



Opportunities for Community Engagement.

Metro Region

1.6 ADAPTATION TO A CHANGING WORLD

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.

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Overview: 3

Opportunities Currently Available..... 4

- 1. **Community stalls and markets 4**
- 2. **Shopping Centre Information and Donation Table 6**
- 3. **Bunnings BBQs for Vinnies..... 8**
- 4. **Vinnies Table outside Masses or at School Fetes / Parish Recruitment Drive..... 9**
- 5. **Aged Care Visitation 11**
- 6. **Conversations Conferences: 13**
- 7. **Engaging Parish Community via Vinnies Social Justice actions 14**
- 8. **Social and Affordable Housing Social Engagements. 15**
- 9. **Group Mentoring Programs – refugees and migrants 16**
- 10. **Assisting people to transition from Vinnies Housing and Homelessness Services into the Community 17**
- 11. **Representing Vinnies in Community groups. 19**

Future opportunities under development: 20

- 12. **“Spotlight on Vinnies” – Vinnies engagement days..... 20**
- 13. **Assisting people to transition from the Correctional Services System into the Community. 22**
- 14. **Hospital Visitation 22**
- 15. **Prison visitation..... 22**
- 16. **Social Isolation..... 22**
- 17. **Driving Change..... 23**
- 18. **Promoting Heat Plans particularly for Western Sydney 23**
- 19. **Uluru ‘Walking Together’ workshop – for presenting to Vinnies members and members of the Community. 23**
- 20. **Establishing Community Gardens..... 23**



Overview:

In alignment with Membership Strategy, this 'Current Opportunities for Community Engagement' documents a range of existing activities and identifies new activities for Conference and the Community to be involved in.

It provides several opportunities to integrate new activities into existing conference work and also establish new activity-specific conferences.

This document is a work in progress and will evolve as new community engagement opportunities arise. The first version was produced in May 2021 and versions are updated to the MAVS website for member access for Broken Bay, Greater Western Sydney and Sydney Central Councils.

The opportunities within this document further align with the Membership Strategy in encouraging member involvement in all aspects of the work of the Society.

It provides opportunities for Vinnies members to keep the people we serve at the centre as members continue to:

- Seek out the vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalised
- Identify and respond to local need
- Share experiences and ideas with fellow Conference Members
- Offer companionship and empathy, especially through visitation
- Be actively involved in other Society initiatives, programs and services in their local area
- Promote self-sufficiency
- See Christ in those we serve and express and share gratitude with all we serve

These proposals provide for weekend opportunities for those who work and also the opportunity to create new activity-focussed Conferences.

Each of these proposals are offered to existing members and Conferences and where appropriate will be promoted via Catholic Parishes, via SEEK volunteering and to the Parents and Educators of our School networks and via Youth networks.



Opportunities Currently Available

1. Community stalls and markets

- **WHY?**

Community stalls and markets provide three main benefits:

- a) Inform the community of the multiple ways that Vinnies provides a hand up to the community. It has been reported that many members of the Community only recognize St Vincent de Paul through the Retail outlets.
- b) Connect with community members who may need a hand up but are unaware of how Vinnies can assist.
- c) Recruitment opportunity for community members who may like to volunteer for, or join Vinnies.

- **WHO?**

- Community engagement co-ordinators will bring the Vinnies marquee and all material to the event as required and assist with setup and pack-down.
- Members – need to assist with setup and pack-down. Be present on the stall for the duration of the day – generally 3 per shift. 10 members required to be available for the day.
- Vinnies Youth and Schools – invited to join the table.
- Volunteers – invited to join the table.

- **WHAT?**

People on a Vinnies stall will have banners, flyers and merchandise available for the community. Some Vinnies T-Shirts are available for loan on the day of the stall. A Vinnies marquee is available for booking within Metro region.

Flyers are available for:

- Members
- Vinnies Metro
- Youth
- Social Justice
- Support Centres
- Assist a student
- Volunteers
- Amelie Housing
- No Interest Loans

Merchandise for give-away.

