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NOVEMBER 2023 • Edition 5

Welcome to the latest edition of Volunteering at Vinnies!

Welcome to the latest edition of *Volunteering at Vinnies*, our newsletter for volunteers in Services and Programs.

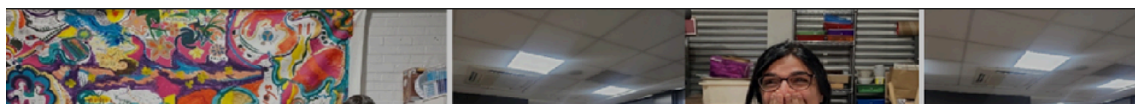
In this edition, we celebrate International Volunteer Day, a day which recognises the extraordinary effort of volunteers worldwide. At St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, our volunteers are critical to our operations. We simply wouldn't be able to have the impact that we have without you. Thank you to each and every one of you for your generous contribution of time, hard work, passion and dedication.

As vital contributors to our work, this month we encourage you to have your say in our [2023 Member & Volunteer Survey](#). Your voice is important. Please take 5 minutes of your time to tell us what we are doing well and where we can do better.

In this edition we also reflect on the Voice referendum result and what this means for our journey towards reconciliation. We provide an update on our new Member and Volunteer System and we celebrate our partnership with the [ABC Gives](#) campaign.

We hope you enjoy the read.

The Volunteer & Associate Engagement Team



SPOTLIGHT ON: International Volunteer Day 2023

On Thursday 23rd November, staff and volunteers in services and programs came together

to celebrate International Volunteer Day. Mandated by the UN General Assembly, International Volunteer Day is held annually on December 5th and provides the perfect opportunity for organisations such as Vinnies to say a huge thank you for the invaluable contribution of volunteers to our work.

This year's theme is 'If Everyone Did'. CEO Yolanda Saiz highlighted the current cost of living crisis and recognised how our volunteers continue to give tirelessly at a time when many people are working additional jobs and longer hours. Acting Executive Director of Members, Volunteers & Regional Operations, Joy Kyriacou, acknowledged the social impact of our volunteers' work and the very tangible difference that just one volunteer shift can make to the lives of the people we assist. We welcomed guest speakers Christina Gilio & Joanne Riakos who talked about their work with volunteers in Schools & Youth Engagement and Van Services respectively. We also heard from Jennifer Wright, Volunteer Support Officer, around the progress of our new Member and Volunteer System.

During the event, volunteers across our services and programs received awards for their individual contributions to the Society. The Volunteer & Associate Engagement team would like to congratulate Lorna Lynch, Andrea Fernando, David Robinson, Rob Hitchen, Negin Chahoud, Bony Kurian, Sue Donoghue, Ferbiyanto, Anthony Patruno, the Sew Cool Sewing Collective at Creative Space and Matthew Talbot's Wednesday Lunchtime Dining Room Attendant Crew on their well-deserved awards.

Thank you to ALL of our volunteers for your precious contribution. We are extremely grateful for your support.

WHAT'S NEW



[You're the Voice: 2023 Member & Volunteer Survey](#)

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[Voice Referendum reflection](#)

[READ MORE](#)



[Rosalie Rendu Forum 2023](#)

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VOLUNTEER NEWS

Member & Volunteer System update

Our new Member & Volunteer System is on track to launch early next year. Read more about its progress here.

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ABC Gives campaign

ABC Gives is a month-long campaign encouraging ABC audiences to support a chosen charity. Vinnies NSW have been lucky enough to be selected as the recipient charity for ABC NSW.

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Coniston volunteer Christine Williams wins 2023 Illawarra Senior Volunteer of the Year

Christine Williams has been a driving force behind the Coniston St Vincent De Paul Homeless Hub for the past decade. In September, her tremendous efforts were recognised at the 2023 Illawarra Volunteer Award Ceremony.

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Volunteers as Leaders: Volunteer Ross McCarty leads Vinnies Digital Inclusion Project

Computer whiz extraordinaire and Matthew Talbot Hostel volunteer, Ross McCarty, recently led a digital inclusion project in collaboration with students from the University of Wollongong.

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Meet Jean Al Taweel, Migrant & Refugee Settlement Support Volunteer

North Coast Settlement Services volunteer, Jean Al Taweel, uses her experience as a refugee to support new arrivals.

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Updates from our Safety & Emergency Management team

Safety at Vinnies NSW is everyone's responsibility. Find out how to report a WHS hazard, and read more about our new Employee Assistance Provider, [here](#).

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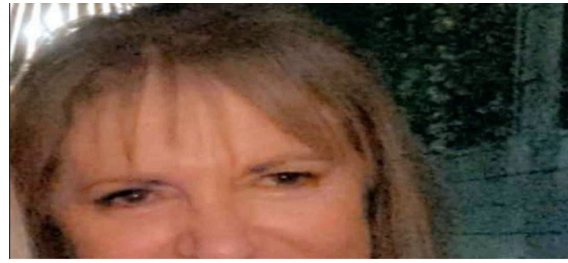
Society Success Story

CEO Yolanda Saiz shares Margaret's story, highlighting the impact staff and volunteers can make when we work together across the Society.

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Meet our staff: Donnie Rome, Change Manager

Earlier this year, the Member & Volunteer Survey results revealed that you wanted to know more about the work that we do at Vinnies NSW. Here we meet Donnie Rome, Change Manager.



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Creating our volunteer community: we welcome your newsletter contributions

Research shows us that feeling connected as part of a team leads to a greater sense of volunteer satisfaction. We would love to invite you to help strengthen our volunteer community by contributing to our newsletter.

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Please remember to update your email address

A reminder to please keep the Society up to date via volunteers@vinnies.org.au if your preferred contact email address has changed.



St Vincent de Paul Society NSW ABN: 91 161 127 340
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