



Newsletter

APRIL, 2024

Sydney Archdioceses Central Council President - John Walden's Message

My fellow Vincentians, Volunteers and Staff members

There have been several initiatives commenced in our Central Council.

The first is a survey that has recently been sent out to the members looking at several home visitation related matters. The survey will ask members to respond on issues such as the value and frequency of food voucher assistance. There are also questions regarding frequency of help and the home visitation process.

This survey is being conducted because there are many members, especially in new Conferences, who have been looking for guidance about the level and frequency of the welfare assistance we provide. In the preamble to the survey, it is stated that what we are looking to achieve is the setting of guidelines only. It will always be the membership decision to assess and determine welfare assistance, and that will depend on the facts and circumstances of each case. The results of the survey will be discussed at our Central Council Retreat and released soon thereafter. Much of the same survey will be conducted with VSC staff, so that we can align the membership and VSC assistance outcomes.

Our annual retreat is set for 6-7 July at St Joseph's Baulkham Hills. As our second retreat, hopefully it will become an annual event.

I recently was granted an audience with Archbishop Anthony Fisher. The meeting lasted for quite some time, and he was very interested in Society developments and initiatives in our Archdiocese. He welcomed future meetings to discuss what the Society is doing and what is proposed in the future in our Central Council area.

We are still waiting for feedback about the recruitment of university students that are prepared to deliver EAPA assistance. This follows from the each university's Orientation Week recruitment held during February/March. It is still a hope that we can attract sufficient student numbers to deliver a wide delivery service.

John

Metro Regional Director - Ash Ambhaipahar's Message

I am thrilled to share with you the remarkable progress we've achieved in our ongoing mission to serve those in need. From January to March 2024, you and our dedicated team has provided vital assistance to approximately 3,882 primary people—a staggering 25% increase compared to the same period last year.

Our dedication to fostering membership and community engagement remains unwavering. Through intensive recruitment drives, we've warmly welcomed new members into our Vincentian family across various conferences, including New Liverpool All Saints, Hoxton Park, Glebe, Marsfield, Kensington, and Beverly Hills. With three more recruitment drives on the horizon, our community continues to expand and thrive.

Moreover, our impact within schools and youth communities has been profound. From active participation in events like O-week to meaningful engagements with regional council meetings, we're actively cultivating partnerships and collaborations. Our initiatives extend to educational endeavours, such as engaging students in Catholic Social Teaching and conducting workshops to raise awareness about homelessness. Our engagement with Mini Vinnies and High School Conferences, we have seen remarkable participation, empowering the next generation to effect positive change through workshops, volunteer opportunities, and community outreach.

Looking forward, we have the Winter Appeal coming up and community sleepouts. These gatherings not only foster a sense of community spirit but also provide vital support to those in need.

As we continue our journey of compassion and service, I am profoundly grateful for each member of our St. Vincent de Paul Society family. Your unwavering dedication and generosity are the cornerstone of our mission, and together, we will continue to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Ash

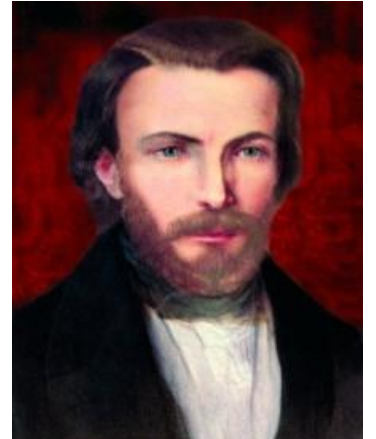




YOUR GOOD WORKS ARE OUR MISSION, IN ACTION –THANK YOU!

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

The Rule, p. 16



WINTER APPEAL 2024



As housing security becomes more precarious due to rising rents, cost-of-living pressures and a shortage of affordable housing, the Society is hearing daily from people who in years gone by would never have needed to seek support.

The theme of this year's Winter Appeal is 'Working Homeless', focusing on the emerging trend of people who are experiencing housing hardship and disadvantage despite being in employment. These are people who hold jobs that should offer stability, yet are sleeping in cars, tents or relying on the goodwill of others.

This demand is being seen on a daily basis by the Society. Two years ago, 19% of people seeking assistance from our members in NSW were experiencing homelessness or living in temporary accommodation. Today, that figure has concerningly grown to 30%. As the pressures faced by the working homeless, and other vulnerable people in our community, intensify, it is vital that the Society is able to offer support to those in their time of need.

Funds raised through the Winter Appeal will be used to fund our core programs including supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and also people struggling with poverty and cost-of-living pressures.

The Society thanks our dedicated Members for the important role they play in raising funds for the Winter Appeal so we can continue to meet the rising need of the most vulnerable people in our community.

The Winter Appeal will launch on 1 May 2024.

Materials to support your Winter Appeal efforts, such as posters, donation envelopes and conference booklets should be available from 17 April 2024.





Conference News

WATERLOO CONFERENCE

Lifetime Membership Service Award for Judith Dearn, Waterloo Conference

Waterloo Conference was very pleased to learn that one of its Members, Judith Dearn, has been honoured with a Lifetime Membership Service Award from the St Vincent de Paul Society. The Award recognises 25 years of volunteer service as a member of the Society.

Judy (as she is known to her fellow Conference members) started her service at Matthew Talbot where, amongst other things, she was on the lunch service on Mondays. She has fond memories of a particular client there whom she and her husband, Frank, continued to visit over the years as the client moved into aged care facilities and his final nursing home.

