



# Newsletter

April 2023



A message from **Sam Crosby**

Executive Director for Membership, Volunteers and Regional Operations



Dear Friends,

It is with great regret that I write to inform you that Kate Lee is resigning from the Society.

Since joining as the Metro RD some 18 months ago, in one of the toughest jobs in the society (Regional Director, Metro), she has been a breath of fresh air and practicality.

She has overseen a massive growth in membership throughout her region ensuring that thousands more families' needs will be met in the coming years.

She has overseen the growth and extension of the vans' services, and the opening of Vinnies Support Centres that had been stalled and stymied for years.

She was a passionate advocate for her staff, and I know they will miss her leadership.

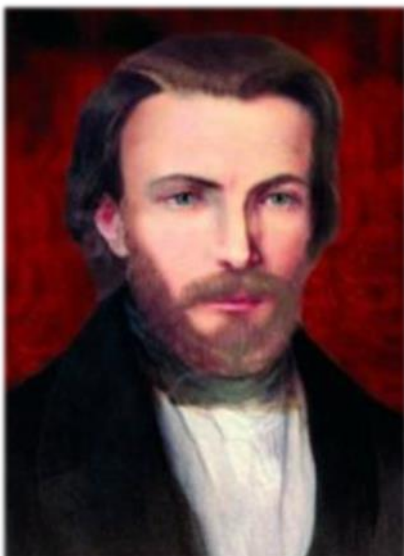
I have watched in appreciation and sincere respect as, with unflinching focus, she has remained committed to the people we assist and lived up to the highest Vincentian standards.

She is leaving the society to take up a senior role in the NSW Government. Please join me in thanking Kate for her service and wishing her well in the future.

Regards

Sam

**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.



A message from

# Paul Burton and Richard Stewart State Council President and Board Chair

Dear all,

It gives us great pleasure to announce Yolanda Saiz as the new Chief Executive Officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW.

Yolanda has been acting in the role of CEO since January. Yolanda first joined the Society in 2011 as Head of Communications. She has been a member of the Executive Leadership Team since 2016, most recently in the role of Executive Director, Commercial Enterprise, Fundraising and Communications from late 2019.

Yolanda has demonstrated a deep commitment to the Society's mission and vision for many years, and has ably led our retail, commercial enterprise, fundraising and communications functions through the very significant challenges of the past few

years. We are very grateful to Yolanda for the leadership that she has shown since January as Acting CEO in this period of transition.

This appointment has been made following a comprehensive and competitive search process.

The State Council and the Board look forward to working with Yolanda in this role and wish her every success. Please join us in congratulating Yolanda on her appointment.

Kind regards

Paul Burton, State Council President

Richard Stewart, Board Chair



A message from

# Paul Burton, Richard Stewart and Yolanda Saiz State Council President, Board Chair and Acting CEO

Yamma all,

We are pleased to announce the Society's new [Strategic Plan 2024-2028, 'Strengthening communities, transforming lives'](#), has now been approved by the Board and State Council.

The approval of our new strategy is an important milestone for the Society – its goals are firmly focussed on the people we assist and delivering service excellence and growth.

This plan was developed following extensive research, consultation and engagement with members, volunteers and employees across the Society.

We are excited to bring you a plan that reflects a whole of Society approach and that is supported by the Board, the State Council and the Executive Leadership Team in equal measure.

Our strategic goals – Excel, Grow and Cultivate – articulate our commitment to respond to both the existing and emerging needs that we see in our community. We will do this by delivering service excellence, growing our footprint so we can assist people in their communities and cultivating our capacity and capability to do so effectively.

We will continue to ensure our work supports increased security, stability and social connectedness for the people we assist – and we will focus on supporting people to sustain these outcomes over time.

Each of us now has a role in taking the strategy forward and working towards delivering on our shared goals. The Executive Leadership Team has prepared a [joint video message](#) speaking to what this moment means to them and their teams.

We look forward to the months ahead as we plan for the implementation of our new strategy.

A launch event will take place in April with the new strategy coming into effect on 1 July 2023.

Thank you all for your important work in building the Society's ambitious strategy which works towards a greater future in partnership with and for the people we assist, to strengthen their communities and transform their lives.



Regards

Paul Burton, State Council President

Richard Stewart, Board Chair

Yolanda Saiz, CEO



## CLEAR PATHWAY TO VOICE REFERENDUM

Following months of consultations with the Referendum Working Group, the Government has announced the wording of the referendum question and draft constitutional amendment for the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The question the Parliament will now consider to be put to the Australian people will be:

*A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.*



The Government hopes to have Parliamentary approval by the end of June, with the referendum to be held between October and December.

Earlier this year, representatives of the Society of St Vincent de Paul participated in the 'Yes 23' campaign launch in Adelaide. The launch saw over 100 grassroots organisations come together to support the campaign for a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

The breadth and diversity of these organisations reflect a strong backing of the Call of the *Uluru Statement From the Heart* as well as the commitment to build community understanding, awareness and support for the referendum.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul in NSW and across the nation supports the call for a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. This derives and is informed by our Good Works of charity and justice.

We support the Voice because we aspire to a society transformed by compassion and built on justice – where the dignity and hope of all people is respected by ensuring they have control of their own destiny. We know the importance of vulnerable people having a voice. 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 Voice to Parliament is about ensuring the First Nations people have a real say in the decisions that affect their lives permanently.

