



# Newsletter

November 2023

## Sydney Archdioceses Central Council President - John Walden's Message

My fellow Vincentians, Volunteers and Staff members

I would like to focus on two very positive areas impacting the Membership, Volunteers and Staff of late in our Central Council area.

The first relates to the Liverpool Regional Council. Until recently, this Region (our largest geographically) only had 17 fully compliant members, of which only 6 were able to perform home visitations. This severely impacted our ability to service the people in need and placed great strain on the Vinnies Support Centre. The acting Regional President for Liverpool was Arthur Doumit (Liberty Plains Region) who commenced work to address this problem. Arthur had to stand down recently for health reasons and Peter Brown (Kingsgrove/Bankstown), agreed to take over. Since then, a Task Force originally comprising just a couple of external members started to perform home visitations. At the time of writing this article, this Liverpool Task Force group has grown to 17 external members and is increasing. Home visitations are being performed by local (and external) Task Force member three days a week. A recruitment program has been planned with expectations that new local members will be found, on-boarded and trained in the coming months.

The second area of great achievement comes with the high percentage of fully accredited members, being compliant with a Working With Children Check, Police Check and Child Safe First Training. Our percentage of fully compliant members has stayed around 98% for a while now, which in the total number of our members is very small. There will always be a few members that are not fully compliant while awaiting renewal of any one of the three accreditations, but this level of compliance is a significant achievement considering where we were at the start of the year. I understand that for some members this was a difficult task, but thank everyone for their efforts.

John

## Metro Regional Director - Ash Ambihapahar's Message

It has been several months since I commenced as the new Metro Regional Director and it is fair to say I have hit the ground running!

I have been able to meet many passionate members, volunteers and staff across the Sydney Central Council (SCC) and across Metro learning more about the good works performed to support and serve the community. I have been able to visit all the VSCs, worked at a number for the day (eg interviewing clients and packing shelves) and also started doing home visits. This has helped me grasp what members/volunteers and staff do and understand some of the challenges.

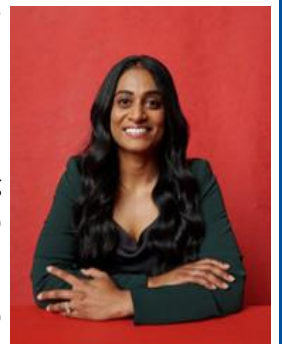
I was able to attend the SCC Retreat hosted at Mary Mackillop, North Sydney. It was a great opportunity to meet members and learn more about Vincentian values.

I am looking forward to attending more Festival Masses in the coming weeks!

Christmas time is a very important time not only spiritually, but also it can be a challenging time for those in need in our community. My team will be working very hard to ensure we can help and support you to be able to deliver and serve your community.

Thank you for the very warm welcome from everyone! I look forward to connecting with more members, listening to you and ensuring we continue championing the mission, vision and aspiration of Vinnies!

Ash

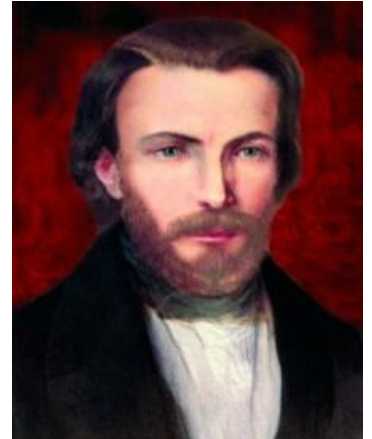




## YOUR GOOD WORKS ARE OUR MISSION, IN ACTION –THANK YOU!

*Faithful  
to the spirit of its founders,  
the Society constantly strives for renewal,  
adapting to changing world conditions.  
It seeks to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society  
and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated.  
It gives priority to the poorest of the poor  
and to those who are most rejected by society.*

The Rule, p. 16



### Christmas Appeal Ready!

This Christmas, we are focussing on the ongoing impacts of the cost-of-living crisis which has seen already vulnerable people pushed into poverty with barely anything to hold on to and facing the brink of homelessness.

The cost-of-living crisis is causing families, who were already struggling, further hardship and driving a growing number of people to seek assistance for the first time. Workers in full-time employment, families on dual incomes and renters burdened by the soaring cost of housing have turned to the Society through necessity. Alarming, the number of people turning to our members for the first time has increased from one-in-four to one-in-three over the past year. While cost of living pressures have occurred across the board, the most acute impacts are felt by those with the least capacity to absorb the financial, social and wellbeing blows.

Our Christmas Appeal plays a critical role in ensuring our members are able to continue to provide support to the people we assist and that our services are able to meet their needs.

The Society thanks our dedicated members for the important role they play in raising funds for the Christmas Appeal so we can continue give a hand up to those in our community who need it the most. The Christmas Appeal launched on 1 November 2023.

*Materials ordered per Regional Council across Sydney Central Council  
to support your Christmas Appeal efforts, such as posters, donation  
envelopes and Conference booklets have been delivered.*

*Lead by Conferences, the support of Parishes, clergy and schools  
is invaluable.*





## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

### Take up your cross

Corinne Lindsell – Mission & Formation Partner Metro



*Image: Ken Duncan – Memory Mountain Northern Territory*

**I am sure that many of us have heard the phrase “take up your cross” or “this is the cross I must bear”. This is a powerful and heartbreaking sentence to say. It is one that brings with it a deep sense of pain. It is also one that invites us into an opportunity.**

Spiritual mystics in the Catholic faith like Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross even talk about this invitation. We can delve into an opportunity of redeeming suffering, that whatever it is we are going through could have a redeeming function to it. It must be for some good.

I remember a number of years ago suffering from a chronic illness where I had chronic pain and chronic fatigue. I hated it. I knew I had to endure it, and I questioned “is this my cross?” I took this as an opportunity to offer up my pain as a prayer for those in my life. It turned a very dark time into a moment of connection with God and a way to think and pray for others. I don’t know if this is what St Paul meant by “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” but I definitely didn’t want to waste that pain in my own woes.

This was a time that I could have easily prayed for a miracle of good health (which I was praying for as well) but I turned it into a deeper act of faith and it allowed me to gain more in my knowledge that God is God – not a magician.

When we look at the life of Jesus, He was never disconnected with the mind, body and spirit. He knew and taught that faith is not just a lofty idea, or an intellectual exercise, it is one that is lived, one that is felt (physically and emotionally), and one that is ever evolving and growing.

Each time we are confronted with a cross that we may have to bear, can we honestly look at it as an opportunity to being “transformed by the renewing of our minds” as mentioned in the first reading from Jeremiah?

What about when we are confronted with the crosses of those around us? Especially those who we are supporting in the Society? How do we allow for our compassion to be with them in the crosses they bear?

