

Year 5 & 6 SLEEP OUT FOR HOMELESSNESS

DID YOU KNOW THAT MORE THAN 105,000 AUSTRALIANS SLEEP ROUGH EACH NIGHT OF THE YEAR?

That's **1 in 200** people every night
including thousands of families...

44% of homeless are women

27% are children

Can you imagine not having a home to go to? Not being able to choose where you sleep, where you eat, what you eat or the choice to be simply in a safe environment. This is the reality for many people in Perth - and the numbers are growing.

By offering the opportunity for our Year 5 and Year 6 students to participate in our St Emillie's ***Sleep-Out Against Homelessness, on Thursday the 10th of August***, we hope to raise awareness and reflect on how each of us might make a difference to the lives of those that may not have a choice. We are also empowering ourselves, and others, to stand up for those in need and to make a difference.

The staff and students will sleep, **in the Undercover Area/MPR**, in a **sleeping bag** that will be placed on a piece of cardboard or tarp. **The children should BRING a few items of warm clothing (beanie, socks, scarf, windcheater, jacket to add over their House uniform - pyjamas are not needed), a pillow and sleeping bag or blankets, a mug and spoon (suitable for eating soup and cereal), water bottle and a toothbrush.**

To highlight the difficulties homeless often experience with personal hygiene, we ask that **students do not shower on the Thursday morning and stay in their House uniform both Thursday and Friday**. They will be expected to attend school on Friday.

Homelessness is a problem often overlooked and misunderstood by the wider community. The *Sleep-out Against Homelessness* will allow students to experience, in a very small way, homelessness for themselves through one night of 'sleeping rough'.

This hands-on approach develops students' understanding of the debilitating effects of homelessness as well as creating a sense of Community responsibility. By providing them with an example of what it feels like to sleep out for the night, we're encouraging them to acutely understand the problem they can work to solve.



As a school community, we know we are uniquely placed to help shape and influence Community awareness and opinions around the issue of homelessness.

The added benefits of this experience include:

- Connecting our students to their local community - in particular, to those who are less fortunate than themselves.
- Providing further education to our students on a very important social justice issue within their community.
- Raising awareness within the whole school community on the plight of those in Australia who do not have secure housing or accommodation.
- Contributing to the overall development of our students - intellectually, morally and emotionally.

In keeping with the *homeless* experience, food and beverages will be kept very simple:

FOOD: We will have **fruit for afternoon tea** on Thursday, the evening meal will be a **bowl of soup and a bread roll with biscuit and milo for supper**. **FRIDAY breakfast will be cereal and milo, morning tea fruit with soup and bread for lunch**. Parents are asked to indicate on the reply slip if you will be able to contribute food or soup.

If your child has any special dietary requirements please see your class teacher so that these can be accommodated.

Please note: each child needs to bring their morning tea and lunch, as usual, on THURSDAY.

This is not a compulsory activity, however, we strongly encourage all Year 5 & 6 children to be part of this experience..

Sincerely,

The Year 5&6 Teachers and The Leadership Team

St Emilie's Sleep Out Against Homelessness Year 5 & 6

- I give permission for my child, _____ from _____ (class), to participate in the St Emilie's Sleep Out Against Homelessness experience.
- I am happy to contribute: (Please circle one of the following)

A pot of homemade soup

Packet of bread rolls

A large box of cereal (Weet-Bix or Cornflakes)

Large tin of milo

2 packets of plain sweet biscuits

2 packets of plain/savoury biscuits

Bag of fruit

3 Litre bottle of milk

Please indicate any dietary/health issues: _____

- I understand my child will be viewing a PG rated movie, with staff, relating to Homelessness.

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____