The Society's support for the Voice is a matter of social justice – not politics.

One in five people seeking our support in NSW identify as being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. In their hardship we witness the long-term impact of the dispossession and powerlessness endured since the earliest days of colonisation.

Giving First Nations peoples a voice will help break this vicious cycle and lead to better laws and policies for the wellbeing of their families and communities.

The Society's Social Justice Team have developed a suite of resources to support our networks to better understand and take action in support of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, and the Voice to parliament.

These resources are on our [website](#), including a list of trusted resources to learn more about the issues in the lead up to the referendum

If you would like hardcopies of any of these resources, please contact us at: [social.justice@vinnies.org.au](mailto:social.justice@vinnies.org.au)

Now is the time to get informed about Constitutional recognition and a Voice to Parliament.

It's time for open and respectful conversation on this important social justice issue with your family, friends and community.



July 2022 - NSW CEO, President and Chair of the Board sign the Uluru Statement



# Spiritual Reflection - A Voice Calls Out

## ISAIAH 40: 3-5

- 3 The voice of one calling out, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make straight in the desert a path for our God.
- 4 Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; And let the uneven ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley;
- 5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

When we think of the wilderness sometimes, we are reminded of rough terrain or barren deserts. We see the wilderness again in New Testament before Jesus is crucified, he is led by the Spirit into the wilderness. This time was one of immeasurable pain for Jesus.

So, when we hear about the wilderness in this passage from Isaiah, we also hear that a voice of one cries out right here. What is the pain in this wilderness? From this place of pain, where there is isolation and harsh conditions, a voice of one cries out!

We can view this as a single voice, like the voice we recall from Exodus with Moses and the burning bush, or the still small voice of God in a rushing wind. Or, we can see this as one united voice! A voice of unity from the places of pain and despair, within this wilderness comes a collective cry to make the paths straight.

We are asked in the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* to walk with our First Nations peoples in unity with them for truth seeking, treaty and A VOICE.

From our very own wilderness within our Nation's brutal history we are called to raise the valleys and smooth out the uneven

ground and take our part in a more just and compassionate society.

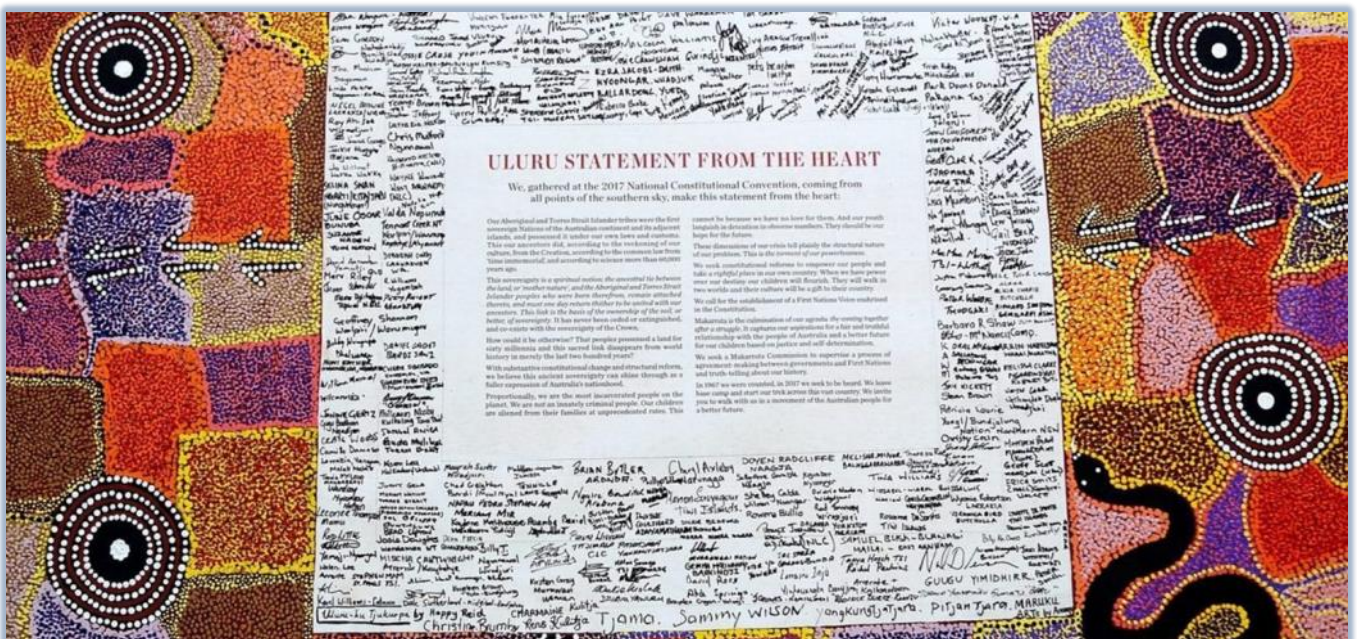
This passage of scripture finishes with what we can reflect on as a commissioning from God for this most important demand. Preparing these paths, walking in unity and being a voice of one will then reveal the glory of the Lord, that the Lord has spoken.

We must always look for opportunities where we can speak into the darkness of the wilderness of our days and do whatever good works are at our hands for sake of dignity, truth and restoration.

