



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

CHATSWOOD OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE IMPACT

2022 – 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

Dear John

I am delighted to share with you the latest 'Annual Report on Conference Impact' for your Conference. The sharing of these reports began in 2021 and received positive responses, resulting in the continuation of this initiative for 2023 and beyond.

The report showcases the impact your Conference has been able to make in the community through the good work of members whose efforts are greatly appreciated. As members carrying out the Vincentian ethos, you understand the importance of demonstrating a spirit of compassion, hope and love to people facing hardship. This Report quantifies the material impact your members have been able to make in the lives of the disadvantaged and also speaks to the emotional impact made in restoring hope and giving voice to those who have been marginalised. I trust and pray that this report inspires you to keep helping others to transform their lives.

With much gratitude

Paul Burton
STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I'm pleased to share this summary of the impact of the good works undertaken by Conferences in 2022-23, including information on the people we assisted and the ways in which we did this.

Despite the challenges faced in 2022-23, members of the Society made a tremendous impact to assist the most vulnerable members of our communities. 3939 members made 14,880 visits to homes, hospitals, aged care facilities and prisons to offer care and assistance across NSW. Members assisted 88,256 people and delivered \$13,656,509 worth of food, energy assistance and other cost-of-living relief.

Significantly, members acted as a light of hope for people who feel alone in the darkness of their hardship.

I look forward to working together as we make a greater impact for the people we assist through your good works as we strive to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Yolanda Saiz
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

YOUR GOOD WORKS

From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 members of **Chatswood Our Lady of Dolours Conference** assisted **34 people** and conducted **52 visits**.

WHO YOU ASSISTED

59% of people assisted were female

41% of people assisted were male

0% of people assistance identified with another gender identity

35% indicated that they were under housing stress

9% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

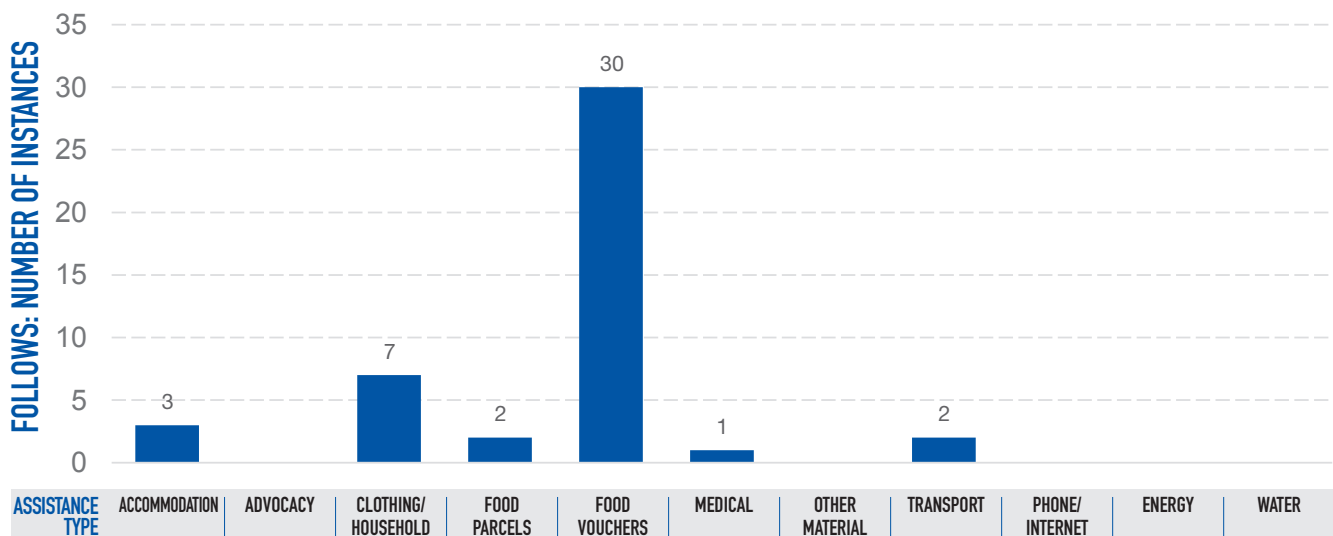
32% said they had a disability

9% said the main language they speak is a language other than English

Many of those you assisted had families and dependents who also benefitted from your support – this means you reached an additional **23 people**.

HOW YOU ASSISTED

THE MOST COMMON FORMS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED ARE AS FOLLOWS:



In total, **Chatswood Our Lady of Dolours Conference** spent **\$10,325** in client support and raised **\$10,949** to support these good works.

