

Homelessness has been identified as a major problem by members of the Fleurieu Peninsula for many years.

In March 2014 the Southern Fleurieu Housing Round Table conducted a survey across the Fleurieu region and 37 agencies participated in the survey. There were **144 people that did not have a home, including 56 children under 13 years old.**

Whilst no figures can ever be accurately assessed the latest estimates reveal more than 116,000 people were experiencing homelessness in Australia on Census night in 2016. Only 6 per cent of these are viewed as the 'visible homeless' – the rest are hidden from view and are easily forgotten about.

Following a forum held in Victor Harbor in 2018, my daughter Lauren, aged 11, was challenged by these statistics, and asked how she was able to help people experiencing homelessness in our local area. Lauren went on to shave her beautiful long blonde hair for homelessness.

With the assistance of local community members and leaders, and local businesses she was able to exceed her goal of fundraising \$4,000 by raising an incredible \$8,000. These funds were donated to the Fleurieu Community Foundation's Homelessness Fund.

We are challenging members and leaders of the Fleurieu to Step Up and Sleep Out.

Help us to raise awareness of this difficult issue; to stand in solidarity with people experiencing homelessness; and to raise much needed funds to support the most vulnerable in our communities.

We are gathering on March 30, 2019 at 5 pm at the Victor Harbor Harness Racing Club for a Community Sleep Out. This event will be a family friendly event, with live music, outdoor cinema, food stalls, and information booths about homelessness.

We are challenging you to sleep that night in Cardboard or Car, to experience what people experiencing homelessness know all too well.

I encourage you to seek support from your friends and family, a privilege many people experiencing homelessness do not have, by inviting them to pledge and sponsor you to Step Up and Sleep Out. Donations will be given to the Fleurieu Community Foundation's Homelessness Fund.

Please accept this challenge. Step Up and Sleep Out because Winter is Coming.

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