Judy also had a regular voluntary commitment with North Sydney Conference. She delivered the bread for the free, healthy meals that the Conference provided to the homeless from a school canteen to the Church Hall in Lavender Bay.

As a member of the Waterloo Conference, Judy has visited clients in the Waterloo public housing area every second Thursday for many years now. She has gained a deep knowledge of their needs and how best to assist them. One of her special jobs is at Christmas time when she organises the donation of Christmas toys and hampers from her Parish Church and delivers them to the Redfern Support Centre - a modern day Santa Claus!



Judy is a most caring and experienced volunteer Member, and a great support for the other Conference Members, sharing her knowledge and wisdom and happy to do whatever is asked of her. We plan to present her with the Award at a coming Sunday Mass followed by morning tea (with a special cake, to be sure!).

Congratulations, Judy, and thank you to the Society for this recognition of Judy's contribution to those in need.

Jenny Cunningham (President), Pamela Madafiglio (Secretary)=Waterloo Conference.

← Judy and Father Colin at the Mass

Our Members. all so compassionate and active, walk the Mission of Frederic Ozanam:

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

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

Our Holy Father, the Pope, has often spoken about the great opportunities that come our way when older and younger generations get together. He often speaks in term of the family, but I believe these words from his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (commonly known as 'The Gospel of Joy'), really capture the opportunity more broadly in society.

It is my hope that, ...whenever we attempt to read the signs of the times it is helpful to listen to young people and the elderly. Both represent a source of hope for every people. The elderly bring with them memory and the wisdom of experience, which warns us not to foolishly repeat our past mistakes. Young people call us to renewed and expansive hope, for they represent new directions for humanity and open us up to the future, lest we cling to a nostalgia for structures and customs which are no longer life-giving in today's world.

Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigour!

John Ferguson, Metro Member and Community Engagement Coordinator and State Social Justice Coordinator



Conference News

GyMEA Vinnies

-Quiet achievers helping families in need in partnership with our school community-

Every Christmas, St Catherine Laboure school community comes together and organise Christmas Hampers in partnership with the GyMEA St Vincent de Paul Conference.

This year saw a huge increase with requests from families and 54 hampers were picked up from St Catherine Laboure school grounds and delivered to the poor and needy families all living close to the school. The hampers with Christmas toys and gift cards, were all prepared and put together in baskets by the Mini Vinnies' team.

Each class was designated families to look after.

A special thank you to the teachers and families at St Catherine's for their ongoing support to the special works of St Vincent de Paul.

We are so blessed at GyMEA to have a wonderful spiritual and working relationship with our Parish Priest, Fr Greg Morgan and school principal, Mr Patrick Morrison.

Thank you! Frank Tierney, President



JUST SHARING SOME NEWS!, from GyMEA Conference President, Frank Tierney!

Our Parish Priest, Fr Greg nominated our St Vincent de Paul-GyMEA Conference for the Sutherland Shire Council **Australia Day "Community Group of the Year"**.

This has come as a great surprise and indeed I am very grateful, humbled and thankful for the acknowledgement by Fr Greg in what we do.

I feel blessed with our GyMEA Conference.

I received a notice from the Sutherland Council to attend the Australia Day ceremony at Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland.

For our Conference to be just nominated for this award is just enough for me.

It makes the community aware in what our St Vincent de Paul Society Members do in the background.

Excerpt of Fr Greg's nomination:

"... a dedicated group of individuals have assisted in the past year alone over 80 clients with 224 home visits... Raised \$38,000 via Christmas appeals, poor box and school donations.

The Conference regularly provides needy/vulnerable clients with clothing, rental assistance, whitegoods, food bags, health and medical assistance.

And delivered 40 Christmas hampers and 30 Mother's day packs."

***Frank and Michele Tierney
with Mayor of Sutherland Shire, Carmelo Pesce***





Conference News

Liverpool Regional Council Thanksgiving Mass and Function



Noel and Eileen O'Donnell with their service awards

Special times!
Special people!
Special celebrations!



Younger or older, it doesn't matter –all have and share fully their compassionate hearts

Community Volunteer Named Citizen of the Year

Excerpt from the nomination featured on the Bayside Council's website:

Pam Richardson OAM, a community volunteer from Mascot, has been named Bayside Citizen of the Year 2024.

Pamela has volunteered with Meals on Wheels, Randwick State Emergency Service, St Vincent de Paul Society, St Therese Catholic Church Mascot, RSL Corps of Guardians, and also served as President of the Woman's Royal Australian Army Corps.

In 2018 Pam was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for services to veterans.

The announcement was made at an Australia Day citizenship ceremony in Rockdale Town Hall that also marked the 75th anniversary of Australian Citizenship.



Pam, as Member of Mascot St Therese Conference has served St Vincent de Paul since 1988 in a variety of positions including current Conference President and Twinning Officer, former South East Sydney Regional Council President, plus as a volunteer with Mascot Vinnies Shop.

Pam's dedication to the local needs of local people who seek support is significant of course, made even more effective due to her genuine and deep care and compassion.

Pam's Mascot Conference co-Members and South East Sydney Regional Council



Conference News

[PEAKHURST CONFERENCE - Michael Flanagan, Volunteer of the Year Award](#)

At the Georges River Council's 2024 Australia Day Awards, I was privileged to witness Michael Flanagan receive the Volunteer of the Year Award.

As a volunteer Member of St Vincent de Paul Society, Mike's contributions have always inspired his fellow volunteers. Mike is now in his 21st year of service, with the last eight years seeing him as President of the Our Lady of Fatima Conference, Peakhurst.