- Corinne Lindsell, Mission, Spirituality and Pastoral Care Partner

### REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- 1. In what ways have you been led by the Spirit into the wilderness?
- 2. What aspects of the wilderness can you connect to the pain our First Nations Peoples have endured?
- 3. What actions can we do as Vincentians to show our united support for a Voice?





## Congratulations to our Gosford Women of the Year!



*Award recipients Nikki Willmette, Christine Munnoch and Lisa Dalton*

Every year the NSW government recognises the outstanding contributions Women, in all facets of community life, make through the Women of The Year awards.

In this year's Gosford Women of the Year Awards, Nikki Willmette, our Woy Woy Support Centre Coordinator and Lisa Dalton, our Gosford Support Centre Coordinator received Community Service Awards. Joining them was Christine Munnoch, long-time Member and Volunteer in the Gosford region.

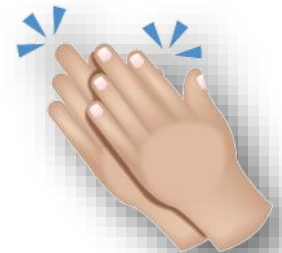
Nikki and Lisa have worked tirelessly within the Central Coast Community, establishing positive, professional relationships with other agencies while strengthening the Societies reputation for 'Good Works'.

Nikki, Lisa and Christine work with those who are homeless, fleeing domestic and family violence, those in need of mental health services and those who just need a hand up negotiating the barriers before them.

They know the community. They live in the Central Coast community. They are highly valued and respected in the community. Between them, they show the vital role women play as Volunteers, Members and Staff of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The recognition that comes with these awards is so well earned and deserved. Well done Nikki, Lisa and Christine!

*- Annette Johnston, Gosford Regional President*



## Chatswood's Festival Mass

Last December marked the commissioning of several Vinnies members affiliated with conferences across the Chatswood region.

The Festival Mass at Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood, provided our members with the ability to affirm their commitment to the Good Works of the Society. The Mass was a wonderful witness of how members, of all ages, are striving to actively live out the Catholic faith - following in the footsteps of Vinnies founder, Frédéric Ozanam

During the commissioning, members received symbols as tangible reminders of their calling in this ministry: the Bible as the word of God, which functions as the source of strength; 'The Rule', to guide them in Vincentian ways; a candle, as a reminder that they bring the light of Christ to others through their work; and bread, to remind them of their calling to feed the poor.

Joining in the mass and the BBQ celebration following the commissioning were members of the parish community who were receptive and welcoming of the presence of Vinnies in our society. We look forward to journeying with our society's newest members as they continue their ministry.

*- Cailin Geraghty, President, Chatswood Youth Conference*





## A Vincentian to remember

Julien was born in 1926 in a town not far from Passchendale, a place burnt into the hearts of Australians in the Great War. He lived through the German occupation in WWII, qualified as an engineer, and was ordered to Germany on graduation by the Gestapo to work for the Third Reich.

Instead of helping the enemy of his country he went into hiding at great risk. He evaded the Gestapo until liberation then joined the Belgian Army.

He worked in Germany getting their essential services into operation and was a Harbour Master on the Rhine. Discharge came in 1947 and he decided to head to the wide sunny brown land under the Southern Cross.

His natural aptitude and intellect lead him from manual jobs to engineering installation. In search of warmth, he moved from Melbourne to Queensland and eventually to New Guinea, where he met the love of his life Paula.

Back in Sydney he climbed the management ladder travelling on three continents. Eventually through declining health he decided to retire at 60.

### Julien Vanslambrouck



27th July 1926 - 3rd July 2022

He built his own stone house in the Goulburn District, and he joined the St Vincent de Paul Society. Because the gaol was in his diocese, he was kept very busy also working with the southern area health service and the hospital.

Julien became the Diocesan President of the St Vincent de Paul Society and was revered in his diocese for his commitment to those in need.

He and Paula had two children and, in his later years, he and Paula moved to the War Vets at Narrabeen. He was an active member of the RSL. In the early part of this century he joined the St Rose Conference Collaroy Plateau and carried on doing client visits into his nineties.

Julien left this life on July 3rd, 2022 - a life of loyalty, devotion, sacrifice, and service that was an inspiration to all that were

fortunate to walk through life with him from Zedelgem to Narrabeen.

Lest we forget

- Rex S. M. Harding OAM OPL, President, St Rose Conference.

## Charles O'Neill Walk at Rookwood

On the morning of 17th January 2023, some members from Davidson and Forestville Conferences together with some friends of the Society gathered at the Sacred Heart Chapel, Rookwood Catholic Cemetery.



A short distance away is the Charles O'Neill walk. At the start of the walk there is a plaque containing an outline of Captain Charles Gordon O'Neill's legacy:

*"... Charles O'Neill is remembered principally for his life's commitment to the welfare of the poor and inspiring and leading others to his commitment in Scotland, New Zealand and Australia. He was responsible for establishing the St Vincent de Paul Society in New South Wales with the support of the Society of Mary at the Catholic parish of St Patrick's Church Hill, Sydney in July 1881...."*

*"Remembered also for promoting a more sympathetic, non-judgemental approach to Christian Charity .... Inspired by the examples of St Francis of Assisi and St Vincent de Paul ... and championed a kind of charity that reflected the mercy and teaching of Jesus Christ."*

Next seen is the headstone over the grave that commemorates Charles O'Neill who died in 1900. In 1961, his remains were reinterred in the Society's burial plot for the destitute at Rookwood, to commemorate the Society's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation in Australia.





