

**SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE - MAYOR'S WINTER SLEEPOUT**  
**FROM: The Mayor**  
**EDMS #: 24/414602**

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I feel incredibly proud to share the remarkable success of our recent Mayor's Winter Sleepout, which took place on the evening of Friday, 26 July 2024. This event was a powerful demonstration of our community's commitment to tackling homelessness and supporting those in need.

The Mayor's Winter Sleepout was an opportunity for local businesses and residents to come together and experience a night of 'rough sleeping'. The goal was not just to raise funds for Mission Australia, but to heighten awareness about the plight of over 122,000 Australians who face homelessness every night.

The turnout for the event was nothing short of inspiring. A total of 17 participants braved the cold, spending a night under the stars to gain a deeper understanding of the harsh realities that so many face daily. Our community's compassion was evident, and the impact was significant.

I'm thrilled to report that our collective efforts have raised more than \$13,000 for Mission Australia. This substantial amount will go directly towards supporting individuals and families in our local area, helping them on their journey towards independence. These funds will make a tangible difference, providing crucial support to those who need it most.

I would like to draw special attention to some of our top fundraisers, who included Melissa Musgraves, Ann Madsen, Councillor McLean, Team Swaggies and Gauci Civil. However, every single participant deserves a huge thank you and congratulations on their fundraising efforts for this important cause.

A special thanks must go to Mission Australia for their unwavering commitment to ending homelessness and to Camden Council's dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success. I'd also like to acknowledge the businesses and individuals who participated and went above and beyond in their fundraising efforts. Your dedication and generosity are truly commendable.

During the event, we were reminded of the importance of community and the power we hold when we come together for a common cause. The spirit of the Mayor's Winter Sleepout is something we should all carry forward. While the event may have ended, the fight against homelessness continues. I urge everyone to keep supporting Mission Australia and other organisations dedicated to this critical issue.

By all counts, the event was a resounding success, and I'm deeply grateful to everyone who participated and contributed. Together, we've made a significant impact, and I'm confident that we'll continue to work towards ensuring that every member of our community has a safe place to call home.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That Council note the information.**