- Temporary tattoo stickers – ‘Give Hope’
- Temporary tattoo stickers – ‘Vinnies Logo’
- St Vincent de Paul Society bookmarks
- Vinnies pens
- Vinnies Assist magnets



Suggestions for members/volunteers to take along:

- Fruit can be popular as a give-away when people are browsing past the stall.
- Some councils or event organisers do not allow bottled water, however if it is permitted, this is also popular.

Donation buckets could be available at the side of the stall for any community members wishing to make a donation, however as the purpose of the stall is to inform the community and build a relationship with the community, it is helpful to be aware that obvious fundraising can cause some people to give the stall a wide berth. In addition, some applications for a stall have different conditions if the intention of hosting the stall is fundraising, rather than giving back to the community or informing the community.

Members, staff and volunteers on the stall can utilize the flyers to speak to the community about Vinnies works, ways Vinnies can assist the community, and volunteering or becoming a member of Vinnies.

• **WHERE?**

Please contact your member and community engagement coordinator (MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au) if you are interested in requesting a Vinnies stall at your local markets. The member and community engagement coordinator will contact the organiser of the market and depending on the wait list and cost of hosting a stall, will engage with the organiser to have a regular stall or one-off Vinnies stall.

Many markets are organized by local government councils, and applications need to be submitted to request a stall. The MetroMember team monitor local government websites looking for community events at which Vinnies could apply to have a stall.

• **WHEN?**

Options appear to be monthly; bi-monthly; or one-off depending on the event organiser. Weekend stalls preferable.
Is there a desire for mid-week stalls (pending confirmation of availability)?
Particular events such as Seniors Week, NAIDOC week, Retirement expos etc.

• **NEXT STEPS**

For regions interested in hosting a Vinnies Community Stall at a local markets:

- Confirm sufficient interest from member to attend the stall (estimating at least 10 required over a roster covering the day)
- Identify the market where you would like to host the stall.
- Contact MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au with your preferences and your region/conference.
- Alternatively, the Metro team will contact a Regional President when a local government event is planned that Vinnies could attend as an exhibitor/stall holder.



2. Shopping Centre Information and Donation Table

- **WHY**

Benefits to hosting an information table at a shopping centre:

- a) It's an opportunity to inform the community of the multiple ways that Vinnies provides a hand up to the community. Vinnies is about more than Retail stores.
- b) Connect with community members who may need a hand up but are unaware of how Vinnies can assist.
- c) Recruitment opportunity for community members who may like to volunteer for, or join, Vinnies.
- d) Collect food or toiletry donations for the local Vinnies Support Centre. This gives the community a sense of 'giving back' without having to make a cash donation and informs the community of where their donations go and why.

- **WHO**

- Community engagement co-ords will provide materials prior to the event and liaise with the shopping centre. If required, the coordinators may attend on the day to assist with setup.
- Members to be in attendance for the duration of the event. A minimum of 2 Vinnies representatives need to be in attendance at all times.
- Vinnies Youth and Schools – invited to join the table.
- Volunteers – invited to join the table.
- In collaboration with local club, eg Lions or Rotary
- SEEK?? TBC

The event could also be publicized through the local parishes and school community to request their support in the donation drive.

- **WHAT**

- Banners, table, flyers, printed lists of requested food items or toiletries to hand out to shoppers.
- Some Vinnies T-Shirts are available for loan on the day of the stall.
- Member and Community Engagement Coordinator will provide the items above.

Flyers are available for:

- Members
- Vinnies Metro
- Youth
- Social Justice
- Support Centres
- Assist a student
- Volunteers
- Amelie Housing
- Homelessness Services (TBC)
- No Interest Loans



List of requested food items:

- As part of planning the event, the member and community engagement coordinator will confirm with the Conference President or the local Vinnies Support Centre Coordinator, the list of food items and toiletries most in demand in the area.
Eg, Brown rice; nappies; baked beans etc...
- Lists of the required items will be made available, for Conference members to hand out to community members as they enter the Shopping Centre. Donations can be collected in a shopping trolley at the Vinnies table as community members exit the centre.