This important leadership role has required Mike to organise and manage home visits, co-ordinate with the State body, introduce and support members with introduction of new State processes and the use of updated technologies and oversee appeals. Mike's outstanding communication and ability to build rapport have underpinned his successful leadership style. He exemplifies 'Servant Leadership' and this helps explain the increase in volunteers under his leadership.

Mike has, on a weekly basis, attended to the needs of local individuals and families who have suffered as a result of homelessness, disability, mental health, incarceration and/or domestic violence. Personal visitation to those in need has been followed by providing material aid to address immediate requirements – food, clothing, bills, furniture. This has included attending local supermarkets to purchase food, then storing and distributing. Each year at Christmas Mike co-ordinates food and gift donations from parishioners and external sources to produce hampers for needy families. These hampers are then personally delivered so as to provide some much-appreciated Christmas cheer.

In the last month alone Mike has overseen the relocation of 7 families who have required furniture, white goods, linen, cutlery, crockery, food and clothing. All needing to be sourced and delivered.

This important leadership role has required Mike to organise and manage home visits, co-ordinate with the State body, introduce and support members with introduction of new State processes and the use of updated technologies and oversee appeals. Mike's outstanding communication and ability to build rapport have underpinned his successful leadership style. He exemplifies 'Servant Leadership' and this helps explain the increase in volunteers under his leadership.

Mike has received a 20 Year Certificate of Service from the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Mike is not motivated by Awards but rather seeing families have the opportunity to re establish themselves in the community. His achievements are measured by the hundreds of families he has assisted in his over twenty one years of service.

Mike has a genuine concern for those in our community who are in need and a willingness to do something about it while preserving total confidentiality. He acts with empathy and without judgement, demonstrating patience, kindness and compassion. He has the ability to remain calm and motivated in challenging and unfamiliar environments. Mike builds rapport in a respectful manner with people from a range of backgrounds and cultures. His passion for social justice shines through his work.

The team culture that exists within the Peakhurst Conference can be attributed to Mike's positive and supportive leadership. Members are continually inspired by his example of genuine, humble service.

Volunteering requires commitment, reliability and above all passion. It is Mike's passion to help those in need that drives his commitment and importantly to those in need. It is this passion and personal attachment that has motivated others to join the Conference or generally support the work. While Mike's volunteer work has been with those suffering on the fringes of the local community it is these efforts that have made our community as a whole significantly better.



Camille Philips- Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst Conference

Mike and his dear family with Ash, Metro Regional Director



Conference News

NORTH RYDE CONFERENCE

The Macquarie Centre kindly invited us to participate to raise valuable funds by wrapping shoppers' Christmas gifts. A wonderful total of \$1,025 was raised over 14 and 15 December.

We appreciate the support of Vinnies Member and Community Engagement Coordinators, Paul Longobardi and Ernest Henry, Macquarie Regional President, John Lumley, and Regional Support Coordinator Jennifer Strong was always a great supporter of North Ryde Conference. Thank you all !

Special thanks to all the Gift Wrappers that included 3 "imported" experts who very kindly shared their time: Jo Torres-Angeles, Espy Songco and Jonesie Pama. North Ryde Conference Member Gift Wrappers included: Mariola Zarzycki and Alan Watkins (Thursday Co-Coordinator), Patricia Wonderley, Irma and Lorenzo Escalante (Friday Co-Coordinator).

Some onlookers commented to me that they were fascinated and impressed by the gift wrapping!



THANKS AGAIN TO EVERYONE!

May God continue to bless us all- Lorenzo
(Conference President)





Conference News

ENGADINE CONFERENCE

2023 certainly came and went in a flash for all of us in the Engadine Parish and, I am sure, all across Sydney and beyond.

Vinnies was especially busy from November on with the Summer and Christmas appeal. St John Bosco Parish has always supported Vinnies right from day one and continue to do so.

The Primary School supported us generously with all proceeds from their Salesian Outreach Market Day donated to us. Instead of donating goods for the hampers this year they decided to give us a cash donation toward the items we needed in our hampers.

The Bosco College students donated a spectacular number of hamper items plus some cash as well. We had more than enough for our Hamper needs and left overs for the Sutherland Office 'Food Barn'. This was on top of there being enough to fill the pantry of our Bread and Grocery Run which is a Parish Initiative but with mutual support from both.

We look forward to the fruits of 2024.

Fran Postill for all our Conference Members.



*Knowledge of the poor and needy
is not gained by pouring over books
or in discussions with politicians,
but by visiting ... where they live,....
feeling the cold they feel
and learning from their lips the causes of their woes.*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam





Conference News

LIVERPOOL REGIONAL COUNCIL SNAPSHOT

NEW Liverpool All Saints Conference –13 new Members and with elected office-bearers

RENEWED Hoxton Park Good Shepherd Conference –15 new Members and with elected office-bearers

NEW Liverpool Region Special Tak Force Conference – mostly Members from our friends at Peshurst Conferences and other Members for Kingsgrove/Bankstown, have assisted on a new home visit roster.

NEW Liverpool All Saints Vinnies Van service—established with support of Father Paul and Parish staff, with the generous support of Vinnies Members and local Parishioners, operates on 2 days every week, checking on and meeting and chatting with locals, serving lunch and drinks.

The new Members have received Child Safe/ Safeguarding training, gathering as a team and nearly all are fully compliant and already attending meetings and being mentored on home visits....and building friendships.