***Reflective Question: What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “take up your cross”?***



## Conference News

### ENGADINE CONFERENCE

As usual, the St John Bosco community of Engadine Parish and the wider community excelled in their generosity this past winter.

The Winter Appeal received generous donations. The primary school provided much needed groceries and cash and the High School students hand-delivered to our cars, lots of warm winter woolies.

The general community was treated to a Beatles Tribute concert performed by a band of the young through to the not so young and very experienced musicians. It was a great afternoon of entertainment. All funds raised were donated to Vinnies.

Through this and the Youth Sleepouts, everyone learned more about the reality and the meaning of homelessness and what Vinnies is doing to try and eradicate this from our society.



**Our Members, like all such compassionate and active students, parents and staff, walk the Mission of Frederic Ozanam:**

**In my life I want to become better and do a little good..**

**Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves.**



## Conference News

### BALMAIN CONFERENCE

From Maureen Robinson, Balmain Conference President:

We went to see Kobi Shetty, Balmain MP, because we are trying to get some action from housing providers to maintain and repair the places in which our clients live. Some of them are appalling. We had help from Jamie Parker (Kobi's predecessor) in getting some repairs done, so thought that we would get her involved now too. Our request as acknowledged and tabled in Parliament.



### May dear Vincentian, Peter, Rest in Eternal Peace

Peter speaking at his Vinnies' farewell,  
commemorated in a previous newsletter>>



### Retirement of Peter Moorhouse

Peter Moorhouse retired in December 2016 after serving 32 years with the St Vincent de Paul Society. He was aged 92 at retirement and is a well-loved member of the Vincentian family and his community.

Barbara Ryan, ex-State President, paid tribute to Peter at a function that was recently held to celebrate Peter's time as a Vincentian:

*"We are here tonight to acknowledge, respect and say thank you to Peter Moorhouse, a very special Vincentian.*

*All Vincentians need the support of their families and tonight we welcome Peter's wife Elizabeth and their children Paul, Jane and Andrew. We thank them for their support of Peter in his Vincentian work. The core work of the Society is home visitations; this is where we get to know the real need of the poor and are humbled in their presence. I was privileged to do home visitations with Peter.*

*But Peter did not just do home visitation. He also did budget counselling and this was never easy and often not appreciated by the clients. Along with this and preparing food parcels, Peter would do volunteer work at the Matthew Talbot Hostel.*

*Over the years Peter's whole family was involved with the Society and we are all inspired by Peter and thank him for his years of dedicated service."*

### MOORHOUSE

**Peter Beverley**

31.08.1924 - 07.06.2023

Aged 98

Very beloved husband  
of Elizabeth.

Treasured father  
and father in law of Paul  
and Aylin, Jane and  
Michael, Andrew and  
Yoshie, and Simon  
(deceased).

Loved grandfather of  
Cynara, Reuben and  
Bonnie, Nicholas,  
Christopher and William,  
and Joe. Great grandfather  
of Ayla.

Goodnight Sweetheart.



## Conference News

### Hosting Br Rabaere Rikare – National President of Kiribati

On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June, the National President of Kiribati was in-transit through Sydney to the International meeting of the Society in Rome. He was shown around the Archdiocese on these days to some of the Vinnies Support Centres and Lewisham State Office.

He visited Burwood, Hurstville and Sutherland VSCs and the attached retail shops. He hopes one day soon to start up a Society retail shop in his own country and found the visits very informative. He also met with the Regional Presidents from St George (Sue Vit) and Sutherland (Pat Cudmore) and our Central Council Vice President - Twinning (Gil Vella). Our State Spiritual Director (Leo Tucker) showed him through the Lewisham State Office.

*Photo, taken outside the Hurstville VSC and retail shop:*

*Left to right – John Perkins, Member Oatley Conference, Sue Vit (Regional President, St George), Rabaere Rikare (National President, Kiribati) and John Walden (Sydney Archdiocese Central Council President).*



### Vinnies' table—Westfield Liverpool

On Saturday, 16 September, a table and area were decked out within the shopping centre with lots of information about how to join or assist Vinnies, how to seek support, and opportunities to donate a food item for the local Support Centre.

The most valuable information came via the wonderful Members who were the best advertisement of who we are and what we do. Thank you to all, including Presidents, Noel and Wal, other Members including Eileen, Patricia, Joey and Mark.





## Conference News

### A Client's Heartfelt Thanks

From Maureen Robinson, Rozelle Regional Council President and Balmain Conference President:

"I thought it might be a nice thing to put into the next Newsletter. I have received Andrew's consent to publish it. He would actually be very thrilled if we did."

To All At St Vincent De Paul,  
I wish to thank everyone involved with the provision of your organisations good works over the Christmas period.  
I was not only invited to the Christmas barbeque but was also picked up from my home in Balmain and dropped off back at home afterwards. That barbeque was a pleasant and most enjoyable sunny afternoon in the tree lined end of the park. Thank you.  
I was also a recipient of a Christmas hamper that contained a canned ham, a Christmas cake and a Christmas plum pudding, all three of which I could not afford on my own account. There were also many other very usefull items such as jam and biscuits.  
I wish to express my gratitude and heart felt thanks to the St Vincent De Paul Society and to all the volunteers, and everyone else who provided to me the much needed Christmas hamper and the lovely barbeque in the park.

Yours Sincerely,  
Andrew Leaming.



## Conference News

### Winter Appeal Generosity—Miranda

The staff and students at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School, Miranda, united to raise funds for people in our community for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Wearing their favourite beanies and scarfs and bringing gold and silver coins, the students and teachers created an amazing living artwork on the playground.

This amazing fundraiser organised by the Mini Vinnies Team and support teacher, raised \$1200 and a greater awareness of their school motto: 'Our love is not just words, but something real and active' (John 1).



### Waterloo Conference

We recently assisted a new client who had been homeless and sleeping rough for many years but had managed to get a public housing commission flat in Waterloo.

To help him get started, we supplied a fridge and washing machine, a bed and lounge, and a table and chairs.

When we next visited our client, he told us how grateful and happy he was. He had never sat on anything as soft as the lounge, the bed was so comfortable, and he was sleeping well - it had given him a new lease on life.

He was truly very grateful and thanked Vinnies from the bottom of his heart.

### Peter Marshall, Regional President and Sydney Harbour North President accepting a Grant from Mosman Mayor

Carolyn Corrigan Mosman Mayor, presented a cheque for \$4000 for the Conference to spend on 80 "Imperfect Pick" fresh food vouchers from local Mosman business Harris Farm.

Members of the Conference all worked together to put the proposal together with the focus on the health and wellness of the people we assist.







## Conference News

### Testimonial for St Vincent de Paul, shared by Gymea Conference President, Frank Tierney

**My name is Andrew & I have been a resident of the Sutherland shire for the last 43 years. I would really like to share the experiences I've had with St Vincent de Paul from approximately as early as 1995 & as late as March 2023.**

My life has well & truly been up & down, to say the least, in my 53yrs. A lot of those up's & down's are of my own doing & some big, important times that hard times has befallen upon me, were not of my own doing, but life is rolling on by, on its terms.