## Charles O'Neill Walk continued...

His resting place is in the company of those he served so well.

If you have not been on this walk, members highly recommend it.

They have described the walk as “interesting”, “enjoyable”, “amazing”, “beautiful”, and “a way to experience something of the annual Service of Internment of Ashes of the Homeless that the Society has undertaken since the mid-2010’s”.

I leave you with this quotation and the image of the Homeless Stranger – Christ, taken from the booklet entitled “Bringing them home Internment of the Homeless” held on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 with celebrant the Most Reverend Bishop Terry Brady.

*“God is present in the unwelcomed visitor, often unrecognisable, who walks through our cities and our neighbourhoods, who travels on our buses and knocks on our doors.” – Pope Francis*

Thank you, John Donnelly, for inviting us on and leading this walk that has proven to be interesting and spiritually inspiring.

- El Herlianto, President, Forestville Our Lady of Good Counsel Conference



### COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Let us remember the members of the our Conferences who have died,

**-may they celebrate now in the feast of heaven.**

Let us remember all the poor who have gone before us,

**-may they receive the wine of peace and the bread of life.**

**Amen**

*(Prayer from Vincentian Reflections 2021, p.66)*



## OCEAN ROCKPOOL TOUR – THANK YOU!

Two years ago, Michael Harrold and his fantastic group of volunteers began the Rock Pool Tour to raise money to help charities to assist people with mental health issues on the Northern Beaches.

The annual event takes place on a Sunday in January. On the day, the volunteers start early and they swim in every ocean rock pool from Palm Beach to Fairy Bower in Manly.

The three charities that benefit from the funds are Lifeline, One Eighty and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Over the two years Vinnies has received over \$11,000 which is truly amazing.

On behalf of Vinnies I would like to give a big thank you to Michael and his group on behalf of all the people that we will be able to help thanks to their great efforts and commitment to assisting people going through difficult times.

*- Mick O'Farrell, Northern Beaches Regional President*

To find out more, visit the [Ocean Rockpool Tour](#) website.



*Alistair Robinson (Lifeline), Mick O'Farrell (Vinnies), Michael Harrold (Ocean Rockpool Tour) and Jazz (One Eighty)*



*Michael Harrold, Tony Smith (Vinnies), Pete Yeates (Ocean Rockpool Tour), Jamie-May and Corrine (One Eighty) and Carmel Smith (Vinnies).*



*Bill Yeates, Peter Yeates, Michael Regan, Michael Harrold and Simon Rorke*



**Painting 'Laps at Freshie' held by artist Andrew Duffin.**

*I know my mental wellbeing is supported by enjoying the outdoors and a little exercise.*

*Connecting with this beautiful part of the world is good for the soul.*

*'Laps at Freshie' catches the waves crashing over the pool edge while a lone swimmer cuts through the calmer water.*

*- Andrew*





## What's Happening at the Schools!

This year started off great with many resources and opportunities available for students, staff and families to engage with Vinnies and put their faith into action. Emails were sent out to all schools on how to support Vinnies Services, participate in Vinnies Social Justice Workshops for schools and order Vinnies merchandise.

If your Conference would like support in engaging with your local schools, please reach out to the Metropolitan Schools and Youth Engagement Team. We have many resources available including Vinnies school certificates, learning resources and presentations available for schools.

Our schools provide vital and generous support to The Society. For us to ensure we best understand and recognise their contributions, we need to record the support accurately and efficiently. If your Conference receives a material donation from a school, for example food items, hampers, clothing etc or you are told about a financial donation pledge, you are kindly asked to inform your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer: **Kate Conroy** [kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au)

### Mini Vinnies and High School Conferences

It has been wonderful to hear about the many new Mini Vinnies and High School Conference students joining the Vincentian community. The start of a new school year is when the students are often commissioned in the presence of their local Conference President, pledging to put their faith in to action and follow in the footsteps of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam by serving those in need.

Mini Vinnies groups operate in almost all our Broken Bay primary schools and offer remarkable support to their local Conference. St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga and MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale both operate Vinnies High School Conferences, while all other secondary schools in Broken Bay support Vinnies and their local Conference through their Social Justice Groups.

We cannot wait to see all the wonderful initiatives from our new and existing Mini Vinnies and High School Conferences in 2023!

If your Conference would like assistance in connecting with your local schools Mini Vinnies or High School Conference or Social

Justice Group, please contact your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer.

### Vinnies Christmas Appeal in Broken Bay Schools



We saw much Christmas cheer spread throughout all the Broken Bay schools again during Term 4. As the students, staff and families were preparing to have a holly jolly Christmas at home, they also generously contributed to their school's Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Last year was a challenging year for many individuals and families across NSW. Between the natural disasters that occurred, the COVID-19 hangover and the cost of living crisis, thousands of households across the state were heading into the festive season with uncertainty looming over them. Despite these challenges, school communities across Broken Bay exhibited great generosity and kindness in their response to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Across Broken Bay, a total of 47 primary and secondary schools contributed to the 2022 Christmas Appeal. Ensuring that local needs were met first and foremost, most schools donated to their local Conference and/or Vinnies Support Centre through means of hampers, gift cards, toys and gifts. Vinnies trucks and Conference members did an amazing job picking up boxes and boxes of hampers and presents from schools to go to people Vinnies assists.