Please note: Information on assistance provided and funds raised comes from the Society's databases and is accurate to the best of our knowledge. At times, information in the databases may be incomplete, despite our best efforts.

CENTRAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

BROKEN BAY

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

When our Northern Beaches Regional President, Mick O'Farrell, suggested a visit to our Davidson Conference, we didn't realise he had a hidden agenda!

As Vincentians we don't seek any thanks or rewards for the work we do.

Imagine our surprise when Mick produced some Lifetime Service Certificates and medals for us. We have all been Vincentians for many years and have received more from the people we have

been privileged to visit and serve, than we have given.

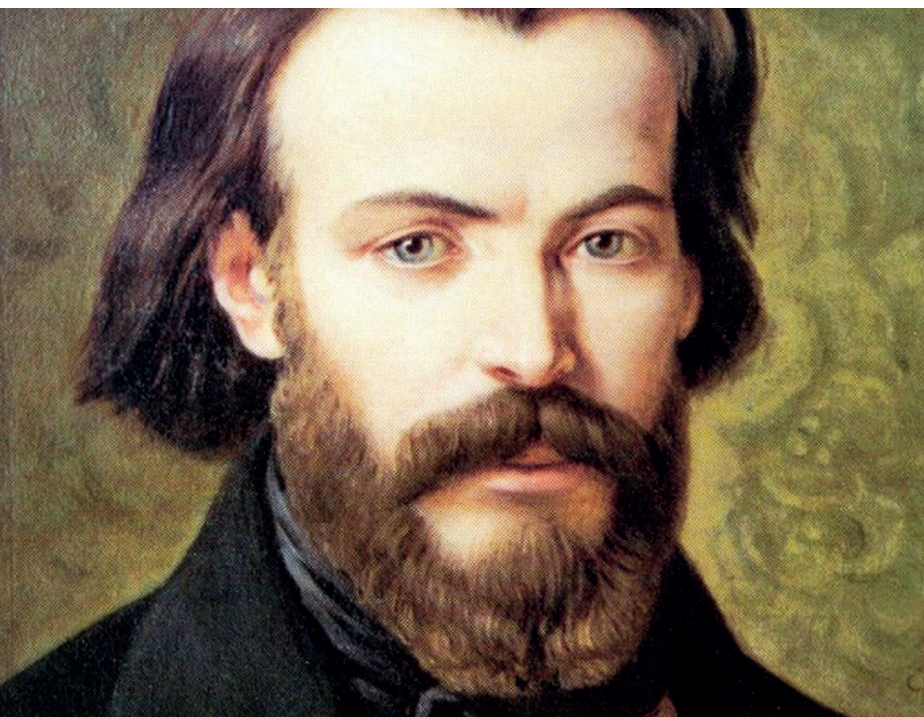
Our night was completed with a Conference dinner, joined by our priests, Fr Satheesh and Fr Joseph. A great fun night!! Doris Vander Straaten, Tony & Carmel Smith.

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On 2 September, Members attended the Spring Fair to bring the presence of Vinnies to the Chatswood community. The day was highly successful in that many members of the community approached the stall.

Chatswood Parish had three stalls set up, and we were kindly invited, participating alongside Catholic Care and the Chatswood Parish (including

someone from Legion of Mary taking petitions, and a mentor from Lifestyle English Conversation). How lucky we were to be in this stall.



**"IN MY LIFE I WANT TO
BECOME BETTER, AND
DO A LITTLE GOOD."**

**— Blessed Frederic Ozanam
Founder, St Vincent de Paul Society**



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MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2023

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

- ✦ Close to a third of respondents said that they are involved with the Society because the organisation has assisted them, or someone they know, in the past.
- ✦ They tell us that they feel strongly that the Society is ethical and that the main reason they joined the organisation was to make a difference in the community.
- ✦ More than three quarters of respondents say that members, volunteers and staff work well together, and that the Society's social justice resonates with them and their understanding of those we assist.
- ✦ They tell us that their Conference President is supportive, that their contribution to the Society gives them a feeling of accomplishment, and that they like the work they do.
- ✦ A majority of respondents say that the Society communicates effectively about what is happening for members and volunteers.

KEY STATS

- ✦ 93% say they like the kind of work or assistance they provide.
- ✦ 89% say they are involved with the Society to contribute and positively impact or make a difference to the community.
- ✦ 89% say their contribution to the Society gives them a feeling of personal accomplishment.