I'm not ungrateful for making it this far & I assure you that there've been numerous times I've been so down & out I've hoped that my next drink, my next stupid act, will give me hope that tomorrow it'll all be over! and tomorrow I won't wake up & there'll be no more problems.

There has been countless times over these last few decades where I've had nothing & no way to feed myself, (& during the '90's, a wife & 3 children under 10yrs old included), that I've been dumbfounded & with nowhere to turn, no one to ask for a helping hand.

At those times I've picked up the phone & called the St Vincent de Paul Sutherland Office who have always passed on my information & a brief description of the situation, ie: what kind of trouble are you facing & what is the main area we can assist in, food, bills, clothes etc.

Always, within 3 days at the worst, a couple of kind, volunteering, caregiving members of St Vincent de Paul come to your door. Of the approx. 2 dozen times that I've called, never has anyone said that they don't have the time or they're too busy to get to me this week.

The conference has always greeted me with a big smile, open hand & heart, an open ear, multiple kind words, & have always had as much time as needed to hear what's happening in my life.

Just that small bit of attention and care makes me feel as though I'm part of something, a part of our community. These few words & a visit from some strangers who treat me like I am someone, have indeed saved my life.

My life has been saved by people that want nothing more than just to help me and for me to help myself. There should be some type of award for what the volunteers do to connect & help our fellow neighbours.

St Vincent de Paul members bring the word, the love & the confidence that God puts in their lives & openly, (but not forcefully), share His word & help you to understand why His son came to us & they share the love & the charity that His son gave us, so that we might understand better. I've always taken comfort with the word the St Vincent de Paul Gymea conference brings.

They never judge and have no expectations whatsoever. They are just happy to help when I'm down & out & need some human touch/contact in my life.

But they do more than that. They are actually doers, when you're in a bad spot, when your down & out. They have always been there to help get me out of a bind, whether it be food or a utility bill, clothing or even just some plain old company. St Vincent de Paul have always been there & not just been there, but actively wanting to do what they say, to come into a bad situation & do all they can to help alleviate the burden that that person or family are experiencing.

In the almost 30 years that I've had contact with St Vincent de Paul, I never had reason to be afraid to ask for help. Without their help I'm sure that I would be way, way behind where I am today. They have literally stopped me & saved the local community from me doing silly things, to gain what I need, to stop the powers that be, from turning my power off, so my kids could go on school excursions with the rest of friends, they've stopped the hunger pains from screaming & made it possible to get through the next week without causing misery to some other poor, hard-working person.



*Continued next page*

I must make a particular mention of the help that St Vincent de Paul has helped me, especially over these last few months.

3 years ago, I was accused of something which was not true, & this has now been proven over time, but because of the circumstances then, I was forced out of my long-term residence & ended up being incarcerated and 3yrs of limbo & couch surfing.

At the end of January 2023, I was finally housed in a unit with a long-term lease & a rent amount I could manage. It was ideally situated close to all amenities; public transport & Miranda Fair 3 stops away on the train. Because I'd been a nomad for almost the last 3yrs, I only had my clothes, my dog & a few bits & pieces that I could manage to carry around or pack up without making it too difficult to get to my next couch.

Come February 2023, it could not come quick enough and time to move in, but I had nothing but what I've just mentioned. I had a dog to look after (& he's 19yrs old, so needs a lot of attention). I basically needed a lot. I had not been in contact with St Vincent de Paul for years and at this time, I was truly in a spot of bother would appreciate any help I might be able to get.

I rang the Support Centre and then Frank contacted me. I gave him a very brief description of my situation & if he had the time, would he be able to drop by.

'Of course, he said, we will see you within the next day or two'.

True to his word, Frank & Pete came by one afternoon & we all sat down for a chat. I explained to Frank & Pete the drama I'd gone through these last few years & the dilemma that I was now in.

My dilemma was, outright, that I had nothing, I needed anything & everything, please Frank, what can you do to help me out with? Frank & Pete took a quick look around & they could see. they said, 'Well it looks as though you pretty much need everything!'.

'Yes', I said, I am really on skid row. I was dumbfounded with what he said next.

'Well mate, it looks as though you need a fridge, a washing machine, a vacuum, a bed base, some bed linen, a couple bedside lamps, a couch, armchair, a microwave & some curtains. wow, 'Yes', I said, 'Yes mate, I need it all, but that's too much to ask for'.

'Never fear', was their response, 'you just leave it with us & we'll be in touch real soon'. Frank asked, '& how are you off for food Andrew, you must also need some of that too?'.

'Yes', I said.

'I'll take care of it, never fear', was his response. St Vincent de Paul, Gynea Conference came through for me & literally saved me once again from doing anything silly, in desperation & boy did they come through.

I was bewildered, I was overwhelmed, I just could not believe the generosity, the kindness that was being shown to me & I was humbled & beyond words. I am so grateful.

They provided ALL of the items that I needed to get settled in & helped to make my unit feel something like a home, a place I can be proud of. With the generosity that St Vincent de Paul has yet again shown me, inspires me to do the same, to pay it forward. They have helped me see the good in people. In this world gone crazy, it's good to know that there's real people out there that are more than willing to help people like me.

**Do you know what the most important thing about all of this? It is that this is all happening in our backyard, not Europe or Africa, but in our own neighbourhood, our own Sutherland Shire, locals helping locals.**

**This is the heart of charity, helping your neighbours first, then fanning out from there. I can tell you it has inspired me to give an extra helping hand to the person struggling through life, right in front of my eyes.**

I think it's important that we include helping our literal neighbour before going offshore.

GOD bless the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**Andrew**



## Conference News

# April 23: 190th anniversary of the founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Council General International



**Congratulations to all our members throughout the world!**

France, April 23rd, 1833; A group of young university students, faced with social inequalities and injustices, decided to take action in the hope of changing the world. To this end, the group of friends who wish to share their faith and translate it into action found the first "Conference of Charity"

Prayer, friendship and action come together to visit the Mouffetard district, one of the poorest of Paris. It was a Daughter of Charity, Sister Rosalie Rendu, who accompanied and guided them, instructing them in the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul.

In 1834, the Conferences took the saint as their patron saint and dedicated themselves to the Immaculate Virgin Mary. The following year the first Regulations were published and in 1839 the International General Council was constituted. Today, we have 800,000 members who participate in 48,000 Conferences in 153 territories (and growing), helping 30 million people a year. The Council General International, inspired by the legacy of our seven founders, congratulates all our members around the world on the 190th anniversary of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.