Local citizen and parishioner, **Chris Davis (pictured)** shares the joy and pride felt by all in being involved and finding a new vocation with Vinnies, as a new Member of the Liverpool All Saints Conference and also as a volunteer on the Vinnies Van. So many compassionate and generous hearts have emerged to accept the invitation from Vinnies!

On 16 December, Peter Brown, Liverpool Regional Council President, announced that St Vincent de Paul Liverpool had received advice from the Liverpool Catholic Club that they would receive a grant of \$80,000. Peter wrote that this will be a tremendous assistance to Vinnies in assisting the poor and the disadvantaged in the Liverpool region.

Fr Paul Monkerud, Liverpool All Saints Parish Priest has been very helpful in this connection.

In addition, the Club pledged to assist us via their networking connections including local government and their Facebook page including their members interface, to seek the recruitment of new Vinnies members and volunteers within the Liverpool Region.

Peter concluded with, “A great Christmas present for the Liverpool poor.”

Since, the Club has also provided additional funds to support the children of families in need with school and recreational supplies.

Peter has lead the reinvigoration and promotion of Vinnies due without doubt, to his drive and vision, optimism, determination and people skills...and with the wonderful support of many, notably existing local Members and Tricia Fogarty (Mt Pritchard VSC Coordinator), Patricia Cudmore (Sutherland Regional Council President), Michelle Fonti (SACC SJ Rep), John Walden (SACC Pres) and Metro Regional Director, Ash.



Balmain Conference

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS ...AND MORE CHRISTMAS HAMPERS!

We delivered 140 hampers to our clients in Balmain and Rozelle, with a bespoke gift for each one and for their partners, children and/or grandchildren.

All clients received a food card as well.



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 3 compliances are required for Members, volunteers, and employees:

- NSW Working With Children Check (every 5 years); Police Check (every 3 years); Vinnies Child Safe /Safeguarding (every 2 years).
- Without all 3, the Member's status is set to Inactive in the database and can't engage in any Conference activity.**

Applying for Background Checks-Working With Children's Check (WWCC) and Police Check

- Instruction documents are available – just ask your Conference President or Member & Community Engagement Coordinator (MCEC) at MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au
- For assistance, ask a co-Member or contact your MCEC or your Vinnies Support Centre Coordinator.

Working With Children's Check

- Go to <http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/> Once your WWCC is acquired or renewed, 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 volunteerMember with Vinnies. Your WWCC details will be added to your Society records.

Online Police Check

- Go to: <https://svdpmetroregion.nationalcrimecheck.com.au/> Results go to Vinnies. Once applied, advise your MCEC. Once processed, you'll be advised and your Police Check details will be added to your Society records.

Vinnies NSW Child Safe /Safeguarding Training

- **Online:** The old Vinnies Learning Centre system has been replaced by the new MAVS (Members and Volunteers) Training Portal - you will receive an email with log-in details to the Training Portal to complete your Child Safe/ Safeguarding training.
- *Additional short 30-45min courses are required too which will be shown on your homepage: Orientation, Code of Conduct, Privacy, Safety. Other optional courses are shown in the content library.*

If related to navigating the training portal or logging in, email MAVS.Support@vinnies.org.au and feel free to Cc your MCEC.

Zoom sessions will be held regularly, each is 1.5 hours. Ask your MCE Coordinator or email us at MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au and we'll assist you in registering, but generally at least 5 are required. Face-to-Face sessions require 10 Members so generally the Conference or Regional President will get a group together and book with your MCEC. **We're always happy to be of service!**

New Members and Volunteers (MAVS) Website – coming very soon.

Our new refreshed volunteer and members portal known as the MAVS website (that includes the Training Portal) is due to launch in mid April. It is secure, easy to use and an excellent way of keeping in touch with news items and articles of interest. It aligns with Vinnies' goals to **Excel, Grow and Cultivate**. Our key aim is to continue to improve automation and to create a sense of community for our Volunteers and Members.

We want to help you by providing a simple automated way of communicating more effectively. The MAVS website will keep you informed on coming events, provide easier ways to apply for volunteering opportunities and complete training.

Here's an insight into what some of the other new features and benefits will include:

- **Improved and refreshed website:** offers an updated look/feel to the MAVS website
- **Ease of sign-in to the MAVS website:** once registered, you will experience a secure and easy way to sign-in.
- **Self-Service Profile:** you can enter and update some of your own personal profile details.
- **Learning:** you will be able to view your learning and complete any necessary training that is required.
- **Volunteering opportunities:** for those interested in volunteering, the new MAVS website has an easy and simple way to search for volunteering opportunities.

MAVS Training: From 20 February 2024 all learning/training became available from the new MAVS website's Training Portal. If you require any assistance with training, please contact MAVS.Support@vinnies.org.au and we will send you specific instructions on how to access this. These have already been sent to all new Members and those due to complete training.

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 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, 20 - 26 May 2024.

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

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

Parish or School Fetes

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

Using the MAVS social justice updates

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





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

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.



Unlock your Leadership Potential with ‘Leading with Impact’

Last year, the Society rolled out a new leadership program that was co-created with the University of Notre Dame.

Leading with Impact 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. It is broken down into seven modules:

- Formation
- Leadership and management
- Governance
- Financial reporting
- Counselling skills for leaders
- Supporting member and volunteer engagement
- Digital communication and security



Starting in 2023, the first cohort was a pilot group consisting of member leaders from different Central Councils. They have completed 4 of the 7 modules and we have received very positive feedback.

We are planning to start with a new cohort in the second half of this year and are calling on expressions of interest from interested members. 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.