Members, staff and volunteers at the table can utilize the flyers to speak to the community about Vinnies works, the ways in which Vinnies can assist the community, and volunteering or becoming a member of Vinnies.

- **WHERE**

Once Conference Presidents have identified a shopping centre to be approached and have confirmed several Conference Members that will attend and take part in a Vinnies table, please contact your Member and Community Engagement Coordinator (MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au). The Member and Community Engagement Coordinator will contact the shopping centre to determine if this can be arranged and if so, will liaise with the shopping centre and the Conference President.

- **WHEN**

On request

- **NEXT STEPS**

For Conference interested in hosting a Vinnies table at a local shopping centre:

- Please confirm sufficient interest from member to attend the table (estimating at least 5 required)
- Identify the shopping centre and area where you would like to host the table.
- Contact MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au with your preferences and your region/conference.



3. Bunnings BBQs for Vinnies

- **WHY**

- Connect with community members who may need a hand up but are unaware of how Vinnies can assist (via a Vinnies Assist poster on display)
- Recruitment opportunity for community members who may like to volunteer for, or join, Vinnies.
- An opportunity for Vinnies members, youth and volunteers to be more engaged.
- Fundraising targets have not been met. A great opportunity to fundraise for a particular program or region (other regions report \$2,000 earnings from each Bunnings BBQ day).

- **WHO**

- Metro Sydney has two Bunnings BBQ kits (MaryMusolino@vinnies.org.au and Janice.Stokes@vinnies.org.au).
- Members and Volunteers requested to be in attendance for the duration of the event. A minimum of 3-5 Vinnies representatives need to be in attendance at all times.
- Bunnings BBQ roster link:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Rrn8C9POB2fdNFYMWm4lhq9msosZkPeaYaBJuYXhKOk/edit>
- Purchases required the day prior to the BBQ (sausages, onions, drinks and bread rolls)

- **WHAT**

- Kits contain eftpos terminals; aprons; utensils; tubs; cash box; signs;
- Volunteers need Vinnies caps and t-shirts.
- Authority to fundraise letter required from Vinnies fundraising team.

- **WHERE**

Once Conference Presidents have identified a Bunnings centre to be approached and have confirmed several Conference Members that will attend on the day, please contact your Member and Community Engagement Coordinator (MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au).

The Bunnings BBQ roster contains a table of all Bunnings Stores we have approached in the past, and who the 'usual' Vinnies contact is for that store. Please check this to ensure we do not approach the same Bunnings multiple times.

- **WHEN**

On request.

- **NEXT STEPS**

Find a Bunnings store; check that the store is not already listed on the roster page; the Member and Community Engagement Coordinator will contact the Activities organiser at the Bunnings store to request a BBQ date. Once confirmed, the Conference will arrange to collect the Bunnings Kits and plan the BBQ.



4. Vinnies Table outside Masses or at School Fetes / Parish Recruitment Drive

- **WHY**

Benefits to hosting an information table after Mass or at local school fetes:

- a) It's another opportunity to inform the Parish and School community of the multiple ways that Vinnies provides a hand up to the community.
- b) Connect with the Parish and School community members who may need a hand up but are unaware of how Vinnies can assist.
- c) Recruitment opportunity for Parish and School community members who may like to volunteer for, or join, Vinnies.

- **WHO**

- Community engagement coordinators will provide materials prior to the event and liaise with the Member, Parish or School contact. If required, the coordinators may attend on the day to assist with setup.
- Members to be in attendance for the duration of the event.
- Vinnies Youth and Schools – invited to join the table.
- Volunteers – invited to join the table.

The event could also be publicized through the local parishes and schools.