We are deeply grateful to all schools across the Broken Bay region for their contributions to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. As always, the outpouring of compassion to people experiencing hardship was beyond noteworthy and epitomises what being a Vincentian is all about!





## What's Happening at the Schools!

### 2022 Vinnies Youth Christmas Card Competition

Did you know that every year Vinnies NSW Youth run the Christmas Card Competition. Inviting students from all over NSW to submit their personal Christmas Card designs. From the hundreds of submissions in 2022, five incredible designs were chosen to be printed as the official Vinnies NSW Member Christmas Cards for 2023.

One of the winning designs this year came from one of our very own Broken Bay school students! Congratulations to Mikayala, Year 5 student at Loreto Normanhurst.



### Mini Vinnies Formation Program

The Mini Vinnies Formation Program is designed for students in senior primary school to develop their understanding of the St Vincent de Paul Society and to encourage an active response to needs in the community, nurturing students to be a light in the world inspired by the spirit of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and the Gospel values.

The Mini Vinnies Formation Program is run by the Metropolitan Schools and Youth Engagement Team and is designed to be done by individual students either in their own time, or with their schools Mini Vinnies group. There are three award levels for the students to progress through.

Your Conference may hear about the Mini Vinnies Formation Program through engagement with your local school or Mini Vinnies group or even through your local Parish. We encourage students who are part of the Parish but do not attend the Catholic school to also participate in the Mini Vinnies Formation Program as a way to develop their engagement and understanding of The Society. For more information, please visit the [Mini Vinnies Formation Program website](#).

### Mini Vinnies Gathering 2023

The Metropolitan Schools and Youth Engagement Team host a Mini Vinnies Gathering annually, to provide an opportunity for Mini Vinnies students and teachers from different schools to come together. The day will include a keynote speaker, workshops in small groups, a BBQ lunch with fun activities and time to pray and reflect on social justice issues discussed throughout the day.

The 2023 Mini Vinnies Gathering will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at Australian Catholic University, Strathfield. We look forward to sharing with you wonderful and inspirational stories from the gathering in the next edition of the newsletter.

- Kate Conroy, Schools Engagement Officer, Broken Bay





## Real Christmas Spirit at Manly Vale

Over two days the families of St Kieran's School Manly Vale together with the SVDP Manly Vale Conference members worked extremely hard packing and sorting the many donations given by every family at the school, as well as the hampers put together by parishioners of St Kieran's.

The overwhelming amount of donations meant that where our hamper recipients were larger families, we were able to give hampers that were 2 boxes large! All the hampers donated by the school families were all so beautifully decorated with the children's artworks, giving each of the boxes a warm-hearted and personal touch.

Manly Vale SVDP Conference members made more than 95 phone calls in the lead up to hamper delivery day to ensure that all clients were aware the hamper was on its way.

Thank you to all involved in these preparations.



*Helping out today to deliver hampers gave me a new perspective on how some local people live. I could see how valuable the contributions were for the local community. I feel very grateful for everything I have.*

-- Ella ( Age 11 )



### Delivery Day!

*It was great to help Vinnies this year to give hampers to people who need them. The hampers looked really nice and I think the people who got them will be very happy this Christmas.*

-- Clara ( Age 8 )

*The hamper initiative run by St Vincent de Paul is a beautiful way to bring our local community together at Christmas time.*

-- Joanne

Eighteen families together with the SVDP Manly Vale Conference members delivered our 95 beautiful hampers on Saturday 17th December 2022.

Seeing the eagerness and enthusiasm of everyone involved certainly made it feel that the Christmas spirit was indeed all around us. Many of the volunteers made multiple delivery runs.

Due to the large volume of volunteers and the very well organised runs we were able to complete all deliveries in less than 1.5 hours, one of our quickest yet.

The community spirit and extraordinary generosity of the St Kieran's faith community allows our hamper drive be such a success year on year. Many thanks to all involved and also the Augustinian Community who support our works throughout the year.



*Curran Family excited to collect hampers for delivery*



*Julio & the Hill Family dispatching hampers into vehicles*

### Thank you Blackmores!

A special call-out to our friends at Blackmores and the team at Warriewood who donate and prepare many hampers for St Vincent de Paul on the Northern Beaches. This is the 41st year they have supported the local community and their generosity and ongoing commitment is truly appreciated.



## Coolah - Home of the Black Stump

For over 15 years, the generous St Martin de Porres School Community, in the leafy Northern Beaches suburb of Davidson, have supported families needing a “hand up” in the regional town of Coolah.

“Why Coolah and where is Coolah?”, you may be asking.

Around 2006/2007, New South Wales was in severe drought and people in the country were finding life tough.

Some city St Vincent de Paul Conferences were twinned with country Conferences to provide them with the support they may have needed. Davidson Conference was twinned with Coolah Conference and so began a wonderful friendship with the support of our local St Martin’s Primary School.

The lovely small town of Coolah (known as the town of the black stump) is situated in the central west part of NSW, about 400 km from Sydney. Surrounded by paddocks of grain, cattle and sheep, the township has suffered times of drought, floods and fires in the short time we have been visiting.