## Vinnies Support Centre News

### NORTHERN SUBURBS

Our volunteers and members supported a local family to access safe and affordable housing and today we received this 🥰 Incredibly proud of our team here at Vinnies Northern Suburbs and all they do towards making a difference in our community 💙🐱



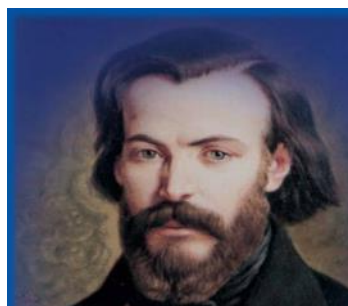
### Bankstown Vinnies Support Centre “Reconnect Day”, 18 October 2023

The purpose of the Reconnect Day is to respectfully promote and engage our community with the services provided by Bankstown Vinnies Support Centre. Our local community is culturally rich and linguistically diverse. In addition, the Reconnect Day allows for networking across Bankstown VSC network, with Members, volunteers, local agencies, Vinnies Support Centre Coordinators from the adjoining areas of Auburn and Hurstville, and Metro Schools Engagement Officer.

The event was well attended by the community with approximately 120 -130 people visiting the site during the period 10.00am-2.00pm. Tables were set up outside the Bankstown VSC and boxes were brought out progressively over that time to ensure that everyone was given an equal opportunity to select items. Items at Bankstown BVSC were prepared and sorted including food hampers, boxes of toys and children’s stationery items, boxes of toiletries, biscuit packs, and snack food packs. Items donated from the Vinnies Winter Appeal were made available to clients, including blankets, beanies, scarfs, slippers and socks.

The Reconnect Day allowed for items that would not have been traditionally distributed to clients to be made available to the local community, this included cosmetics, handbags, books, and picture frames.

<< Program Management & Reporting team, Metro Schools Engagement Officer, College & School representatives, Salvation Army, Regional Director, Support Centre Coordinator and Centre



*Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring over books or in discussions with politicians, but by visiting ... where they live,....*



## It's Reflection and Celebration time across Regional Councils

### St Vincent de Paul FESTIVAL MASS

St George Regional Council,  
Sutherland Shire Regional Council &  
Kingsgrove / Bankstown Regional Council

Invite you to join us for our Annual Mass



**Main celebrant Bishop Terry Brady**

At St Joseph's Catholic Church  
Cnr Frederick and Rosa Streets, Oatley

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00pm

*Light refreshments will be served in the school hall after Mass.*

*Parking will be available.*

R.S.V.P  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Email: Sue.Vit@Vinnies.org.au  
John: Jtperkins@ozemail.com.au



*Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves.*

*The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning with an inalienable right to respect*

Blessed Frederic ozanama

### ***Reflection on our core works - St George Regional Council***

As Christmas is approaching, I look back from January this year and ask myself what have I achieved to make this a better place for the clients we assist.

We as many of our welfare offices, see the homelessness, domestic violence, rental and much more. Without the volunteers we have, donating their time, compassion and empathy, where would these people we assist be.

We have a lot to look forward to, a new sparkling renovated offices and a new coordinator named Hellison who has completed lots of training and we are all looking forward to welcoming him on board. I wish for all the people doing it tough that their lives will be brighter for the future.

We have lots of creative things we hope to achieve before the year ends. We are looking forward to having an open day to show this is the Vincentian spirit and we come with a warm smile and warm voice. We have this wonderful opportunity to make this a better place for everyone.

Our Festival Mass was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> September with Sutherland and Kingsgrove/ Bankstown Regional Councils at St Joseph's, Oatley which was also the Feast of St Vincent de Paul—a great day to celebrate.

**Sue Vit | President, St George -St George Regional Council Office**

# Who Pays the Price for a Society Divided?

## Rosalie Rendu Forum 2023

In the past year alone, the number of people reaching out to the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW for the first time has risen from one in four to one in three.

This stark surge in calls for assistance has been felt by people already doing it tough and others who have never needed to seek the support of charities prior to the current moment.

With interest rates hitting levels not seen for decades and inflation doing likewise, the increasing cost of living has been felt by everyone – however those with the least are being the hardest hit and have the least capacity to weather the blows.

As many people consider this crisis purely in economic terms, the 2023 Rosalie Rendu Forum sought to look further at the impact of the rising cost of living and its consequences on vulnerable members of the community – and on society as a whole – with the theme “Cost of Living: who pays the price for a society divided?”.

Taking place during Anti-Poverty Week, the annual event, named in recognition of Sister Rosalie Rendu, saw an acclaimed group of women come together at the University of Notre Dame’s Broadway Campus for the first in-person Rosalie Rendu Forum since 2019.

Following a Welcome to Country from Yvonne Weldon, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, in recognition of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and introduction from Yolanda Saiz (CEO St Vincent de Paul Society NSW), host Ashvini Ambihapahar (Regional Director St Vincent de Paul Society NSW) spoke on the theme before introducing a panel of five expert speakers.

Sister Carmel Hanson RSJ; Joanna Quilty (CEO NSW Council for Social Service); Dr Lisa Buxton (EO Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Sydney); Yumi Lee (CEO NSW Older Women’s Network); and Verity Firth (UTS Pro Vice-Chancellor for Social Justice and Inclusion) comprised the esteemed panel.

Sister Hanson delivered a spiritual reflection on the history of Sister Rosalie Rendu, who played an integral role in teaching Frederic Ozanam, who would go on to establish the Society of St Vincent de Paul, during the 18th century, “behind every great man is a greater woman.”

Issues raised during the course of the 90-minute discussion included the changing demographics of economic hardship, the ongoing disadvantage and poorer outcomes faced by First Nations, rates of older women experiencing homelessness, and the understanding of collective action as a means of addressing inequality.

*“We still have parts of Sydney and regional NSW where there are poverty rates for kids up around 40%. That is a shocking and astounding figure when we know that the lifetime impacts of growing up in poverty are real and that the life chances of these kids are going to be seriously curtailed because of that experience.” - **Joanna Quilty***

*“There is a need to move away from the continual deficit model of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander funding but also the approaches to our education, housing, health and wellbeing. [We need] to recognise Aboriginal ways of knowing and being, and develop place-based, strength-based approaches that encourage a strong sense of cultural identity and a sense of belonging.” - **Dr Lisa Buxton***

*“The demonisation of the poor continues to this day in how we talk about poverty. The homeless are homeless, let’s be clear about it, because there are not enough safe, accessible, affordable homes built to accommodate all of us in all our income brackets. The poor are also poor because the income support system is not fit for purpose and purposely keeps payment below the poverty line.” - **Yumi Lee***

*“In our society a lack of money means a lack of power; and the life experience of those facing disadvantage is often one that constantly reiterates to them that they do not have the agency to create change. Inequality forces disengagement and disengagement leads to social isolation. Social isolation worsens education outcomes and so the cycle continues.” - **Verity Firth***

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW would like to thank Sr Hanson, Ms Quilty, Dr Buxton, Ms Lee, Ms Firth, Ms Ambihapahar and the University of Notre Dame for their involvement in another tremendous Rosalie Rendu Forum.

