



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the richness, diversity, and sophistication of the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

We acknowledge with sorrow the wrongs of the past that have taken place and continue into today.

We pay deep respects to Elders past and present and honour the strong leadership that is evident in the emerging Elders of tomorrow.

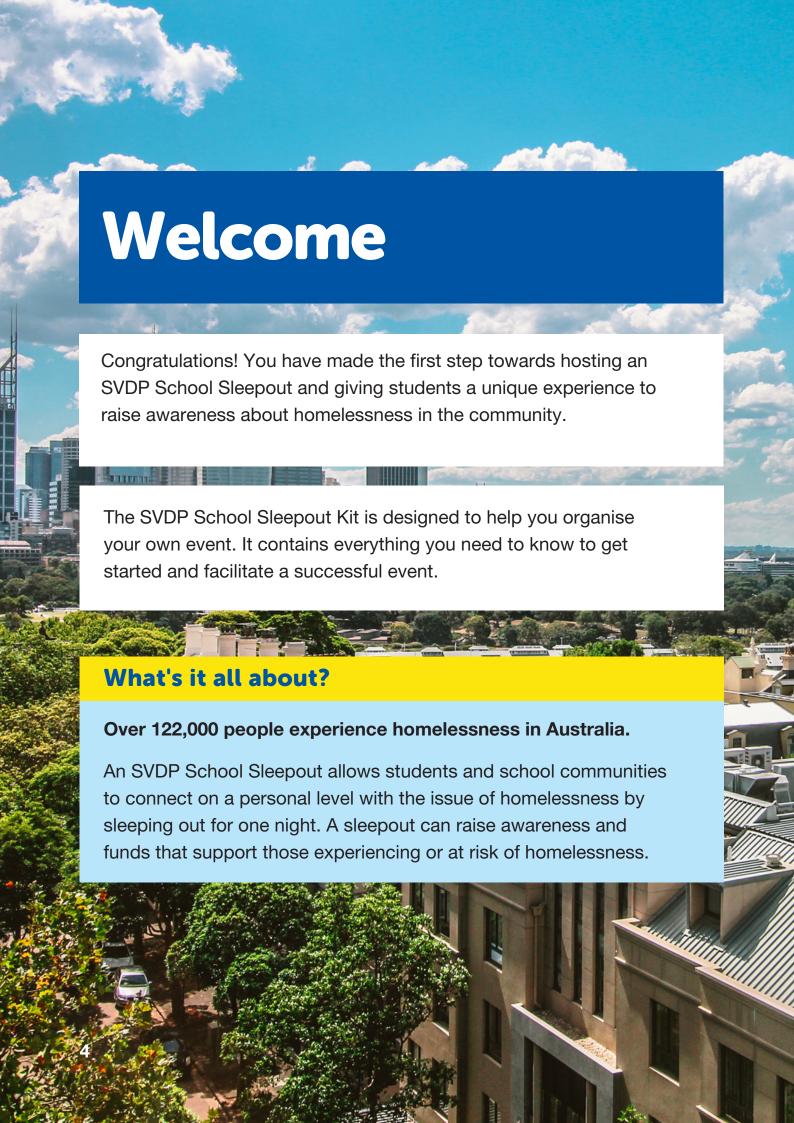
We hope to partner together and work to build a more just and compassionate society for the Traditional Custodians of this land.



Thank you for hosting a St
Vincent de Paul (SVDP)
School Sleepout. This kit will
provide information on
hosting your own SVDP
School Sleepout fundraiser
and an overview of how your
support will make a
difference to people
experiencing homelessness
and poverty.

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Get Involved

As a school community, you can do more than provide a 'hand out' this winter by getting involved in the SVDP School Sleepout and raising awareness in the community about the issues and effects of homelessness.

By taking part in this initiative, you are taking action against the homelessness crisis Australia is facing.

For your school, this will:

- Encourage students to connect with an evident and increasing need in your local community;
- Challenge your school community to make a difference to those living rough within your local area;
- Raise awareness about the many faces of homelessness in the hopes of breaking stereotypes;
- Allow your school community to be a voice for those in need in your community;
- Further educate your community;
- Advocate and raise funds to show your school that you can make a difference this winter.

Curriculum Links

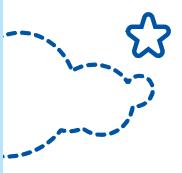
Ethical Understanding

Understanding ethical concepts and perspectives

Responding to ethical issues

Humanities and Social Sciences

Civics and Citizenship





Homelessness Facts

122,487

people were identified as experiencing homelessness across Australia, a 5% increase compared to 2016 data.

