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FEBRUARY 2023 • Edition 2

## Welcome to the second edition of our volunteer newsletter!

Welcome to the second edition of our volunteer newsletter, *Volunteering at Vinnies*, which is especially for you, our St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers in services and programs.

In this edition, we share the results of our Member & Volunteer Survey 2022 and provide an update on the action we're taking to improve our engagement programs. We ask for your help in raising Vinnies' voice on housing justice as the NSW election approaches in March. Plus, we celebrate the opening of the first inner-Sydney Vinnies shop in ten years.

This month, Volunteering Australia launched its *National Strategy for Volunteering*. The strategy puts volunteering at the heart of Australian communities and emphasises the importance of inclusivity and accessibility as we work together to recognise, represent and celebrate diversity within our volunteer workforce and broader society.

In our second edition, we continue to recognise the contributions of you, our valued volunteers. We invite you to participate in future editions of *Volunteering at Vinnies* so that your voice is represented. Furthermore, we encourage you to reach out to the team at [volunteers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:volunteers@vinnies.org.au) if you would like to chat further around membership opportunities or additional pathways for engagement at Vinnies.

We hope you enjoy this edition.



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

### Vinnies call for Housing Justice

The St Vincent de Paul Society can only be effective in assisting the most vulnerable individuals and families in our communities with the great support of every Vinnies volunteer. Your contribution makes all the difference when people are going through tough times.

The NSW Election, to be held on March 25, is fast approaching. This is the opportunity to raise our voice for housing justice – to remind all politicians and candidates about the desperate circumstances a growing number of people we assist are facing.

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## WHAT'S NEW



Vinnies opens first new inner-Sydney shop in 10 years as the city welcomes World Pride

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## National Strategy for Volunteering 2023-2033

Volunteering Australia launches 10 year National Strategy with a focus on inclusivity

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You're the Voice! The results of our Member & Volunteer Survey 2022

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## VOLUNTEER NEWS



### **Homeless: Hidden in Plain Sight - Vinnies volunteer donates book proceeds**

Livingston Armytage is many things – he’s a human rights lawyer, an expert photographer, and a volunteer at the St Vincent de Paul Society’s Matthew Talbot Hostel in Sydney.

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### **New volunteer gets Creative Space moving**

Anthony Patruno may be one of Creative Space Southern Highlands’ newest volunteers but he is no stranger to Vinnies’ good works.

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### **Meet Lorna Lynch, Redfern Support Centre Volunteer**

Lorna Lynch has volunteered at Vinnies Support Centre in Redfern for over 10 years. What motivates Lorna to give so generously of her time to Vinnies?

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### **Volunteers as leaders: Mario Dato shares his leatherwork skills**

Mario Dato is a wonderful asset to the St. Vincent de Paul Society with his amazing range of skills and his generosity and willingness to support others.

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### From little things, good works grow: A member's story

After almost five decades of service as a member and president of the Lindfield conference, Eric Atkins has called time on his tenure with the Society, retiring at the age of 92.

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### Pathways to employment: Steven's story

Steven Harrison joined the Vinnies Support Centre in Wyong while studying for his Diploma in Community Services. Here, Steven describes how his experience at Vinnies NSW helped him to secure paid employment within the disability sector.

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### Retail volunteer, Steve Colwell, recognised as Dubbo 'Volunteer of the Month'

Steve Colwell, 57, is a volunteer at the Vinnies store in Dubbo. Steve was recently recognised by Dubbo News as their 'Volunteer of the Month'.

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### Meet our staff: Priscilla Leong, Acting Manager, Corporate Partnerships

The Member & Volunteer Survey results revealed that you wanted to know more about the work that we do at Vinnies NSW. In the first of our staff profile series, we meet Priscilla Leong, Acting Manager, Corporate Partnerships.

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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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