- **WHAT**

- Banners, table, flyers, marketing material, temporary tatoos, membership application forms.
- Vinnies T-Shirts are available for loan on the day of those attending the Vinnies table.
- Member and Community Engagement Coordinator will provide the items above.
- There is a 4 week Parish Recruitment program available, that provides weekly bulletin notices for Masses in the 4 weeks leading up to the 'Vinnies weekend' and notices for the Schools (via Schools team).

At this final weekend, speaking notes can be provided to Vinnies members to speak after Mass, this Vinnies table provided outside Masses and an associated 'Vinnies Information' session to be held for those who are interested in joining.

Flyers are available for:

- Members
- Vinnies Metro
- Youth
- Social Justice
- Support Centres
- Assist a student
- Volunteers
- Amelie Housing
- No Interest Loans



Members, staff and volunteers at the table can utilize the flyers to speak to the community about Vinnies works, the ways in which Vinnies can assist the community, and volunteering or becoming a member of Vinnies.

- **WHERE**

Members local parishes or school.

- **WHEN**

On request

- **NEXT STEPS**

Confirm you have Conference Members that would be interested in taking part in a Vinnies information table.

For Conferences interested in hosting a Vinnies table at a local school event:

- Please contact your Vinnies Schools Coordinator or MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au. We can submit a request to the school for a Vinnies marquee or stall to be at the event and request for Vinnies Schools and Youth to be in attendance if possible.

For Conferences interested in hosting a Vinnies table after Mass:

- Member can confirm with their Parish Priest that a Vinnies table is OK to be held on a particular date, or alternatively Member can contact MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au, for a Vinnies Community Engagement Coordinator to contact the Parish Priest.



5. Aged Care Visitation

- **WHY**

Up to 40% of aged care residents receive no visitors

Minister Ken Wyatt 2017

“Socially isolated people over 60 are 49% more likely to die in the next 12 months than their socially-connected peers, and 64% more likely to develop dementia. “

2018 Australian Loneliness Report <https://psychweek.org.au/2018-archive/loneliness-study/>

“It’s found loneliness increases the risk of death more than such things as poor diet, obesity, alcohol consumption, and lack of exercise, and that it is as harmful as heavy smoking. “

Loneliness Kills <https://theconversation.com/loneliness-is-a-social-cancer-every-bit-as-alarming-as-cancer-itself-126741>

- **WHO**

- SEEK? TBC
- Conferences
 - Members would receive an induction at each of the facilities.
 - Members are required to have a police check – the existing Vinnies Police Check is sufficient.
 - Members would be requested to have a flu vaccination or an exemption if unable to have one.
 - Vinnies Members could possibly wear Vinnies caps, T-shirts or badges to identify themselves as Vinnies Members.
- Columbia Aged Care facility:
 - Chatswood – 90 beds – demographics of residents is Anglo/Japanese/Chinese
 - Marrickville – 50 beds – demographics of residents is predominantly Greek
 - Strathfield – 126 beds – demographics of residents is mainly Korean and Anglo.
- Community Visitors Scheme including Catholic Healthcare
15 facilities across Western Sydney including Emmaus Nursing Home Kemps Creek – 5

- **WHAT**

Columbia Aged Care programs:

- Community Visitor:
 - a volunteer would be assigned to a resident for regular (eg monthly) visits.
 - These would mainly be with residents that receive no or limited visits.
 - This could be as simple as reading a newspaper to the resident or looking through photo albums.
- Pet therapy:
 - There is no restriction on the sort of pets that could be brought to the centre.



- All pets would need to have their vaccination certificates or a letter from the vet.
- Music – involves volunteers playing the piano or guitar to entertain the residents.
- Computer workshops – on ipads or mobile phones.
- Reminiscing program – Volunteers bring historic pictures of town or places where some residents suffering dementia have lived. Look through the photos with the resident and talk of where they grew up.
- Armchair travel – looking at pictures of overseas locations. Reading about those locations.
- Carers and Kids (Trial at Chatswood required before rollout to other facilities).
 - Volunteers bring along their young ones (Pres-school, toddlers, babies) to spend time with the residents.
 - This would be hosted in a particular area of the facility.
 - Only those residents who would like to take part in this program would visit this area.
 - The facility could possibly provide muffins and poppers for the children.
 - This could involve the residents simply watching the children play and talking to the children.
 - Carers would bring their own games for the children – eg ‘knuckles’ or books.

