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## Sydney Police Enforce Tougher Rules on Homeless at Station

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Homeless individuals at Sydney’s Central Station are facing increased restrictions, including move-on orders and the risk of having their belongings confiscated, under new enforcement measures by New South Wales Police and Transport for NSW.

Pari Nikau, a New Zealand national who does not qualify for housing assistance in Australia, was discharged from St Vincent’s Hospital just two weeks after a violent rooftop assault. Still recovering from injuries, including a broken arm, Nikau now sleeps rough near Central

Station, often under the watch of security cameras. He says police wake him and others daily at 6 am, ordering them to leave the area.

Amanda, an American national in a similar situation, has been sleeping at the station for over two years. She said she was informed that new rules were introduced to prevent inconvenience to commuters.

Under the new measures, rough sleepers can remain only during off-peak hours. During the day, there is limited shelter and no seating. Some, like Amanda, sleep sitting up due to medical issues such as chronic back pain.

Kylie Emery, also sleeping at Central Station, said she was left to endure harsh conditions while ill.

Transport for NSW has also begun enforcing the removal of unattended items. Notices have been posted warning that belongings left behind may be disposed of. A spokesperson confirmed that such actions are based on NSW Police direction, adding that belongings will be held for at least 24 hours and can be reclaimed through the station office.

Stephen Devine, another person staying near the light rail area, said he has witnessed possessions being discarded despite these assurances. He recounted an elderly woman returning from the hospital to find her belongings gone.

A NSW Police spokesperson stated that being homeless is not a crime, but officers are authorised to issue move-on directions where people may be causing inconvenience. “Police continue to assist those in need by connecting them with appropriate services,” the spokesperson added.

The growing enforcement has raised questions among rough sleepers about where they can go, particularly those without access to government support or permanent housing.