The program is delivered in an in-person group setting at the Notre Dame campus in Broadway. Travel and accommodation are paid for by the Society.

If interested, please contact Linda Paull linda.paull@vinnies.org.au to secure a place.

Vinnies Van

The Sydney Vinnies Van Service, a vital community resource providing essential services, has seen a remarkable increase in demand recently.

To meet this surge, the Sydney Vinnies Van Service has adeptly expanded its operations, launching three new daytime services in Maroubra, Haymarket, and Liverpool.

This expansion is a testament to the collaborative efforts of local councils, parishes, schools, and community members.

These additional services are a significant complement to the existing nighttime services across Sydney, Bayside, Randwick, Liverpool, Greater Western Sydney, and Ryde, enhancing Vinnies reach and impact.

The Ryde Vinnies Van Service, a recent addition in December 2023, has quickly become a cornerstone of the community, operating twice weekly with plans to extend further. This ongoing expansion underscores Vinnies commitment to not only meet but anticipate the evolving needs of the communities they serve.

For more information or about how to get involved:

viniana.tamanitoakula@vinnies.org.au





Vinnies Support Centre News

Northern Suburbs/ Crows Nest December Wrap up

Our Northern Suburbs volunteers and Members have worked tirelessly in the lead up to Christmas fostering new connections with schools, early learning centres, local small businesses, and corporate groups to make this Christmas special for people we assist.

Here's a little peak into what they've been up to:

The Channel 9 Digital team helped centre volunteers create gift packs for people we assist and unpacked a 500kg food order from Food Bank. Third.i Property Group donated 500 hessian bags for our Community pantry and helped North Sydney Conference pack their Christmas Hampers. Regional President Peter, gave Third.i Group a presentation about our members and the work we do.

Club Grant Partners, Norths Collective donated Westfield Gift cards and spent a day packing hampers for local families and writing out Christmas cards with gift cards inside!

The St George Community Housing Pathways team joined forces with Lane Cove Conference to help pack mini Christmas hampers for people who will be experiencing homelessness and staying in local temporary accommodation over the holidays. Mosman Conference members worked at the centre distributing Christmas gifts to families, calling many of the people we assist to let them know to expect their hampers and kept the centre running!

Bankstown VSC - Quote / Short story

Jayson was interviewed about cost of living and Vinnies experience. He stated that the cost of living is giving a difficult time to him. It is being very hard for him to cover expenses. He mentioned that as everything is very expensive now and sometimes, he buys food via Afterpay and then pay with instalments as he cannot pay one off payment. He also mentioned that he used to do the weekly groceries for \$100 but now it costs between \$150 to \$200 which is hard for him. He said that the house rent is also very high now and sometimes he is struggling with rent and that he asks help from his brother. His brother helps him to pay the rent sometime if he could. He stated that he is always looking for where he can buy a cheaper food to save some money for other expenses and bills. He said that his electricity is way more expensive than before, he used to pay for around \$430 every quarter and now he receives a bill of \$600 to \$700 which is taking all money sometimes.

Jayson stated in regard to his experience with Vinnies. He said that he is very happy with the service that he has been getting from Vinnies. He stated that the staff at Bankstown VSC is very respectful, polite, helpful and supportive. He always receives assistance from Bankstown VSC whenever he is facing financial hardship. He is satisfied with Bankstown VSC.

EAPA volunteer has recently updated. She stated she checked the status of Jason's EAPA application which was submitted requests for on the 20/02/24. The vouchers have been approved and applied to his energy accounts.



Monte Sant Angelo Alumni had a hamper packing day.

Members also recruited our local priest to do some of the hamper deliveries. Our friends at Bunnings helped North Sydney Our Lady of the Way Conference procure some gorgeous gold baskets for their hampers, and local business Holiday Celebration Trees donated the most beautiful tiered tree for our site.

GIVIT donated trolleys full of Christmas goodies, and Veronica from our sewing group made Santa sacks and a giant red bow for our Christmas room!

We are so incredibly proud of our local Members and Centre volunteers for all they've done this year, particularly during the Christmas period.

The impact that a small group of dedicated volunteers can make is truly immeasurable.



Vinnies Support Centre News

REDFERN VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRE

The team at Redfern VSC, worked tirelessly in the lead up to Christmas and throughout the month of December, to ensure that no family went without. They even had support from the local firies with decorating for the event. All the trimmings for a wonderful Christmas day were available at the VSC for families in need. Staff, volunteers, and members enjoyed the opportunity to assist people with choosing gifts for their children and family members, in addition to providing Christmas hampers full of delicious goodies! A truly enjoyable event for all.



Sutherland Vinnies Support Centre – Community Christmas Spirit

One of the Members, Bernette Potter, arranged a collection of Christmas gifts for children in the Sutherland Shire.

We are very grateful for Bernette’s thoughtfulness and the golf club’s support.