Garrawarra / Caringbah Aged Care programs

- Accompany residents to Mass and Morning tea.
- **WHERE**
 - Columbia Aged Care Chatswood – 90 beds – demographics of residents is Anglo/Japanese/Chinese
 - Columbia Aged Care Marrickville – 50 beds – demographics of residents is predominantly Greek
 - Columbia Aged Care Strathfield – 126 beds – demographics of residents is mainly Korean and Anglo.
 - Garrawarra Centre – Waterfall.
- **WHEN**
 - Columbia Aged Care – ready now to accept volunteers.
 - Garrawarra – on hold.
- **NEXT STEPS**
 - Confirm if Members would like to attend Aged Care facilities on an individual basis, or as part of a group or roster. This may determine the type of programs that the facility asks us to be involved in.
 - Confirm which Aged Care facility outlet (currently, only Columbia outlet available) you would like to volunteer at, which program and available frequency.
 - Contact MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au with details. We will connect you with the contact at the facility and assist with arranging inductions and reviews.



6. Conversations Conferences:

- **WHY**

- a) To raise awareness amongst the community of the work St Vincent de Paul Society does.
- b) Possible recruitment opportunities for community members (particularly those from the CALD communities who speak English) who are interested in assisting other with English.
- c) To provide assistance to those who struggle with opportunities to practice or learn English.
- d) To provide social connection to those who may be socially isolated due to language barriers.

- **WHO**

- a) Those who are fluent in English : Vinnies members, or volunteers. Also an opportunity to advertise through school community, parish community and via SEEK volunteer (TBC).
- b) Those who would like to practice English and engage with others in the community.
- c) A Vinnies member to lead the group – arrange for certain topics at each session etc.

- **WHAT**

- a) A regular meeting (face to face or virtual) where people gather to practice speaking English.
- b) Each week a topic is selected. Prompting materials and worksheets are available on the internet.
- c) People meet up in a group (large or smaller groups) to discuss the chosen topic.
- d) An opportunity for supper for social engagement.

- **WHERE**

- a) This program exists at Chatswood “Conversations Conference”.
- b) Could possibly be held in a parish meeting room or Vinnies centre

- **WHEN**

- a) At a frequency that suits the Conference and attendees – weekly or fortnightly.

- **NEXT STEPS**

- a) Contact Member and Community Engagement team (metromembers@vinnies.org.au) for initial discussions.
- b) Ads to be posted on SEEK and via the schools teams.
- c) Notices to be sent out in Parish newsletters and Schools teams for people wanting to practice their English. Also sent to Local Government Community notice boards and other CALD community groups.



7. Engaging Parish Community via Vinnies Social Justice actions

- **WHY**
 - To raise awareness amongst the Parish community of the work St Vincent de Paul Society does in addressing Social Injustices.
 - Possible recruitment opportunities for Parishioners who are interested in taking action on various Social Justice issues or possibly join Vinnies Social Justice network.
- **WHO**
 - Conference Members who would like to speak to Parishioners from the pulpit during or at the close of Mass.
 - Conference Members who would like to submit a short paragraph regarding Vinnies in the Parish bulletin.
- **WHAT**
 - There are around 15 dates in the Social Justice calendar, which Vinnies addresses as part of their advocacy and day-to-day actions:
 - 26/01 - Survival Day / Australia Day
 - 20/02 – World Day of Social Justice
 - 21/03 - National Harmony Day
 - 15/5 - 21/5 - National Volunteer week.
 - 26/05 - National Sorry Day
 - 27/05 - 03/06 - Reconciliation Week.
 - 02/06 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
 - 02/06 - 09/6 NAIDOC week
 - 18/06 – 24/06 - Refugee Week
 - 20/06 - World Refugee Day
 - 27/08 – Social Justice Sunday
 - 24/09 - Migrant and Refugee Sunday
 - 10/10 – World Mental Health Day
 - 15/10 - 21/10 - Anti-Poverty week
 - 19/11 - World day of the poor
 - 05/12 International Volunteer Day
 - 10/12 – Human Rights Day
 - In the weeks leading up to these dates, several items are uploaded to the MAVS Social Justice page <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/social-justice/> under the heading “**Social Justice Diary 2023 – resources for Members**”
 - Members can utilize these resources to publish a small paragraph in the Parish bulletin, speak about Vinnies and the Social Justice date after Mass plus some suggested activities for their Conference to do.
 - Please check the above link for updated information prior to Social Justice dates.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

