




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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ADJOURNMENT

Vinnies CEO Sleepout

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.01 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise tonight in the House and speak about the 2018 CEO Sleepout. Plans are well underway for this event, which will be the third sleep-out to have been conducted on the Gold Coast. In the first year in 2016, Colin Wheeler, Karen Phillips and I had the great honour of being the first ambassadors for the CEO Sleepout when just 142 people participated from across the Gold Coast. In our second year we had 228 people sign up, which was the second highest participation level in the country, beating Melbourne and Brisbane as well as nine other locations around Australia.

I printed the leaderboard just a few minutes ago, and this year so far we are sitting third for participants, only just behind Sydney and Brisbane, with 186 CEOs participating and \$233,823 already being raised from around 1,200 supporters. On behalf of St Vincent's on the Gold Coast and the CEO Sleepout I want to express our sincere thanks in advance to those many people who have already contributed. With another week to go, we are well on our way to hitting our target of half a million dollars again this year.

I am proud to say that the money raised over the previous two years has been put to good use. St Vincent's have bought a property right in the heart of Southport which has been aptly named the Cornerstone project. At the moment, it is simply a centre which provides services, counselling and other forms of practical support to homeless people, but the dream is that we will raise enough money one day to build crisis accommodation on that site. With the sort of participation we have seen in the first couple of years, I would say that we are well and truly on our way to achieving that goal.

I want to acknowledge a few people. I mentioned the leaderboard before. It has been a hotly contested leaderboard this year because a number of us have already raised in excess of \$10,000. I want to acknowledge Lorraine Lovatt, who is at the top at the moment, having raised \$14,855. Colin Wheeler, who sends me texts almost every other day, has raised \$13,949. I am currently sitting on \$12,921. If anyone in the House would like to login to CEO Sleepout and give me a hand, I would certainly appreciate a bit of a nudge along to get me back to the top of that leaderboard and hit my goal of \$30,000 this year.