Photo: Donation from Cronulla Golf Club



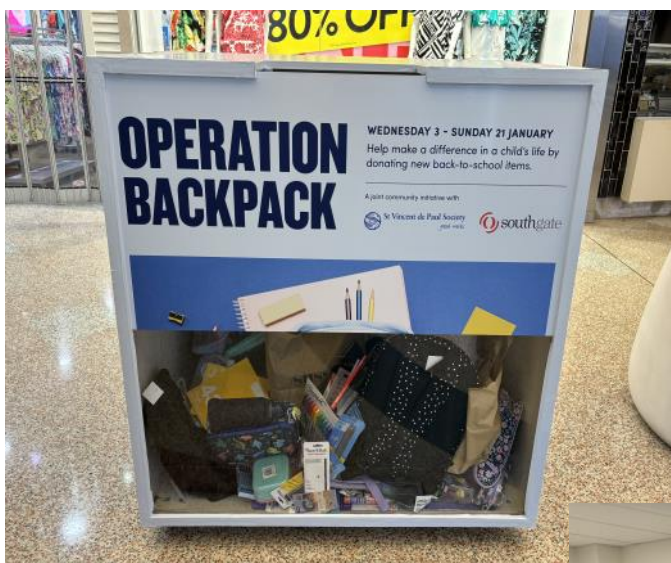
Vinnies Support Centre News

More SUTHERLAND VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRE News

Southgate Shopping Centre, Sylvania, ran Operation Backpack again this year.

Operation Backpack encourages the community to donate new school supplies for families in need.

Operation Backpack is a partnership with St Vincent de Paul Society and St George and Sutherland Shire Leader to support children as they head back to school.



For the past 15 years, Operation Backpack has been assisting families in the area, and supporting those who may be experiencing financial hardship.

The request is simple - put the call out to encourage the community and shoppers to generously donate new school supplies.

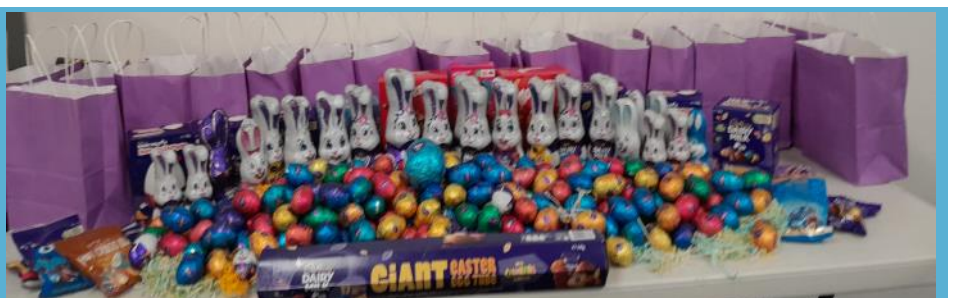
These can include backpacks, pencil cases, glue, lunch boxes, exercise books, and other stationary items.

Sutherland Vinnies received a huge amount of donations from Operation Backpack and were shared with Hurstville and Mt Pritchard Vinnies Support Centres.



A very special donation from the beautiful students at St Patrick's Primary School at Sutherland.

What joy awaits those who receive these on Easter Sunday from the Easter Bunny!





Special Works and Services

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

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

**LIVERPOOL MEN'S CENTRE CELEBRATION
AT ST. JUDE'S BANKSTOWN**

**AUSTRALIA
DAY**
Lunch

**PWA'S SHARED WHAT AUSTRALIA
DAY MEANS TO THEM:**

- SHARING A MEAL TOGETHER
- PEACE OF MIND KNOWING THEY HAVE SHELTER, FRIENDS, FOOD, FUN AND LAUGHTER
- PAYING RESPECT TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- PEACE AWAY FROM WAR-TORN COUNTRIES THAT MOST OF THEM HAD TO ESCAPE
- FAMILY
- SHARING STORIES

REDFERN VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRE

The Redfern VSC team is now also a regular, Vinnies Night Patrol team.

Night Patrol brings a whole new perspective for the team, assisting people in need in their own raw surroundings.

It is nice and deeply meaningful to provide support and solace to people in a different environment and receive such lovely feedback and gratitude.

We are really feeling the values of respecting one's "dignity" and providing a "hand up" where it is so needed.





SCHOOLS AND YOUTH NEWS

Metro Youth at 2024 University Orientation Days

2024 has started off big for Youth membership recruitment. Vinnies Metro Youth were in attendance at 10 different university and college campuses during orientation weeks/days throughout February, promoting the Society to the next generation of Vincentians and Society volunteers. Vinnies Uni Clubs have been holding welcome gatherings to bring together their new recruits and welcome them to the Society. We look forward to seeing the amazing work these new members will achieve.



Vinnies Metro Youth Engagement Officer at the Campion College O-Week stall.

UTS (University of Technology, Sydney) Vinnies Society members at their O-Week stall. →



University of Notre Dame Vinnies Society President, Vinnies Sydney Youth Representative and Vinnies Metro Engagement Officers attending the O-Week stall.



NSW Vinnies Society Welcome Picnic →



Vinnies Metro Youth Programs

Vinnies Metro Youth members and volunteers continue to do good works through the amazing Buddies Day and Homework Help programs.

These programs are all about supporting the children in our community with extra care and compassion, taking them out for a fun day on the weekend or spending the afternoon with them helping with their school work or learning new things. Our trained and supported members and volunteers are positive role models to the children and participate alongside our children, ensuring their time with us is both safe and lots of fun!



Volunteers for the Vinnies Metro Homework Help Program

Christmas Cards made by the children as part of the Homework Help Program →



Buddies Day volunteers and children participants





SCHOOLS AND YOUTH NEWS

On Saturday, 23 January, Youth members from across Sydney Metro Region met at State Office at Lewisham for a Retreat and Planning Day. This day aimed to foster collaboration and connection between Metro’s different university Youth groups:

- University of Sydney Vinnies Volunteers
- Chatswood Young Adults Conference
- Notre Dame Vinnies Society
- Sydney Youth and Young Adult Conference
- University of Technology Vinnies
- Macquarie University Vinnies
- ACU Health and Science Vinnies Society.