8. Social and Affordable Housing Social Engagements.

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/conferences/member-engagement-vinnies-tenants/>

Our Point of Difference Initiative Connects Vinnies Members with Amelie Housing Tenants to Help Make a Difference to their Lives.

Please contact POD@amelie.org.au if you would like to learn more



9. Group Mentoring Programs – refugees and migrants (CRISP)

- **WHY**
 - Possible recruitment opportunities for community members (particularly those from the CALD communities who speak English) who are interested in assisting refugees to settle in their area.
 - An opportunity for Vinnies members, youth and volunteers to be more engaged.
 - To assist a refugee household designated by UNHCR as in urgent need of resettlement in Australia.

- **WHO**
 - UNHCR / Australian Government / Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA)
 - Vinnies Members within a region.
 - Member & Community Engagement team to assist with setup.
 - Refugee household.

- **WHAT**
 - An opportunity exists for a new model of Conference to be established, utilising an existing program setup by Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia called CRISP “Community Refugee Integration and Support Pilot”.
 - Conferences, or members from a Region, combine to form a group of at least 5 people. There is an opportunity to utilise bequest funding and/or to fundraise, to provide the recommended budget of \$5K to \$25K.
 - This CRISP conference makes a 12 month commitment to assist a Refugee group to arrive in Australia and welcome them to the community.
 - Involves additional training through CRSA and a CRSA police check. Current WWCC is required.

- **WHERE**
 - Pilot is being run in Sutherland region and discussions are underway in Riverstone area.
 - Possibility to roll out to other regions pending outcome of pilot.

- **WHEN**
 - Sutherland CRISP conference is in progress now with Vinnies members and community members who also wish to be involved.
 - Riverstone proposal is being discussed with the Conference President.
 - Will be available for further roll-out estimated time of 6 months.

- **NEXT STEPS**
 - Review of Sutherland and Riverstone pilots before progressing with other regions.



10. Assisting people to transition from Vinnies Housing and Homelessness Services into the Community

- **WHY?**

- **Strategic objective:** Consider how our members can accompany the people we service in our social services. Members are effectively engaged in our social services.
- **Strategic objective:** Support and rejuvenate our Conference model.
- **Strategic objective:** Operate as 'One Society' and all of our people collaborate effectively.
- **Strategic objective:** Provide .. volunteering opportunities for people from diverse communities.
- **Strategic objective:** To build a strong public profile and brand recognition.
- To provide social connection and pastoral care to a person or family leaving a Vinnies Homelessness service, who is wanting to re-establish community connections

- **WHO?**

- Vinnies Members
- Member & Community Engagement Team
- Housing and Homelessness Case Workers (Metro)
- People we assist in Homelessness Service moving to the Community

- **WHAT?**

- Before a person or family leave a Vinnies Housing and Homelessness service, their case worker assesses the security of the housing that the person or family is moving to. For those who have secure housing; who have been assessed as having low level needs; and who want to be connected with the community through a Vinnies member, the case worker would refer that person or family to a Vinnies conference president.
- A Conference will need to be close to the new home of the person being assisted. The Conference will confirm if they have capacity and are willing and able to provide pastoral support to the person being assisted prior to any connection being made
- The Conference member(s) and the case worker will meet beforehand to discuss any possible needs of the person being assisted. The case worker will then introduce the person being assisted to the Conference member(s) in an informal meeting.
- Conferences will have the ongoing support of the case worker, particularly if they feel the need to report to the case worker that the person being assisted is not coping or is struggling in some way

- **WHERE?**

- The pilot will be held in the areas around Maroubra; Redfern; Waterloo; Strathfield; Ashfield; Fairfield.
- The pilot will focus on services : Marian Centre (Elsie's refuge) / Matt Talbot & Vincentian House.
- Upon successful completion of the pilot, this may be rolled out across Metro.