Each year at Christmas time, the St Martin’s School Community with the wonderful support of their Principal, teachers, parents and children donate huge baskets of food and toys to the families of Coolah and surrounding areas who could do with a “hand up”.



With the help of a dad from our Frenchs Forest Parish (and his trusty trailer) and a couple of Vinnies members the generous gifts are transported 400 kms there and 400 kms back in one day!!!

The Vinnies members in Coolah serve us a lovely lunch and make us feel so welcome. We enjoy such great country hospitality and look forward to our annual trip. The journey there and back helps us appreciate the hardships endured by our country friends of droughts, floods and fires.

Some years the grass is so dry it crackles and some years it is quite green – but each year nature serves up something different!

We are so grateful to the St Martin’s community for their generosity and thank them for their amazing support over all the years.

*- Davidson St Vincent de Paul Conference members.*





## Sydney Alliance unites for the Common Good

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW members and leadership were among over 45 diverse community organisations, unions and religious organisations united in an Assembly calling for social justice in the lead up to the 2023 State Election. The over 900-strong Assembly was held in Westmead on Tuesday 28 February.

Matt Kean (NSW Treasurer), Daniel Mookhey (Shadow Treasurer) and Jenny Leong (NSW Greens spokesperson on Housing) headlined the political attendees, while speakers with lived experience shared moving personal testimonies highlighting why our politicians need to act.

With the current cost of living and housing crisis leaving a growing number of people in precarity, including many needing to seek assistance from organisations such as the Society for the first time, the Assembly called on the State's political leaders to commit to eight asks on social and affordable housing, climate and cost of living, and belonging and democracy.

On the night, both major parties said they understood the need to boost the supply of social and affordable housing so that key workers, people on low incomes, and the growing number of people experiencing homelessness have a place to call home. Regrettably though, neither committed any figures on funding or social housing places that would back this shared concern.

Both parties agreed any new social and affordable homes delivered through development partnerships will remain so in perpetuity.

They also agreed to meet with the Sydney Alliance within the first 100 days after forming government to discuss issues facing temporary migrants. Both parties also agreed to consultation on minimum energy efficiency standards in rentals.

While Labor stated its commitment to ending no-grounds evictions on fixed term and rolling leases, the Treasurer would not be drawn on rental policy. Three days after the Assembly the Liberal Party announced it would introduce reasonable grounds evictions on rolling leases.

The Society has been a part of the Sydney Alliance since its Founding Assembly in 2011. In this 2023 State Election Assembly, Vinnies has worked closely with other organisations to bring its policies on social housing, rental security and homelessness services to the negotiating table.

Our thanks to all the Society's members, volunteers and staff from across the metropolitan Central Councils who attended this important Assembly. The Vinnies 'sea of blue' was unmistakable!

- Rob Crosby, Communications Coordinator  
John Ferguson, Social Justice Coordinator



## THANK YOU!

Over the last six months, our Members, Volunteers and Staff have been writing to and meeting with their local MPs and candidates about the need for safe, affordable and healthy homes.

Through your efforts, MPs and candidates in around one-third of electorates across NSW have heard directly about how vulnerable people are suffering from a lack of secure and affordable housing, from rental stress, and a lack of homelessness services.

You also told them about the solutions needed to meet these challenges.

We would like to thank each and every one of you for the role you have played in the fight for [Housing Justice: A Home for Everyone](#). A particular shout out to Central Council, Regional and Conference Social Justice Representatives who actively engaged in organising meetings in their electorates.

You continue to show us how our good works are complete when charity and justice unite for the common good. Thank you!



## New Census homelessness figures: A national crisis

Action on homelessness and housing must be made an immediate priority for all levels of government following the alarming figures on homelessness released as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistic’s [latest census](#).



“It is not an overstatement to say that this is a national crisis and drastic action has to happen right now to ensure everyone has a safe and secure place to live,” said Yolanda Saiz, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW then Acting CEO.

“Homelessness across Australia has risen by 5.2% from 116,427 to 122,494 people during the course of the last census.

“It was pleasing to see the number of people experiencing homelessness in NSW has decreased from 37,692 to 35,011 since 2016 - a decrease of 7%.

“However, the number of people experiencing homelessness is still 27% higher from when the 2011 census was conducted a decade ago.

“It is unacceptable that the number of people experiencing homelessness remains so high, especially given the efforts made during the height of the pandemic, when the census was taken, to ensure our most vulnerable were housed.

“The Government set precedent, providing people sleeping rough with emergency accommodation during the worst of the COVID lockdowns.

“We know it is possible, when there is political will, to provide greater assistance to people experiencing homelessness.

“We’ve seen at a state level that targeted programs such as Together Home for rough sleepers and the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) have helped contribute to a 7% decrease in the number of people experiencing homelessness in NSW.

“We need to keep working on reducing homelessness in NSW and around Australia,” Ms Saiz said.