Throughout the day, the Conferences were provided the opportunity to develop their Vincentian identity and collaborate to devise key goals they would like to achieve this year.

Our Youth members, guided by Rebecca Hall (Wollongong Youth Representative) and Marissa Papaspiros (Sydney Youth Representative) were invited to create a vision board for their team’s aspirations. We explored the history of the Society, the value of a Home Visits and what being a Conference means.



Today

Morning Session 9:00-11:15

- Welcome! Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions, Housekeeping, Ice-Breaker
- Vinnies Formation: Vision Board, Orientating the Society, Defining a Conference
- Guest Speaker Panel: Members and volunteers

Afternoon Session 11:15 - 4:00

- Planning Session: Vinnies Ball, Conference Planning, Scheduled Meetings
- Program Masterclass: Membership and Retention
- Closing: Reflection and Team Building

We welcomed a panel of diverse members and volunteers, to share their experiences and knowledge of Vinnies:

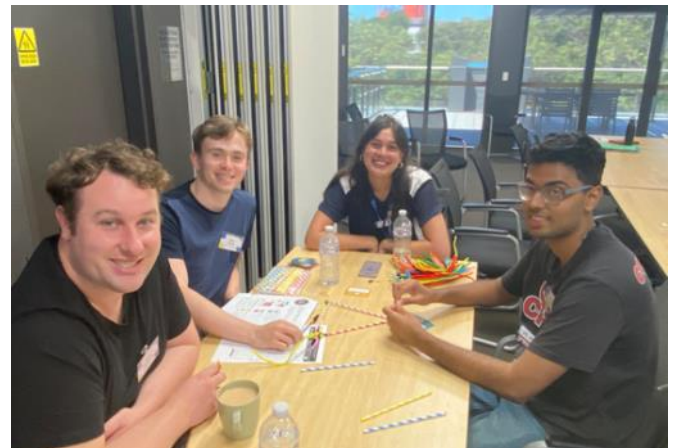
- Michelle (Broken Bay Central Council President)
- John (Sydney Archdiocese Central Council President)
- Vaivi (Vinnies Van Volunteer)
- Sarah (Past UNSW Vinnies Youth Conference President)
- Amy (Past UNSW Vinnies Youth Conference President).

Alysha Wong-O’Connor (Youth Engagement Officer, Metro) facilitated a session providing the groups with a detailed understanding of the different volunteering programs offered by the Society, as well as useful engagement strategies to recruit potential volunteers and members during Orientation Weeks. The Youth Executives were then joined by Ashvini Ambihaipahar (Regional Director, Metro), who with Alysha, Rebecca and Marissa supported the groups to engage in clear planning and strategy development for the year ahead including the logistics of running programs and welcome events.



The groups then collaborated to develop their empathy for the people we serve by playing the ‘Brain Architecture Game’.

This event was very valuable to all members who reflected and developed their Vincentian identity amongst like-minded peers.





SCHOOLS AND YOUTH NEWS

Vinnies School Social Justice Workshops

The Vinnies Metro Schools Engagement Team has available a suite of social justice workshops designed to facilitate meaningful engagement in social justice issues and provide opportunities for participants to put their faith into action. Workshops are delivered to primary students, high school students, teacher or parent groups.

School Social Justice Workshops include an introduction to the St Vincent de Paul Society and hands-on activities (with donated materials from the school) to support Vinnies good works and further the educational understanding of the various social justice issues covered in the workshops.

Vinnies School Social Justice Workshop topics include: Housing and Homelessness, Poverty and Cost of Living, Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching, Migrants and Refugees, Environmental Stewardship.

If you or a school you engage with would like to know more about these workshops, please contact Metro.Schools@vinnies.org.au



Vinnies Metro Youth at Ignite Conference

The Vinnies Metro Schools & Youth staff and Youth members had a fun and inspirational 4 days back in September 2023, gathering with hundreds of Catholic high schoolers, leaders, teachers & parents at the 2023 Ignite Conference. We saw and experienced real-world formation, powerful worship and faith in action. We got to meet people from all over Australia and cannot wait to cross paths with them again, hopefully joining a Vinnies Conference or volunteering at a Vinnies Service.

Ignite Conference is an event of Ignite Youth, a national Catholic youth ministry of Emmanuel Community in Brisbane, hosted in Sydney by the Diocese of Broken Bay at the Broken Bay Cathedral Precinct in Waitara.

A very special shout out to the Vinnies NSW Youth Spiritual Advisor Maddy de Dassel for attending to run the Vinnies stall with the Vinnies Metro staff.

We look forward to attending the 2024 Conference- if you'd like to know more about it, please contact the Vinnies Metro Schools & Youth Team.



Vinnies Resources for School Communities

Vinnies NSW Schools & Youth Engagement Team have many wonderful and engaging resources available for school communities, and we encourage all Conference Members to also take a look at these resources and let your school community know about them or to speak with the Schools Engagement Team.

Vinnies Spirituality Guide for Liturgical Year (B) <https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesSpiritualityGuideB>

Mini Vinnies Kit <https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23>

Vinnies High School Conference Kit <https://bit.ly/VinniesHighSchoolConferenceStarterKit23>

Vinnies Social Justice Factsheets <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources/>

You can also find many more resources at the Vinnies Youth website <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/>



SCHOOLS AND YOUTH NEWS

Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) program

As members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, we are passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of those facing disadvantage. We are equally committed to fostering the next generation of compassionate leaders who embody our values of social justice and service. The Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) program is a testament to these commitments, offering a structured pathway for young people (Years 7-12) to become active agents of social change.

