

# village news

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## SUPPORT CEO SLEEPOUT-PAGE 7



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## Company chiefs rug up for chilly sleepout for homeless

FOUR local company chief executive officers are to brave the Brisbane Winter cold and experience homelessness in a sleeping bag for a night to support this year's St Vincent De Paul Society's CEO Sleepout on June 21.

For leading national fundraiser and Teneriffe-based Anthony Flynn, of Kenlynn Properties, this is to be his first sleepout – an annual event, held in the nation's capital cities, to raise awareness and funds for homelessness, which affects more than 50,000 Australian men, women and children every daily.

For Merlo Coffee CEO Dean Merlo, the sleepout would be his third.

Although he had been a supporter of St Vinnies for more than 10 years, Dean said he was shocked to learn that more than 5000 people in Brisbane had no place to call home.

At 34, Anthony said he was proud to be the youngest ambassador for the event.

"I've got two daughters and we come together every night in a loving family and there's some people out there without any love and they're just out of luck," Anthony said.

Anthony said, after having decided to immerse himself in issue by helping to feed the homeless and volunteering his time with outreach



organisation, Rosies, he felt an immense social responsibility to make a difference.

"This was a way where I thought where I could channel my enthusiasm and my business resources to help," Anthony said. "I'm the vehicle. Jump in behind me and lead by example."

"One of the messages I've gotten back as the ambassador this year was that people said it's great to see someone whose 34 and making such a big difference now and leading when you're young," he said.

He said he was surprised by the different people who found themselves homelessness and encouraged everyone to volunteer their time to help feed them.

Dean Merlo said he was encouraged by the numbers of "well-heeled people" who, for one night, would experience what it was like to lie on the concrete on a piece of cardboard and get a different perspective.

"It (homelessness) can happen to anybody," Dean said.

Goa Billboards executives John and Chris Tyquin also are planning to sleep out.



CEOs looking for support are, from left, Dean Merlo, of Merlo Coffee, John & Chris Tyquin, of goa Billboards and Anthony Flynn, Kenlynn Properties

"We can never empathise about being homeless but we can sympathise and reflect on what it's like. At the end of the day, you finish work and you have a home to go to but others are asking themselves: 'where do I go?'" John said.

More than \$220,000 has been raised in Queensland to date by 136 CEOs. More than \$1 million had been raised nationally.

The 2012 St Vincent de Paul Society CEO Sleepout is to be held on June 21 at Suncorp Piazza, at South Bank.

To register or donate to Anthony, Dean or John and/or Chris, log on to [www.ceosleepout.org.au](http://www.ceosleepout.org.au)