**Rob Crosby, Communications Coordinator**





## The Society continues to walk together with First Nations people towards Reconciliation

In October, Australians voted on whether to recognise First Nations people in our Constitution through a Voice to Parliament. The referendum gave us the right to participate in a historic moment to shape a more just and compassionate Australia. After a difficult and divisive campaign, it is now time for a period of national reflection about how we can continue the path towards reconciliation with our First Nations peoples and what this outcome means for our nation.

The Society's longstanding support for the Uluru Statement of the Heart is a matter of social justice, not politics. First Nations people comprise about one-quarter of the people the Society works with and assists.

Their disadvantage is a result of years of injustice suffered from the beginning of colonisation. The Society's support for constitutional recognition of First Nations people through the Voice derives from, and is informed by, our Good Works of charity and justice.

As The Rule states, the Society helps the poor and disadvantaged speak for themselves. When they cannot, the Society must speak on behalf of those who are ignored. (I #7.5)

A grateful thank you to members, volunteers and employees who actively promoted, and continue to promote, the need for a fairer and better future in solidarity with our First Nations brothers and sisters. Over the course of the campaign, our leaders joined with other faith based organisations to meet with key First Nations leaders at a [Day of engagement at Parliament House](#). Open letters to Parliamentarians were sent as well as a meeting held with Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney.

Our Social Justice State Advisory Committee members promoted the Voice in their regions, including 'Walking for Yes' and organising information gatherings. We issued 380 plus Uluru resource kits to our conferences along with 230 information packs and posters to our retail stores. We also developed a suite of trusted [Uluru Statement From the Heart Resources](#). The Society's informed voice joined with First Nations people and a chorus of others, and we are proud to have walked together with them during the campaign.

The referendum outcome is not known at the time of writing this article, but whatever the result we must acknowledge and heal the deep divisions that have been exposed within our society if we are to move forward as a nation.

Church leaders have asked us to be kind to one another in the aftermath of the referendum, and foremost in our thoughts, words and deeds must be for our First Nations brothers and sisters who have been the subject of torrid debate.

Over the coming months and years, the Society will continue to work with First Nations people towards reconciliation and recognition. We will continue to listen to, and be guided by, them as to how we can move towards a better future – a future based on understanding, respect, and social justice.

**Jodi Denehy, Policy and Advocacy Team**



# DOING GOOD TOGETHER

*makes a difference*



*Be part of our social and affordable housing  
POD project, a partnership for good*

## Conference led community development

Amélie Housing seeks partners willing to support delivery of the NSW Social and Affordable Housing (SAHF) program. The program requires collaboration between the various arms of the Society to support safe engaged communities in Society owned housing developments.

**Our SAHF promise requires we fully utilise Amélie Housing staff, SVDP Support Services including Tailored Support and local Conferences to enhance the housing tenants' lived experience. (Strategic Directions 2015-22)**

Experience has shown that safe engaged neighbourhoods require broad community involvement and our Conferences can spearhead locally relevant engagement activities. This collaboration is the Point of Difference our wider network can offer those suffering housing stress. You are invited to be part of the POD Project. This could be an activity for new and experienced members.

Amélie Housing, with local Conference members, are conducting discussions to explore this unique collaboration. The POD projects sets us apart from other community housing providers. Share your thoughts and explore how we can formalise this vital point of difference.

**The POD Project** is a positive opportunity designed to provide companionship to our tenants. This is how we build safe engaged communities.

**Want to know more?**  
Contact: [POD@amelie.org.au](mailto:POD@amelie.org.au)

## Member Support for Compliance

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW is a committed registered child-safe organisation. So that we can meet this commitment, we have developed support for Members. The following compliances are required for Members, volunteers, and employees:

- NSW Working With Children Check (every 5 years)
- Police Check (every 3 years)
- Vinnies NSW Child Safe Familiarisation Training (every 2 years).

### Need assistance applying for your online Police Check?

Membership and Community Engagement staff across Metro Region attend some Vinnies Support Centres (VSCs) to assist Members apply for their online Police Checks.

Vinnies Support Centre Coordinators are also able to assist.

Members can simply RSVP to [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au) with name, time preferences, Conference for completing checks.

### Applying for Background Checks

- Instruction documents are available – just ask your Conference President or Member & Community Engagement Coordinator (MCEC) at [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au).

### Online Police Check

- Go to: <https://svdpmetroregion.nationalcrimecheck.com.au/>
- You'll be asked to enter a Site Code which is 'Sydney Arch'
- Results go to Vinnies. Once applied, advise your Membership and Community Engagement Coordinator.
- Your clearance number and expiry date will be added to your Society records.

### Working With Children's Check (WWCC)

- Go to <http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/>
- Once a new or renewed WWCC is received: Results go to you. Advise your President and MCEC of: WWCC number, expiry date and confirm your DOB.
- We use these details to verify and register you with The Office of Children's Guardian as a volunteer.
- Your WWCC clearance number and expiry date will be added to your Society records.

## Vinnies NSW Child Safe Familiarisation Training

Online- Vinnies Learning Centre: This has become most popular (and to also complete other Member courses). Instructions are available. Log in to your account: <https://vinnieslearningcentre.litmos.com.au/account/Login>

### Extra Support:

#### Face-to-Face training

These have been offered to Regional Councils and most have held sessions. At least 10 people are required. Presidents are kept updated and offered nearby opportunities for Members too.

#### Zoom sessions

As used previously during COVID, these Zoom sessions are becoming a popular way to complete Child Safe familiarisation Training. Sessions are being run regularly each week. Each session runs for 1.5 hours.

Contact your friendly MCEC Team at [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au) and we'll assist you in registering and attending a session of your choice.

**We're always happy to be of service!**





## SCHOOLS AND YOUTH NEWS

### Mini Vinnies Gathering 2023

The annual gathering of Mini Vinnies from Vinnies Metropolitan Region was a huge success this year, according to Schools Engagement Officer Roydon Ng and Schools and Youth Manager, Kate Conroy.

The Mini Vinnies Gathering is an encouraging opportunity to bring together the passion and enthusiasm of our youngest members across Sydney, Broken Bay, and Greater Western Sydney Central Council.

Students received both spiritual and social justice formation on the theme of choosing to be a helper. Interactive workshops for Vinnies Vans, Vinnies Support Centres, Disability/Inclusion and Recycling/Sustainability encourage the Mini Vinnies to act upon Catholic Social Teachings in their school communities and beyond.

Many students asked questions about how they could make a difference in choosing to be a helper. Such remarks showed incredible insight about issues such as homelessness and poverty, and ultimately encouraged their peers to also take action.

