

9 June 2017

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

This year Charles Campbell College has nominated to participate in St. Vincent de Paul's *Community Sleep-out*.

In the 2011 Census, 105,000 Australians identified as homeless – an increase from the 2006 Census by 10 per cent – including 17000 children and almost 11000 adolescents. In a snapshot of where those that identified as homeless stayed on Census night:

- 17 per cent were 'couch surfing'
- 39 per cent stayed in doss houses
- 9 per cent slept rough
- 20 per cent were overnighing in a women's, men's, family or domestic and family violence support shelter, and
- the remaining 15 per cent chose not to identify where they were staying.

These statistics however, do little to personalise the issue of homelessness or connect us with a sense of being able to do something about it.

The *Community Sleepout* is one way we hope to build a deeper understanding across our community and begin to make a difference.

Vinnies began the *Sleepout* fundraiser in 2006 and from contributions raised, have been able to provide intervention programs, emergency and crisis care, and educational materials for thousands of people across Australia. By participating and fundraising for this event, your child's contribution will stay local and may well be received by the students your child passes every day in our corridors.

On Friday 4th August, from 7pm, your child has expressed an interest in joining us at the College for an overnight lock-in. Whether they opt to camp in the gym or sleep rough along the veranda for the night, their experience will give them an insight into the complex nature of homelessness.

Program details

<i>Friday 4th August</i>	
6:30-7pm	College gates open. Registration of students.
7pm	Gates are locked. Students set up their beds (students to supply their own basic inflatable mattress and/or cardboard)
7:30pm	Basic soup kitchen dinner served (students are asked not to bring any other food on site)
8pm	Movie: The Pursuit of Happyness (PG)
10pm	Discussion of movie themes and issues of homelessness
11pm	'Lights out'
<i>Saturday 5th August</i>	
6:30am	Basic breakfast
7:00-7:30am	Gates unlocked. Students available for pick up
<i>Monday 9th August</i>	
Lunch	Program debrief, evaluation and future planning

The cost of this incursion will be \$10.00. This money will be used to purchase dinner and breakfast ingredients. Any money remaining will be donated to Vinnies. This fee – and all associated Medical and Dietary forms (attached) – can be paid at Student Services or submitted by QKR! **before Tuesday 20th June**. Payments received will not be refunded in the event of non-participation.

The College hopes that our whole community might sponsor our students and teachers to participate. To make fundraising easier, we have set up a GoFundraise site: <http://charlescampbellcommunitysleepout.gofundraise.com.au/>. A paper-based fundraising form will be available for those that prefer to collect money as they go. These can be collected from me by



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your child. Any completed forms and raised funds should be brought on the night of the *Sleep-out* for reconciliation.

This event is held in winter for a reason and, regardless of where students choose to sleep, the surface and surroundings of where they will be will be cold. To combat this, students should dress accordingly – thermals, long, layered clothing, a beany and even eye mask as the security lighting at school and street lights around it will interfere with light sleepers. Ear plugs are also my personal tip. Mattresses should not be ‘deluxe’ – think camping, not glamping. High rated (temperature) sleeping bags will help trap the heat versus a quilt or a blanket, but whatever students choose, consider thermal properties and plan for a cold night. **In the spirit of engaging in the experience, participating students are asked to come to the event ‘technology free’ – or to surrender their phones on arrival.** In the recognition of the risk of being at school at night, additional security patrols and a higher teacher to student ratio will be implemented. Teachers will reserve the right to send home students who are not participating in the ‘spirit’ of the event.

Thank you in advance for your support to our *Big Sleep-out* and for inspiring your child to join our community of leaders that are trying to make a difference.

Andrew Glasson
10-12 Coordinator

Holly Fennell
Year 12 Vice-Captain



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