1 in 5

people experiencing homelessness identified as Indigenous.



Women are the fastestgrowing cohort of people experiencing homelessness in Australia.

53,974

women are experiencing homelessness across Australia.

37.4%

of Australians experiencing homelessness are

Under 25

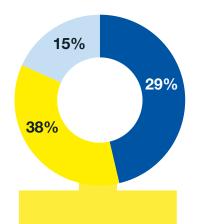
17,646 are under 12

Reasons women are experiencing homelessness across Australia.

Financial issues and housing affordability

Housing crisis, inappropriate housing or accommodation ending

Family and Domestic Violence



The rate of homelessness in Victoria has risen by 24% since 2016.

30,000+ Victorians are without a home.

Victorian
homelessness
services have to turn
away 96 people on
average each day.



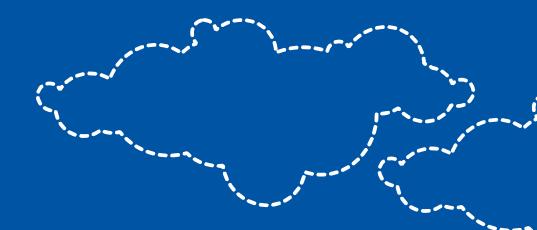


When most kids were getting ready for VCE, Paige was fending for herself on the streets. At 15 years old, Paige found herself totally alone. Her mother passed away after suffering from leukemia. She wasn't welcome or safe in her father's home because of an abusive stepmother, there wasn't any other family around, and she had very little support at school or elsewhere.

She spent her next few years couch-surfing, sleeping rough and relying on the kindness of friends. Her story shows just how quickly someone can find themselves experiencing disadvantage. Without the support that is so vital for teens and young adults, it's a fast downwards spiral. Every day, St Vincent de Paul staff and volunteers visit homes, schools, hospitals, and communities helping people like Paige to rebuild their lives.

"Thank you for helping me build my life again. I just needed that support which I've never had. Vinnies have saved my life."

The 2021 census recorded over 28,200 young people (12-24 year olds) experiencing homelessness, this equated to 23% of the overall homelessness figure. Unfortunately, the rate of homelessness continues to increase with the main contributing factors being domestic violence, financial difficulties, housing crisis and mental health issues. Fortunately, there are many services that exist to help people experiencing homelessness and the St Vincent de Paul Society is one of them.



You can make a difference

Raising awareness

Homelessness is a growing problem with more and more people turning to the St Vincent de Paul Society for help. The SVDP School Sleepout encourages students to talk to family and friends about homelessness and how we can each make a difference.

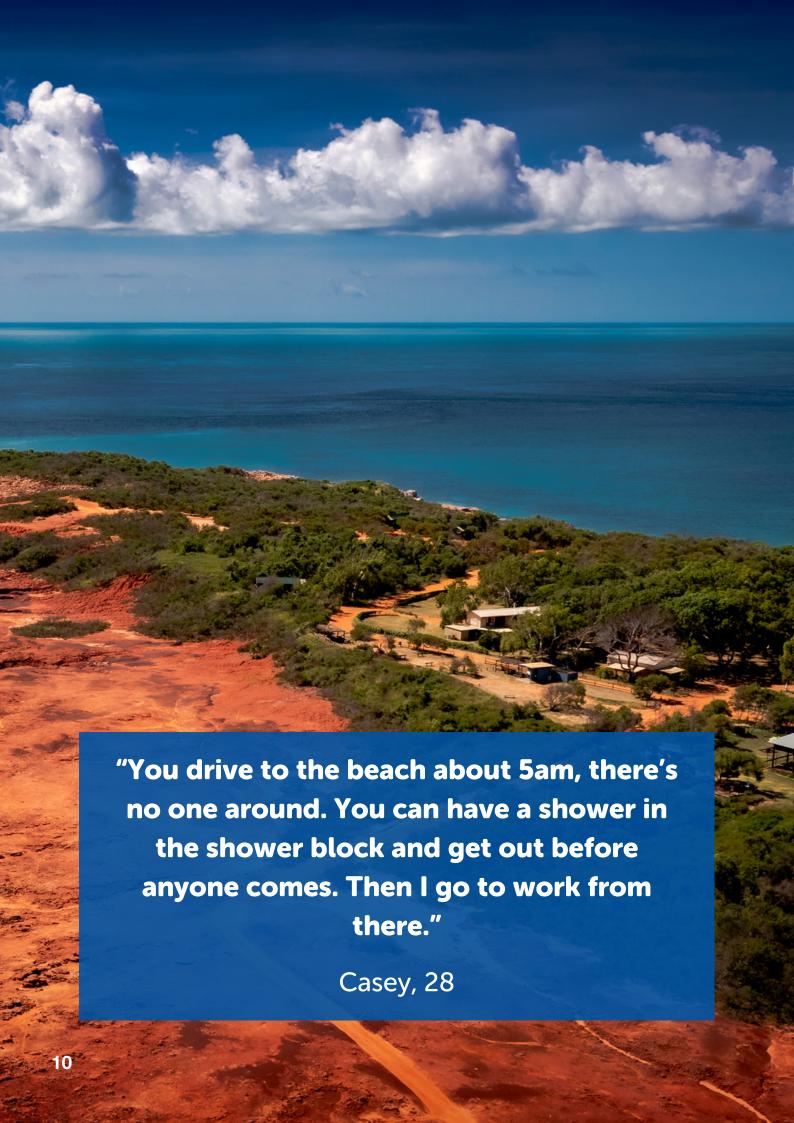
Homelessness is far more than "rooflessness". Homelessness means being without a secure, stable and private space to live.