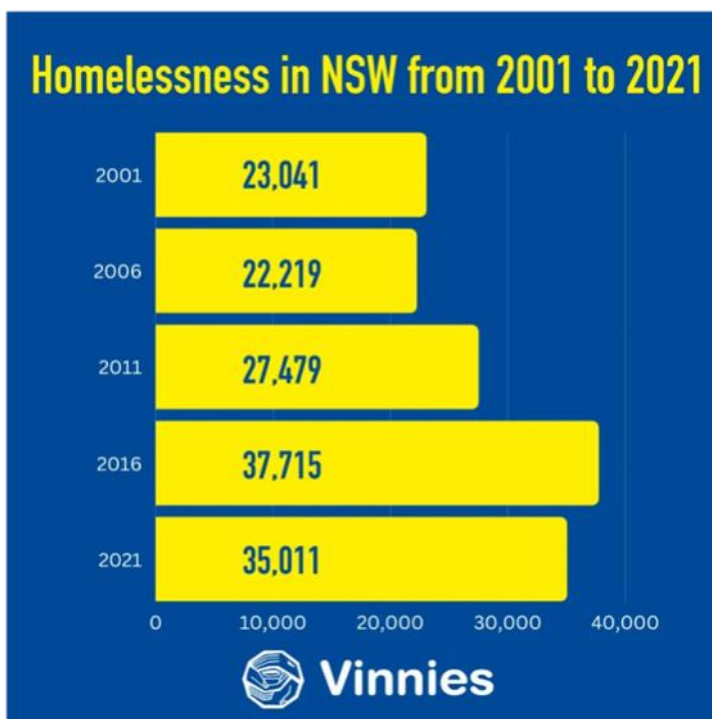
The ABS statistics reveal that there has been a 63% decrease in rough sleepers throughout NSW from 2,588 in 2016 to 963 in 2021, while the homeless rate was 43 persons for every 10,000 persons in the 2021 Census, down from 50.4 in 2016 Census.

“Our members are seeing the reality of the housing and homelessness crisis every day in the communities where they live and work,” said Paul Burton, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State President.



“Around a quarter of the people we’ve assisted this year have sought help for the first time, including a growing rate of families and people working full-time, because there is simply not enough money to make ends meet.

“We cannot allow things to continue as they have been with housing; we need to see major reforms and investment to give the most vulnerable in our communities safety now and hope for the future.



“The Society commissioned research from UNSW last year which showed that if the NSW Government built 5,000 new social housing dwellings every year for a decade, the NSW social housing waiting list would be reduced by three quarters.

“We’ve also called for an increase in funding for Specialist Homelessness Services which will be vitally important as a necessary measure to ensure services are properly funded to meet the growing demand for assistance.

“We cannot wait any longer to address the homelessness and housing crisis – action is needed now,” Mr Burton said.



## WINTER APPEAL 2023



As the temperature begins to drop and we start to feel a chill in the air, for many who are homeless or struggling with higher energy bills, this winter will be particularly bleak. This year's Vinnies Winter Appeal focuses on a fast-growing cohort of people experiencing homelessness in Australia: women over 55.

We know homelessness can affect anyone, but women over 55 are particularly vulnerable. The 2021 census showed the number of older women experiencing homelessness continued to grow after ballooning by more than 30% between 2011 and 2016. In 2023, this is a more concerning issue due to additional stress brought on by the cost of living and housing affordability crises

causing more older women to find themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Society thanks our dedicated Members for the important role they play in raising funds for the Winter Appeal so we can continue give a hand up to those in our community who need it the most. The Winter Appeal will launch on 1 May 2023.

Materials to support your Winter Appeal efforts , such as posters, donation envelopes and conference booklets should be available from 17 April.

- Ai-Lin Crisford, Manager, Direct Marketing



## The Vinnies NSW Community Sleepout is back for 2023!

The Fundraising Team is thrilled to hold the Vinnies Community Sleepout for Broken Bay on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

The Vinnies NSW Community Sleepout asks the local community to sleep out for one night, braving the cold to raise much needed funds for local Vinnies services and programs.

Along the way, participants learn about some of the harsh realities faced by those experiencing homelessness and disadvantage.

The locations that will hold Community Sleepouts include: Albury, Armidale, Deniliquin, Fred's Place, Wagga Wagga, Western Sydney and Broken Bay.



This is a perfect time for members of the local community and Vinnies staff who would like to fundraise for their local region.

Since its inception in 2018, community members have rallied together in this state-wide effort raising nearly \$1 million to help people in both regional and metro NSW doing it tough.

It's all about locals supporting locals.

Participants can register by clicking this link:

<https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/nsw-vinnies-community-sleepout/>

For more information or if there are any questions, please email [Caroline Casse](mailto:Caroline.Casse).



## Leading For Impact - Society's new program

### 'Leading for Impact', the Society's New Leadership Program from the University of Notre Dame is open for Registrations

We are pleased to announce the rollout of a new leadership program that has been co-created with the University of Notre Dame.

This program is specifically designed for aspiring and current Regional and Central Council Presidents, as well as any interested member of the Society thinking about future leadership positions.

It provides a unique opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to lead with purpose and impact from a Vincentian perspective. The course draws on the University's vast experience in leadership development for Catholic organisations.

Participants will gain formation and a deeper understanding of leadership theory, while also learning practical strategies and best practices for leading and managing service-orientated organisations.

The program will be delivered in person at the University of Notre Dame in Sydney and is broken down into seven face-to-face modules of 6-7 hours each that explore:

**Formation**, which focuses on Catholic Social Teaching and encourages participants to make connections between the experiences of poverty, disadvantage and marginalisation that they encounter in their everyday work and the unjust structures that contribute to inequality and exclusion.

