

24 August 2010

Damon Sleeps Out for Salvos

On Thursday 5 August 2010 Damon Thomas, who is the head of the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, took part in the Sleeping Out for the Salvos fund raiser.

The annual event provides a controlled homelessness experience for Tasmania's business & community leaders, with the aim to raise awareness and funds for housing and homelessness services.

Along with other participants Damon slept in the forecourt of the Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart (an event partner) to highlight the plight of around 100,000 Australians - including about 300 Tasmanians - who are homeless every night.



Damon is accompanied by his 6 year old daughter, Tussy, as he prepares for the sleep out.

(Photo by Stuart Harris)

Damon commented that even though the experience of one night sleeping out could not compare with the chronic plight facing the homeless, it gave him and others the opportunity to better consider the realities of the issue of homelessness.

“For me it was one night out of 365, and for that it was so little when you think of the realities of homelessness and how we can all be in this position so quickly – one inappropriate decision or one rash judgment call,” Damon said.

“The event was a great way to raise funds and draw attention to a great cause and everyone joins in without question, but certainly the hot shower and breakfast next morning had a special significance!”

The 2010 Sleeping Out for the Salvos fund raiser raised a fantastic total of \$111,017.77; bettering the initial goal of \$100,000 and eclipsing last year's total of \$40,000.