Hidden Homelessness:

The majority of people without a home live in temporary, insecure, or unsafe housing situations (such as rooming houses, cars, government-funded crisis accommodation, overcrowded accommodation, or on the couch at a friend or family member's place).

Homelessness is experienced by everyday people living in your local community. Many families living on the edge are only three pay checks away from homelessness. If individuals have no family or friends to rely on, it's easy for someone to fall through the cracks and end up sleeping in their car, couch surfing or on the street.





Fundraising

The St Vincent de Paul Society first began helping Australians in 1854, and we've been active in the community ever since.

Our work relies on donations from loyal supporters like your school to ensure we can continue providing our important services and rebuilding lives. Your SVDP School Sleepout will play a substantial role in contributing to these donations.

Money and material goods raised will directly support people experiencing or facing homelessness in your local community.

Did you know...

Can help with a fuel voucher to support someone experiencing disadvantage.

Can contribute towards hot drinks and soups for the Soup

\$50 \$35

Can assist with clothing for a child.

20 \$85

Can pay for a course in life skills such as cooking, preparing for job interviews or basic computer skills at TAFE.

Can assist a hungry family with food until their next paycheck.



Donations

Online Donations

The majority of your donations will be made online through your event page or through the student's individual fundraising pages. These donations will automatically receive tax-deductible receipts. We encourage you to direct donations online where possible for the most secure and convenient way to raise funds. You can create your event here:

https://fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/host-school/

Cash Donations and Electronic Funds Transfer

If you collect cash donations, please ensure that they are stored securely and banked at the earliest convenience. You can deposit cash at any local bank branch. Cash donations and electronic funds transfers can be made into the following Commonwealth bank account:

Account Name: St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc.

BSB: 063 000

Account No: 1060 7556

Important: Please email: donation@svdp-vic.org.au with the details of the deposit and use your school's name as a reference when making the deposit. Also please indicate the SVDP service you would like to support e.g Education or Soup Vans.

Cheques and Money Orders

Cheques and money orders should be payable to "St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria" and posted to:

Fundraising Department

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria

43 Prospect Street

Box Hill VIC 3128

If your donors require a receipt, please collect their details and provide to: donation@svdp-vic.org.au. Receipts will be issued by the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria. Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible with a receipt issued by St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria. A payment is not classified as tax deductible (and as such will not receive a donation receipt) if the person making the payment receives goods, services or a "chance to win" something in return for their money e.g. auctions, raffles, sale items, gifts. For more information on tax deductibility, please see: www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Gifts-and-fundraising

Twists on an SVDP School Sleepout

Not sure an SVDP School Sleepout will work for your school community? There are lots of ways you can still take a stand against homelessness in Australia and connect with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Host a combined SVDP School Sleepout

Strengthen your relationship with other schools by hosting a combined SVDP School Sleepout. Organisers can pool resources, host a larger event and bring students together for a meaningful collaboration.

Afternoon or Evening session

Host an afternoon or evening event and focus on speakers and student activities instead of actually sleeping at the school.

Sleep Out at Home

Host an afternoon session at school where students learn about Homelessness. You can invite speakers, do activities, watch a video etc. At the end of the school day, students and teachers go home and everybody is encouraged to sleepout on their couch, backyard or garage and include family members too. The next morning, students and teachers share their experiences and conclude the sleepout at school.