“Great to see various Vinnies Services coming together and our school communities made aware of how Vinnies assists,” says Roydon.

“The students received in depth learnings that Vinnies is much more than retail stores or Vinnies Vans. It is our hope that school communities not just the attending students will be blessed through participating in Mini Vinnies”.

Conference members from across the Central Councils were also invited to support and encourage the students. Feedback from the day included the students and teachers being excited about young people following through their commitment to social justice well into their adulthood.

Mini Vinnies empowers Primary School students to become advocates by putting Vinnies Values and their faith into action. It is a group of young people who get together to organise and talk about helping others in need within their school, local community and beyond.

We are grateful to Australian Catholic University, Strathfield for providing us with use of the facilities.





## SCHOOLS AND YOUTH NEWS

### School Social Justice Workshops

The Vinnies School Engagement Officers have been busy visiting many schools to facilitate our Vinnies Social Justice Workshops and strengthen our connections with the schools. Our workshops are designed to facilitate meaningful engagement in social justice issues and to provide opportunities for participants to put their faith into action. Workshops are targeted to all members of the school community - Primary or Secondary school students, teachers, staff and parents.

We deliver Social Justice Workshops on the following topics; Homelessness, Poverty & Cost of Living, Human Dignity, Migrants & Refugees and Recycling & Sustainability. All workshops include an introduction to the St Vincent de Paul Society, hands on activities to support Vinnies Conferences and Services and ways to provide ongoing support to the Society.



### Vinnies Young Adult Sleepouts

ACU held their first Winter Sleepout this year and what an amazing group of young people!

They had marshmallows by the bonfire, played games, and did trivia based on statistics of those sleeping rough in Australia. They smashed their goal of raising \$500, raising over \$800. Well done guys!



**Members and students from UNSW, Notre Dame University, UTS and Sydney University all come together to brave the cold and sleep rough for their 2023 Vinnies Sleepout, they have raised over \$4,300 in donations!**



## SHOP NEWS

### Metro South retail team Area Manager, Paula McCormack proudly shares!

In Sept some of our volunteers were recognised by The Centre for Volunteering for the Southern Sydney region.

We were in very good company with lots of other amazing organisations recognized and taking out the awards. We had people from Garie Surf Life Saving Club, Community She Shed, Gymea Community Aid and Information Service and 3Bridges Community Early Years Support Service as a small sample selection.

The following from Vinnies retail were acknowledged and I was delighted to be there to accept the certificates on behalf of the teams.

- Volunteer team from each Vinnies Retail team at Cronulla, Hurstville, Sutherland
- Volunteer Clare Budd from Caringbah store was there in person to accept her certificate (pictured) and Samantha Nimmet from Jannali store received a certificate but couldn't be there to accept.



Sutherland retail team celebrated long-standing team member Peter Molloy for his 20 years' service. Peter works in the driveway accepting donations and sorting them for the team to then price and take to the shop floor. He moves the large bales of clothing and assists wherever needed. He is a valued team member with a very sweet tooth so it was only fitting some cakes were arranged to celebrate him!

Photo: Liz, Ivy, Jeroen, Pete, Ben, Rona, Hala and Jen.



Sutherland retail team also celebrated in July, their financial year success being the highest turnover store in the state. I presented to the team what this means in terms of the financial support for the community. This resonated with everyone as it endorsed all the hard work they put in to making the retail environment a pleasurable and successful one for everyone. We are all here to support people in need and it's rewarding to know how much we in the retail space contribute to the services and support of people in the community.



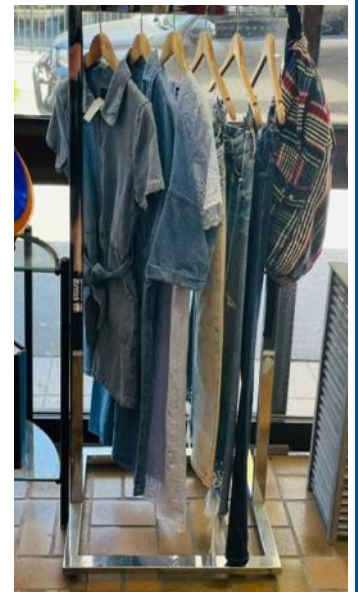
I share the efforts the retail teams achieve to make their stores look appealing and inviting for customers:

Barbie movie inspiration at Caringbah (pictured) and Cronulla,

Recycled bags at Gymea and Mortdale,

Art gallery Wall at Hurstville (pictured), Spring/Summer at Jannali,

Denim Week at Mascot,



Wear it Purple at Rockdale.

**WHAT A TEAM OF TEAMS!!!**



## SHOP NEWS cont

### **A TOUCHING MOMENT AT CROWS NEST STORE SHARED BY THE STORE MANAGER!**

I wanted to share a heart-warming moment from our Crows Nest Store. Over the weekend, an Aboriginal customer visited and had an incredibly emotional experience because of our window display.

Our volunteers, who were working that day, shared that other customers were also touched by her reaction.

Filled with excitement when she saw the flag up, she immediately called her friends and asked them to come to Crows Nest Vinnies to witness how we had represented Aboriginal culture with our window display.

This touching encounter reminds us of the power we have to create meaningful experiences for our customers and to make everybody in our community feel “seen”. It's a real testament to Vinnies' commitment to diversity and cultural sensitivity.

For me, as someone from a different culture, to hear this happened from my team and we made a member of our community feel this way, felt so great.

Let's continue to make our customers feel seen, valued, and celebrated by our amazing windows.

Thanks,  
Priyanka Rathore







NSW Vinnies Community Sleepouts shine the light on homelessness.



On Friday 25 August, community members across NSW participated in the Vinnies Community Sleepout to raise much needed awareness and funds for Vinnies' services and programs.

Over 290 participants braved the cold (and many others online for the formalities), raising over \$224,000 across five locations.

The services to benefit from the funds raised include Vinnies Nagle Centre and Quamby Support Services in Albury, Freeman House in Armidale, Fred's Place in Tweed heads, the Micah Hub in Wagga Wagga and the Western Sydney Vinnies Support Centres.

Thank you to Shantelle Lidden, Ana Suarez, Phil Donnan, Kim Kennedy, Ashleigh Machell and Janice Stokes for their tireless work in managing their Sleepouts.

Since its inception in 2018, community members have rallied together in this state-wide effort raising over \$1 million to help people in both Regional and Metro NSW.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported, participated in, donated to, and sponsored this year's NSW Vinnies Community Sleepout. Your contributions will have a significant impact at a time when so many people are doing it tough.