- **WHEN?**
 - Timeline is TBC. Currently pending approval from Regional Director and Central Council President to commence pilot.

- **NEXT STEPS?**
 - Proposal document to be approved by RD and CCP for Sydney Central Council.
 - Person being assisted to be nominated by Brett Macklin's team.



11. Representing Vinnies in Community groups.

- **WHY?**
 - **Strategic objective:** Support and rejuvenate our Conference model.
 - **Strategic objective:** Provide .. volunteering opportunities for people from diverse communities.
 - **Strategic objective:** To build a strong public profile and brand recognition.
 - To provide Vinnies input and assistance to groups advocating for change.
- **WHO?**
 - Vinnies Members
 - Advocacy and action groups:
 - Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation – Emerton
Homework help required.
 - Reconciliation 4 Western Sydney - Wentworthville
 - Sydney Alliance – Metro Sydney
 - Walking with Refugees (Parramatta Diocese) – meet bi-monthly
 - Hills Yarning – Norwest and online
Meetings - third Tuesdays of every second month
 - Parramatta
 - Interagencies – housing and homelessness; CALD;
- **WHAT?**
 - Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation have opportunities for volunteers to assist with homework help after school.
 - Reconciliation for Western Sydney meet regularly and advocate for Reconciliation with First Nations Peoples.
 - The Sydney Alliance operates in many regions across Sydney, with smaller local group advocating primarily for social and affordable housing; reconciliation and climate action.
 - Walking with Refugees is the Parramatta Catholic Diocese Social Justice group, and is made up of many NFPs and Community groups. Advocating for people seeking asylum and refugees.
 - Hills Yarning meet bi-monthly, via zoom or in person at Norwest, and advocate for Reconciliation.
 - BECAP – Blacktown Emerging Communities Access Program – run by Blacktown Council on welcoming refugees to the area.
 - Local Government councils hold several Interagency meetings, on housing and homelessness; refugees and people seeking asylum.
- **WHERE?**
 - Various locations across Metro Sydney.
- **WHEN?**
 - Groups are in progress now and meet at various times/days.
- **NEXT STEPS?**
 - Please contact MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au to identify groups in your area.



Future opportunities under development:

12. “Spotlight on Vinnies” – Vinnies engagement days.

- **WHY**

- To raise awareness within the community, of the various Vinnies activities and highlight the role of members and volunteers in each area.
- To increase Membership and volunteering through awareness raising.
- Provide Conference Members with an avenue to promote their work within the Community.
- To share with Vinnies people – members, volunteers and employees - the various works that goes on within Vinnies.
- Through educating the Community on all aspects of the Vinnies cycle, we can expect better quality donations and increased fundraising.
- **Strategic objective:** Build our public profile and advocate for reform of the structural causes of poverty. We will partner with the public... and private sectors in relation to both service provision and advocacy.
- **Strategic objective:** Provide opportunities for members to be engaged in our social services and other services.
- **Strategic objective:** Provide .. volunteering opportunities for people from diverse communities.
- **Strategic objective:** We operate as ‘One Society’ and all of our people collaborate effectively.
- **Strategic objective:** empower supporters to take action to advance priority campaigns.
- **Strategic objective:** seek opportunities to engage with and educate people about poverty and injustice.
- **Strategic objective:** To build a strong public profile and brand recognition.

