 passionate and committed locals who were looking for a way to actively address increasing homelessness in their neighbourhood. These volunteers, **Newtopian Outreachers**, now take part in weekly outreach, engaging with people experiencing homelessness around Newtown and offering assistance. This may include how to access temporary crisis accommodation, where to get meals or where to find other local support services.

We now have the opportunity to adapt this model to the Sydney CBD and surrounding suburbs and we are seeking community and corporate 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 neighbourhoods," explains Liz Yeo, CEO of Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.

"We know a lot of people in their 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 **Newtopian Outreachers - Sydney** Project seeks to address this by recruiting and training a team of volunteers to work with professional staff and engage with people experiencing homelessness in and around the Sydney CBD. No experience in the community services sector is necessary as comprehensive training will be provided. This is a chance for you to feel more confident and informed if you choose to stop and potentially engage with someone sleeping on the street.

Applications for recruitment will open in February with more information available at <https://www.newtowncentre.org/community-homeless-outreach.html>

The Newtopian Outreachers – Sydney project is made possible by a combination of sources including grants from The City of Sydney, Uniting and Westpac and through the generous support of the community at fundraising events like Newtown Festival and the Newtopian 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.

Contact

Carlos Robles | Project Coordinator

9564 7327 | carlosrobles@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 | W newtowncentre.org