***Pictured: Janice Stokes (Manager, Metro Member and Community Engagement team), Vikram Petri (Greater Western Sydney Central Council President), Warren Kirby (MP- Riverstone), Ashvini Ambhaipahar (Regional Director, Operations Metropolitan)***



# CUSTOMISED VINNIES FUNDRAISING PAGES FOR CONFERENCES

**When using our Community  
Fundraising Portal, you can:**

- Update and personalise your page at any time
- Share your personalised URL or QR code for quick and easy online donations
- No cash handling required by your conference and all donors will receive a receipt automatically via email
- Saves you time and paperwork

**Please see here for other conference pages:**

**[fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au](https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au)**

If your Conference is interested in having a customised page or just want to have a chat about fundraising, please don't hesitate to reach out to Caroline on [caroline.casse@vinnies.org.au](mailto:caroline.casse@vinnies.org.au).



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*



# Vinnies NO INTEREST LOANS

**A safe way to borrow.  
An affordable alternative to credit.**

Borrow up to \$2000 for essential goods and services. Repay only what you borrow over a term that suits you\*.

\*limits apply

**NO FEES  
NO CHARGES  
no worries!**



## What is NILs?

No Interest Loans (NILs) provide individuals and families on low incomes with access to safe, fair, affordable credit with no fees or charges – ever.

## Am I eligible?

- ✓ I hold a Health Care Card / Pension Card OR earn less than \$70,000 before tax (\$100,000 for couples or people with dependants)
- ✓ I have lived at my current or previous address for at least 3 months\*  
\*exceptions can apply
- ✓ I can show that I can afford to repay the loan

## What can I use NILs for?

Loans are available up to \$2000 for essential goods and services including:

- Household Items
- Car Repairs & Registration
- Medical & Dental
- Technology
- Furniture
- Education

## Loans are not available for:

Bills, cash, debts, food, fines or penalties



Call : **1800 484 664**

Email: [nils@vinnies.org.au](mailto:nils@vinnies.org.au)

Visit: [vinnies.org.au/NILS](http://vinnies.org.au/NILS)







# Vinnies Assist—13 18 12

## WHAT IS VINNIES ASSIST?

Vinnies Assist provides information, referral pathways and resources that can be accessed by, our Members, Conferences, Volunteers, Staff and external stakeholders to obtain up to date information from across all the Society's 7 Directorates:

Office of the CEO, Vinnies Services, Finance, Membership, Volunteers and Regional Operations, Corporate Services, Commercial Operations, Fundraising and Communications.



## WHAT WE CAN PROVIDE:

Vinnies Assist aims to bridge the gap for members, volunteers, staff and the general public requiring up to date information, guidance and support to assist the People we Assist:

- Telephone support to meet immediate needs
- Access to crisis and short-term accommodation
- Immediate referral services to our Welfare services
- Support to access Vinnies Services across NSW
  - Homelessness & Housing
  - Disability & Inclusion Services
  - Health Services
- Support in accessing external services

The Vinnies Assist operational hours 8.30am - 4.30pm

## ACCESSING INFORMATION OR REFERRAL SERVICES

can be made by contacting **13 18 12** pressing **option 5**, emailing [vinnies@vinnies.org.au](mailto:vinnies@vinnies.org.au) for general information or to make a referral to our Vinnies Services or Member support services — [intake.officer@vinnies.org.au](mailto:intake.officer@vinnies.org.au).

## Member and Volunteer Recognition of Service

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW acknowledges the great contribution members and volunteers make to the work of the organisation and the people it serves.

It has a Member and Volunteer Recognition of Service (Badges and Certificates) procedure to recognise members and volunteers who have provided 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 or 65 years of service to the Society.

The five-yearly anniversary badges and certificates were introduced by State Council in 2021.

Central Council, Regional Council and Conference Presidents, supported by staff in regions, may also like to hold local events such as morning teas; arrange for special mentions at Mass; or organise a card and gift for members reaching significant milestones in their service.

## 2023/24—Upcoming Key Social Justice dates

These social Justice days provide a great opportunity to promote Vinnies awareness in your local community and to highlight both the good works and the policy advocacy of the Society.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 19 November 2023: World Day of the Poor  | 20 February: World Day of Social Justice              |
| 5 December: International Volunteer Day  | 21 March: National Harmony Day                        |
| 10 December: Human Rights Day  | 24 March: Palm Sunday March                           |
| 1 January 2024: World day of Peace   | 26 May: Sorry Day                                     |
| 26 January: Australia Day/ Survival Day  | 27 May - 3 June: National Reconciliation Week         |
| 8 February: World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking | 16 - 22 June: Refugee Week                            |
| 13 February: Anniversary of the Apology  | 7 - 14 July: NAIDOC Week                              |
|  | 5 - 11 August: Homelessness Week                      |
|  | 25 August: Social Justice Sunday                      |
|  | 1 September: World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation |

For suggested content to be added to your Parish bulletins, to talk at parish Masses, to run recruitment drives, and for ideas for your Conferences, please refer to the MAVS social justice page: <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/social->



## PIERRE EMMANUEL FÉLIX CLAVÉ

One of the 7 Founders of St Vincent de Paul Society  
Born 8 July 1811, died 9 November 1853



### ***Félix Clavé is one of the seven Founders of St Vincent de Paul Society and the least known of all.***

Pierre Emmanuel Félix Clavé was born on 8 July 1811 at Tarbes in the Hautes-Pyrenees, Southern France, 8 kilometers distance from Lourdes, a town that was still insignificant at the time. Guillaume Clavé was his father. From Félix letters we know that he had a brother and two sisters, the younger of the girls was Petronille. We don't know the names of the other siblings and the mother.

In 1830, the Clavé family moved to Paris and settled in the suburb of St. Philippe du Roule. Félix was 19 years old. In Paris he went to university, graduating in literary studies. He was then employed as correspondent for "La Revue de Deux Mondes".

Félix was a Catholic, but during his studies at the university, he joined a movement which was popular at that time, the "Saint Simonians" which was a sort of socialist and anti-Catholic movement.

At the university, Félix Clavé had the chance to encounter Frederic Ozanam, who was animated by strong faith. The encounter evolved into a friendship. Ozanam helped the friend Clavé to return to Catholicism and soon Félix joined the "Conference of History" run by Frederic Ozanam and Emmanuel Bailly.

It was together with Félix Clavé that the group of young men of 18 Rue du Petit Bourbon Saint Sulpice, decided to change the name and the scope of the "Conference of History" and call it "The Conference of Charity". The first meeting took place at 8 o'clock in the evening on 23 April 1833. The people present were: Emmanuel Bailly, Paul Lamache, Félix Clavé, Auguste le Taillandier, Jules Devaux, François Lallier and Frederic Ozanam.

At the meetings the members prayed for the poor, for benefactors and all were placed under the patronage of St Vincent de Paul. Jules Devaux, a student in medicine, was elected Treasurer of the group. The only revenues they got were the personal collection of the members made at the meetings.