Did you know: less than 7%* of people experiencing homelessness are rough sleepers? Sleeping out in the car, couch or in the backyard can be a great conversation starter about the 'hidden homelessness' in Australia.

*Census Data 2021

Organising an SVDP School Sleepout

Choose the type of sleepout your school will host.

1

Register your Event

Register your SVDP School Sleepout with the SVDP Youth Engagement Team online:

https://fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/host-school/

2

Pick a date

Pick a venue

You can organise your SVDP School Sleepout anywhere safe within your school. This might be your multi-purpose centre, hall, classroom, parish grounds or staff rooms. Points to consider when picking a venue:

- Safety;
- Wet weather (it is great for the atmosphere to be somewhat exposed to the elements but make sure there is shelter in case of rain);
- Toilet facilities (that are accessible all night);
- Power supplies (so you can make hot drinks/soup);
- Water supply.

Promotion

Get the word out! Promote your event through the school community.

- Create flyers and put them around school. Put the information in the school newsletter, school announcements and speak at an assembly.
- If your school has a Facebook page, you can promote the Sleepout here too – but make sure you get permission for all your promotions from the relevant teachers.

Sign up and Registration: Keep a list of all the students who sign up to attend.

3

Check Risk Management

Consider the potential risks associated with your event and plan what you can do to reduce or eliminate these risks.

Make sure there is a first aid officer and kit at the event.

4

Preparing for the Event

- Collect cardboard boxes for people to sleep on or have people bring them.
- Create and distribute a list of things participants need to bring (pillow, jumper/warm clothing, sleeping bag, toothbrush etc).
- Organise food for dinner and breakfast. Appropriate food such as soup for dinner helps to create a more authentic experience.
- Create a sign in sheet and desk to go at the door. This is important in case of an emergency.
- Organise for the use of the school camera so you can take lots of photos. You might even like to pick someone to be the 'photographer' for the night or ask a teacher.
- Will there be a fundraising element on the night? Can you advertise this event in your newsletter/community newspaper?

5

Create an agenda for the night

Example of a Sleepout

Night

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
4:30pm	Welcome and Event Overview	Led by teachers
5:00pm	Presentation & Whole Group Activity	SVDP Youth Engagement Officer
6:15pm	Dinner - Soup and Bread Rolls	Served by teachers/volunteers
6:45pm	Group Activity or Game	Led by teachers
7:15pm	Documentary or Movie	Organised by teachers
8:45pm	Debrief	Led by teachers
9:15pm	Bed	

Morning

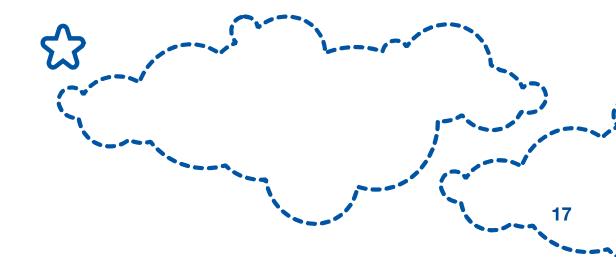
Time	Activity	Person Responsible
6.45am	Wake Up	
7.00am	Breakfast - Bacon & Egg Rolls	Served by teachers/volunteers
7.15am	Debrief and Reflection	Led by teachers
8.30am	Finish Time	

Sometimes a school sleepout won't work in your school community. See below for an example agenda of an abbreviated sleepout.

Example of a Sleepout with a Twist

Night

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
4.30pm	Welcome and Event Overview	Led by teachers
5.00pm	Presentation & Whole Group Activity	SVDP Youth Engagement Officer
6.15pm	Dinner - Soup and Bread Rolls	Served by teachers/volunteers
6.45pm	Group Activity or Game	Led by teachers
7.30pm	Activity: Hamper Packing	Led by teachers
8.00pm	Debrief & Reflection	Led by teachers
8.30pm	Home Time	





After the event

- Update your school community on the event. Write a story for the newsletter or speak at assembly.
- Thank anybody who supported your event. This might be your teachers or any organisations that helped.
- Collect and return donations. See Page (**) for more information on the donation process.
- Put in a request to the SVDP Youth Engagement Team for participant certificates.
- For any further assistance, reach out to the SVDP Youth Engagement Team at schools@svdp-vic.org.au.

Please refer to the Appendix for Terms and Conditions and Event Checklist. Details for donations are on page 11.