**Leadership and management**, which explores contemporary business leadership and management practice in the context of Catholic leadership.

**Governance**, which explores principles of governance and regulation particularly as it applies to not-for-profit organisations.

**Financial reporting**, which helps participants develop applicable finance, accounting and business skills.

**Counselling skills for leaders**, which provides participants with skills to enhance relationships and improve our capacity to serve the poor and marginalised with compassion, respect and empathy.

**Supporting member and volunteer engagement**, which addresses factors that help sustain volunteer engagement.

**Digital communication and security**, which provides the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate and collaborate in a digital environment while also keeping sensitive information secure.

### We are currently looking for the first cohort of participants.

These will be delivered at Notre Dame, Broadway on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th April for the initial sessions, with a follow-up session to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Participants can be current leaders, those who aspire to be in a leadership position, or those who demonstrate leadership skills but may not yet recognise themselves as a leader. Young Vincentians are encouraged to apply.

If interested, please contact Linda Paull [linda.paull@vinnies.org.au](mailto:linda.paull@vinnies.org.au)

## Vinnies Recycle Range – Selling Fast

Every item has an impact. With the current fast pace of fashion consumption, nearly 6000 kilograms of clothing and textile waste goes to Australian landfills every 10 minutes.

re/CYCLE is our new eco-friendly range. Made from recycled textiles and materials, our new circular approach means some of our pre-loved items along with many other diverted textiles are being used to create a range of classic yet colourful styles with minimal impact on the environment.

The re/CYCLE range has just been refilled across 16 locations in

metro Sydney. The range includes woven rugs, Turkish towels – and bathmats are a much welcome addition to our donations in store.

Selling fast in all locations. This is another great initiative in becoming more eco-friendly in our approach to revenue building. Much like all items sold in our shops, profits from re/CYCLE sales will support people experiencing poverty, homelessness and hardship throughout the state.

To find out more, visit: [https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Shops/NSW/Vinnies\\_re\\_CYCLE\\_Range/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Shops/NSW/Vinnies_re_CYCLE_Range/)





# 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. Thank you to the VSC Coordinators for opening their doors for to all Members who have taken up the offer so far.

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 'Broken Bay'
- 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 WWC 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: Instructions are available. Log in to your account: <https://vinnieslearningcentre.litmos.com.au/account/Login>

### Extra Support for Members:

Available for Members has been Face-to-Face training

These have been offered to Regional Councils and most have held sessions, some still to come and some yet to be set- Presidents are kept updated and offered opportunities for Members.

We need 10 members registering per face-to-face session to ensure it can go ahead.

### 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!



# 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—Key Social Justice dates

These social Justice days throughout 2023 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.

26 January: Survival Day/Australia Day	2 - 9 July: NAIDOC week
20 February: World Day of Social Justice	27 August: Social Justice Sunday
21 March: National Harmony Day	24 September: Migrant and Refugee Sunday
15 - 21 May: National Volunteer Week	10 October: World Mental Health Day
26 May: National Sorry Day	15 - 21 October: Anti-Poverty Week
27 May - 3 June: Reconciliation Week	19 November: World Day of the Poor
5 June: World Environment Day	5 December: International Volunteer Day
18 - 24 June: Refugee Week	10 December: Human Rights Day
20 June: World Refugee Day	
2 July: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday	

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-justice/>



# Please ASSIST A STUDENT

The **Assist A Student** program gives you the opportunity to provide funding to support the education of a student in one of our partner countries for one year.

In many Asia Pacific countries, poverty excludes individuals from reaching their full potential by being a barrier to opportunities, including accessing education.

Your donation of \$100 or more will make all the difference for a primary, secondary or tertiary student in one of our partner countries.

Think of the great opportunities that you or your Conference can make in bringing education into the reach of young people around the world.



**Naw\*** is 22 years old and lives with her Aunt while attending West Yangon University in Myanmar.

She is studying Translation and Interpretation, as well as Burmese, Short Stories, Poetry and Drama, English and Communication Skills.

Naw knows that an education will help her "earn money and I, too, will support others".



**Andre\*** is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and lives in Indonesia with his family.

He likes playing football and wants to become a policeman one day. He likes helping his parents and goes to Sunday School.

Andre says "thank you and God Bless all the people who have helped me."

**Nur\*** is in Year 12 and studies at a Vocational High School in Bandung, Indonesia. She lives with her mother who has recently lost her job.

Nur says that the support "helps her mother to worry less about fees". Nur wants to be a Tour Director and travel around the world. She thanks all donors to the *Assist A Student* program who help young people to achieve their goals.



*\*all names have been changed*

- I am an individual assisting a student; OR
- I am assisting a student on behalf of a group

NAME (group or individual): \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME (for group): \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBURB: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to donate (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible):**

\$100    \$200    \$300   OR  \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive a certificate for this donation.

Thank you for your support.

### Payment method:

- Debit my credit card (details below)

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- Mastercard    Visa   Card Expiry: \_\_ / \_\_

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

- Cheque, payable to 'St Vincent de Paul Society'

Please complete your details and send to:  
 Assist A Student Program,  
 St Vincent de Paul Sate Council Office  
 PO Box 5  
 PETERSHAM, NSW 2049



## 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.

### 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. Broken Bay Central Council has its own page:

<https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/conferences/broken-bay-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/>