The young volunteers yet felt the need for advice and guidance to get in touch with the poor. They dispatched Jules Devaux and Félix Clavé to Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Sister of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, well known in Paris. The nun welcomed the young men with kindness, she encouraged the society members, gave them invaluable advice, and a list of poor families to visit providing them with bread and meat tickets.

At the first anniversary of St Sulpice Conference's foundation, the number of adherents counted 100 units. It was necessary to create a second Conference at St Etienne du Mont.

In 1835 a call came to form a third Conference. President Emmanuel Bailly, with no hesitation, chose Félix Clavé to lead the new foundation. The New Conference was created in the Parisian suburb St. Philippe du Roule, where Félix resided, and took the name of Conference St Philippe du Roule.

In 1836, Clavé was sent to Algiers as a correspondent for "La Revue des Deux Mondes". Three years later Frederic Ozanam announced with joy in the letter dated 9 July 1839 that also in Algiers there was a Vincentian Conference. Clavé was the Founder of the Society in Algeria.

Early in 1840 Clavé returned to France and two months later he and his family left for Mexico. In 1845 Clavé did establish the first Vincentian Conference in Mexico.

In 1846 Clavé was sent to Rome by "La Revue des Deux Mondes" as a reporter for the election of the new Pope, Pius IX. Félix has written an interesting book on the personality of Pius IX.

Félix Clavé was portrayed as being the most delicate man of France, a noble and conscientious man with an absolute devotion to religion.

Félix Clavé is one of the honourable seven Founders of St Vincent de Paul Society. We all should be proud of him and thankful for what he has done for the Society.



## Community Connections – Does this interest your Conference?

**Is your Conference looking for ways to engage with your community, promote the Vinnies brand and let people know what your Conference is about?**

We have various options available to Conferences, all with support from your Member and Community Engagement team. Consider the following:

### Vinnies Market Stalls

If you have a local market that is regularly held, then a Vinnies stall may be just the thing needed to let your local community know about the various works of Vinnies.

Contact [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au) and we can liaise with the Market Organisers to arrange a date for the Vinnies stall to be held. We can provide flyers, merchandise, tables, tablecloths and a Vinnies marquee. We will assist with setup and pack down on the day. All you need to do is ensure a few Members (at least 2 at all times) are available for the duration of the markets to talk to the community about the good works that our wonderful Members and Services provide.

### Shopping Centre tables

One way for the community to get involved with Vinnies as well as learn about the works that Vinnies do, is through shopping centre tables. If your local Shopping Centre looks like a great location to host a Vinnies table for a day, please let your Member and Community Engagement Coordinator know. We will contact the Shopping Centre to request permission to setup a Vinnies table. On the day, we will provide tables, chairs, Vinnies tablecloth, merchandise and a list of groceries that the Community can donate to provide support to your local Vinnies Support Centres (VSC). As shoppers enter the Shopping Centre, they may like to take a slip of paper that contains a list of desired groceries for donation.

Shoppers can buy as little or as much as they like, and then leave their donated grocery item in a shopping trolley next to the Vinnies table. At the same time, they may like to have a look at some of the Vinnies flyers, utilise some of the merchandise, and

chat to a Vinnies Member. The Member and Community Engagement team will provide all materials to Members and liaise with the Shopping centre. All you need to provide is a few Members (at least 2 at all times) to be available for the duration of the day, and to drop off the donations to the closest VSC. Our team can be available on the day to assist if you prefer.

### Vinnies Awareness Campaign at Parishes

Are you considering a recruitment/information weekend at your local parish? These can be held at any time of the year, but there are significant social justice days in the national and international calendar that can provide that extra opportunity to highlight the good works of the Society. Approaching social justice events include National Volunteer Week (Monday 15 – Sunday 21 May).

If you would like to consider having a recruitment/information campaign at your local Parish at any time during the year, you can receive support and planning help from your Member and Community Engagement team. Notices can be provided for inclusion in Parish bulletins in the lead up to the Vinnies weekend, and on the weekend itself, suggested speaking notes can be provided to a Vinnies Member to speak at the Masses, a Vinnies table can be setup with flyers, information packs and membership application forms.

Parishioners will have an opportunity to meet with Conference Members before and after Masses to ask questions and explore Vinnies as an opportunity for them to get involved.

### Parish or School Fetes

Vinnies Marquee, flyers and merchandise can be available for your local school fetes – a wonderful way to let the parents and staff of your schools know about Vinnies. Please contact your Member and Community Engagement Coordinator.

### Using the MAVS social justice updates

Take the opportunity to speak about Vinnies at Mass. Member speaking notes, bulletin summaries and ideas for action on key days for social justice are regularly added to MAVS and can be found at <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/social-justice/>.





## HAVE ANY OF YOUR DETAILS CHANGED RECENTLY?

It's vital we keep updated data on all of members, so if you have changed any of the following, please let us know:



**Address**



**Phone number**



**Email address**



**Conference**



**Membership status**



**Changes to name**

### Reminder to Members

We are constantly updating our records in the Society People system. It is important that Vinnies has your most recent and current details, so that we can advise you of any Society news, changes, etc.

Have you changed any of the following recently?

- phone number and email address
- membership status and Conference
- address
- changes to first/last name

Have you left the Society and are still receiving information?

Please let us know by contacting your Member and Community Engagement Coordinator at:

[MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### MATTHEW TALBOT HOSTEL OZANAM LEARNING CENTRE

Calling all Members and Volunteers. The Matthew Talbot Hostel and Ozanam Learning Centre are seeking your support in their good works assisting the homeless and vulnerable people of Sydney.

The three types of roles available are:

#### Community Support Volunteer—Ozanam Learning Centre (weekdays 10am-4pm)

- Greeting and assisting all who visit the Centre
- Handling phone enquiries and providing administrative support

#### Dining Room Attendant—Matthew Talbot Hostel (weekends only)

- Capacity to lift e.g. chairs onto tables, trays of cutlery
- Helping to set, clear and clean tables

#### Kitchen Support Attendant—Matthew Talbot Hostel (weekends only)

- Assisting in preparing, serving and clearing tea service
- Assisting with vegetable preparations

If you are interested in lending a hand and would like to find out more, please contact the Volunteer Engagement Coordinator—Metro, Christopher Stevens at

[Christopher.Stevens@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Christopher.Stevens@vinnies.org.au)

## THANK YOU

### MAVS Platform

Have you visited the Member and Volunteer Support website?

This site exists to share resources, news, contacts, and events with our members and volunteers. We want to provide members and volunteers with the tools, information and resources that will assist you in your service.

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/home/>

We really want to know what you like and want in the Member and Volunteer online resources platform. Sydney Central Council has its own page:

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/conferences/sydney-central-council/>

For requested updates, please email [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au)

There are also lots of other updates happening on MAVS which you can check in on anytime here:

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/mavs-latest-updates/>