Thinking good thoughts is not enough, doing good deeds is not enough, seeing others follow your good example is enough.

Douglas Horton





Why not add a touch of warmth to your school sleepout by serving an authentic soup van recipe as the evening meal?

This recipe is brought to us from Soup Van Volunteer John Malloy, who is a dedicated member of the Fitroy Soup Van Team. John's journey with the Fitzroy Soup Van Service began 10 years ago, when a friend introduced him to the cause. Since then, he has been a steadfast presence, simmering large batches of soup with love and dedication.

The carrot and coriander soup recipe is a favourite of the fitzroy soup van regulars, and we are sure your students will enjoy it as well. By preparing and sharing this soup with your students, you can provide them with a delicious and nutritious meal while offering a tangible way to practice empathy for those experiencing food insecurity as part of your sleepout.

In the kitchen on Melrose Street, they whip up around sixty liters of soup each week, using whatever vegetables they can get their hands on, often generously donated by local businesses and individuals. A pro tip from John "The secret to a good soup is a good stock. I like to bring in my own stock, either homemade or a good commercially available one".

Carrot and Coriander soup

An easy, good-for-you soup that will warm your students up during a chilly winter sleep out. Serve with freshly baked bread for a filling evening meal.

Preparation time less than 30 mins

Cooking time '10 to 30 mins Serves 4

Ingredients

1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 onion, sliced
450g/11 carrots, peeled and sliced
1 tsp ground coriander
1.2 litres/2 pints vegetable stock
large bunch fresh coriander, roughly chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

- 1. Heat, the oil in a large frying pan and add the onions and carrots. Cook for 3-4 minutes until starting to soften.
- 2. Stir in the ground coriander and season with salt and pepper. Cook for 1 minute 3. add the vegetable stock and bring to the boil. Simmer for '10-15 minutes or until the vegetables are tender.
- 4. Whizz with a hand blender / stick mixer or in a blender until smooth. Reheat in a saucepan, stir in the fresh coriander and serve.



Terms and conditions

- 1. Once your Application is submitted, a Letter of Authority to raise funds in the Society's name together with your confirmed Registration will be sent to you.
- 2. Once you are approved, you may use the Society's official logo to promote your fundraising event but may not use it in conjunction with selling or promoting of any commercial produce or service. The officially approved event logo will be forwarded to you if requested.
- 3. The Society does not permit its name or logo to be used to endorse any commercially available products or services without the explicit written approval of the State Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria.
- 4. All artwork using the Society logo for external public audiences must be first approved by the Society before being printed.
- 5. Any promotional material designed to encourage public support for your event including notices, tickets, brochures or advertisements must include the words: 'all funds raised will benefit the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria'.
- 6. All funds raised in the name of St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria must be deposited into an account in the Society's name at a recognised financial institution. Details of the Society's banking arrangements will be provided to you. (It is an offence in Victoria to deposit funds raised in the name of a charity into a private bank account (Collections Act 1966)).
- 7. Gifts (of \$2 or more) to the Society are tax deductible and official gift receipts will be sent to you.
- 8. Funds raised in the name of St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria may not be shared with any other organisation. Joint fundraising events may be approved but written approval must be sought from all benefiting charities prior to the conduct of the fundraising.
- 9. All Authority holders are expected to manage risks associated with their fundraising events and must consider the safety of participants, insurances where necessary, licenses, permits and council approvals that may be required with certain types of events.
- 10. St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria staff are unable to become directly involved in the conduct of your event but will be available to provide advice and support on the night as required.



Event Checklist

SVDP School Sleepout Planning Process

This is a general list of key considerations for planning your event, but every school is different. Please make sure to check your school's internal resources.

If this is your first sleepout, please note that you may need to begin planning earlier than these recommended times.

Six weeks prior Four weeks prior Invite any guest speakers or Pick a date workshop presenters Pick a venue Start promoting your School Create a draft agenda sleepout within your school community Check your school's risk management policy Create a register of students who signed up to attend Register your event on our online platform

Two weeks prior Confirm any guest speakers or workshop presenters Finalise activities and agenda Finalise register of student participants Create resource list Organise catering (identifying any dietary requirements)

Week of event
Prepare all resources for event
Confirm catering
Remind student participants and make sure they know what to bring for event
Prepare the space in which students will be sleeping out
Enjoy your sleepout



Email: schools@svdp-vic.org.au

Phone: 03 9895 5800

Website:

https://fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/

host/