- **WHO**

- Metro MCEC team
- Some Vinnies Support Centres
- Some Retail/Donation centres
- Vinnies Conference members and other volunteers
- Community Members and Organisations
- Various teams within Vinnies who want to know more about other areas.

- **WHAT**

- It is often heard that the community are not aware of the various services that Vinnies provides. This feedback has also been provided by people within Vinnies – members, volunteers and employees, with comments that it would be beneficial for Vinnies people to understand what other parts of Vinnies does.
- This program builds on the programs run previously in Coniston and Springwood, to provide a Vinnies experience to a group of up to 20 people, over a period of several hours. This would be held in various locations across Metro Sydney.



- It also provides an opportunity for members of the community to join Vinnies as a member or volunteer, once they see that many ways they can get involved.
- The 'cycle' that is reviewed in this program takes the attendees on a journey, from donations, to retail, to how this provides funds for the many ways Vinnies provides a hand up to those in need – homelessness services; disability and inclusion; Membership; support centres; vinnies van; social justice; Amelie housing. Each area focuses on the work of volunteers and members to highlight their essential contribution.
- Day experience from 9:30 to 2:30 with possibly an opportunity for small volunteering activity.

- **WHERE**
 - Vinnies Sutherland (donations/sorting/retail/VSC/re/CYCLE) - Paula McCormack
 - Auburn – Andrew Fraser
 - Brookvale – Andrew Fraser
 - Springwood – Sergio
 - Other - TBC

- **WHEN**
 - Preparations 60% complete
 - i. Presentation WIP.
 - ii. Agenda WIP
 - iii. Videos WIP
 - iv. Site visits WIP
 - v. Volunteering activities WIP
 - Pilot to be held with a couple of regions/conferences to test content.

- **NEXT STEPS**
 - Complete proposal
 - Finalise materials
 - Site visits to confirm venue appropriate
 - Confirmation from various stakeholders.



13. Assisting people to transition from the Correctional Services System into the Community.

Investigations commenced with

- Throughcare Jigsaw Group
- <https://www.volunteer.com.au/volunteering/186142/emergency-welfare-support-volunteer->
- Mates on the Move - waste recycling services run by Prisoners Aid NSW. (Lois)
- Brother Cyril – Assisting prisoners (exiting correctional services or residing in correctional services?) (email from Michael Want)
- Community Restorative Centre
- Parklea Correctional Centre
- Cobham Youth Justice Centre – visiting Youth here???

14. Hospital Visitation

Conferences already take part in this – particularly larger hospitals where families need to travel from regions into the city. Further investigation to be completed.

15. Prison visitation

Cobham Youth Justice Centre:

Parklea Correctional Centre

Other TBC

16. Social Isolation.

- WHY

“Socially isolated people over 60 are 49% more likely to die in the next 12 months than their socially-connected peers, and 64% more likely to develop dementia. ”

2018 Australian Loneliness Report <https://psychweek.org.au/2018-archive/loneliness-study/>

“It’s found loneliness increases the risk of death more than such things as poor diet, obesity, alcohol consumption, and lack of exercise, and that it is as harmful as heavy smoking. ”

Loneliness Kills <https://theconversation.com/loneliness-is-a-social-cancer-every-bit-as-alarming-as-cancer-itself-126741>



17. Driving Change

Ref: ADS

Previously progressed this with Vinnies – issue on resolving car insurance on a Vinnies vehicle if Vinnies Member providing driving supervision. TBC.

18. Promoting Heat Plans particularly for Western Sydney

References: <https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/prepare/heatwaves-and-hot-weather/>

19. Uluru ‘Walking Together’ workshop – for presenting to Vinnies members and members of the Community.

Completed Train-the-trainer workshop for ‘Walking Together’.

Need to assess if Members are interested in completing this training before preparing the workshop material.

20. Establishing Community Gardens

Community Garden - working with Royal Botanic Garden Sydney - they provide assistance on how to do this. Great for local food production as well as community engagement and social connection. Perhaps related to Amelie Housing?

Further investigation needed before providing information to Conferences in Metro.