The VSM program empowers young leaders through a unique combination of learning and action. Students engage in meaningful volunteering and fundraising activities, directly addressing pressing social issues like poverty, inequality, and environmental justice. This hands-on experience allows them to develop essential skills like leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, equipping them to become future leaders in their communities.

Structured in three progressive stages, the VSM program journey allows students to deepen their involvement and understanding at each level:

- **Bronze (Years 7-8):** Introduces students to key social justice concepts and provides opportunities for initial engagement through volunteering and fundraising activities.
- **Silver (Years 9-10):** Offers tailored volunteering opportunities focused on specific community needs.
- **Gold (Years 11-12):** Encourages advanced involvement in social justice initiatives, including advocacy and project management.

The 2023 VSM pilot program in the Metropolitan Region was warmly received by six participating schools, paving the way for its exciting statewide rollout in 2024. We encourage schools interested in joining this impactful initiative to contact us at vsm@vinnies.org.au.

VSM coordinator, Maggie Lipu, strongly believes that the program simply draws upon the multitude of strengths that young people already possess. "The VSM program simply harnesses the strengths of young people and allows them to make a lasting difference today."

There are many ways you can be involved in supporting the VSM program and empowering young changemakers:

- **Spread the word:** Share this article with your family, friends, and colleagues to raise awareness of this impactful program.
- Support the program:** Your time and financial contributions can significantly contribute to the expansion and success of the VSM program.

For more details about the VSM program and how to get involved, please visit the [VSM website](#) or contact the VSM team at vsm@vinnies.org.au.



SAVE THE DATE – 2024 Mini Vinnies Gathering

Wednesday 24th July 2024
Australian Catholic University, Strathfield

Invitations and more event details will be released .

The Mini Vinnies Gathering is an encouraging opportunity to bring together the passion and enthusiasm of our youngest members across Sydney, Broken Bay, and Greater Western Sydney Central Council. Students and teachers receive both spiritual and social justice formation and we encourage Conference Members to attend with their local Mini Vinnies school group to support and encourage their young members.



SHOP NEWS

Clean Up Australia Day

Retail was thrilled to become an official partner of Clean Up Australia Day.

To support this important community, clean up event, retail stores promoted 'Rewear and Recycle Week'.

Elaborate window displays were created to draw attention to the sustainable aspects of shopping pre-loved and donated products.

Displays featuring dresses made of newspaper and up-cycled plastic bags from donation bins, were created to show innovative ways to upcycle waste products and to highlight the landfill epidemic.

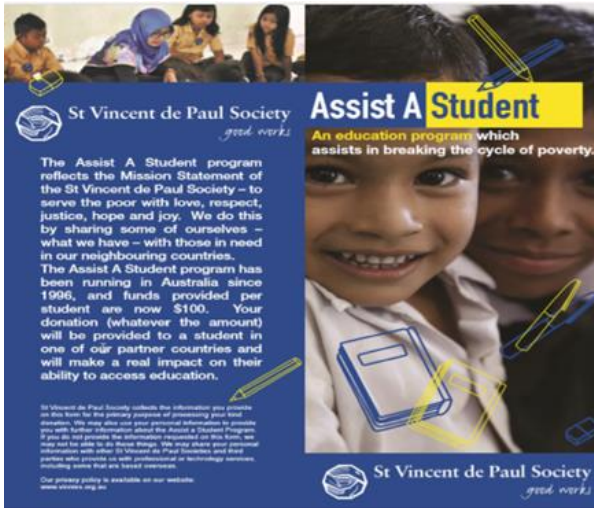
Our team really loved this initiative, as did our customers who shared positive feedback, with many stopping by window displays to take photos!



Employees and volunteers were encouraged to also register at one of our clean up events which were held at Bondi, Newport, Cronulla and Kiama, cleaning up our beaches to help protect our land, water ways and animals.



TWINNING – ASSIST A STUDENT



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Assist A Student
An education program which assists in breaking the cycle of poverty.

The Assist A Student program reflects the Mission Statement of the St Vincent de Paul Society – to serve the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy. We do this by sharing some of ourselves – what we have – with those in need in our neighbouring countries.

The Assist A Student program has been running in Australia since 1996, and funds provided per student are now \$100. Your donation (whatever the amount) will be provided to a student in one of our partner countries and will make a real impact on their ability to access education.

St Vincent de Paul Society collects the information you provide on this form for the primary purpose of processing your kind donation. We may also use your personal information for other purposes with your further information about the Assist A Student Program. If you do not provide the information requested on this form, we may not be able to do this. Please, we only share your personal information with other St Vincent de Paul Societies and donors. We will never provide it to third parties for marketing purposes. We will only use your personal information for the purposes stated above. We will not provide your personal information to any third party without your consent. We will not provide your personal information to any third party without your consent. We will not provide your personal information to any third party without your consent.

Our privacy policy is available on our website: www.vinnies.org.au

St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Access to education is a proven way of assisting individuals to reach their full potential and is a pathway to breaking the cycle of poverty. Students are supported at all levels of education – primary, secondary and tertiary – and the program is highly valued by recipients. In our partner countries, local Vincentians select students and manage the program. Donors are allocated a student from this pool of students provided by our overseas partners.

Administration costs are not deducted from your donation.

100% of donated funds go toward supporting students.

You can also choose to receive a certificate for your donation.

A letter from a Year 7 student in Thailand:

On behalf of Thai students who have received the scholarships from you and kind donors, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for your scholarships that help our further education. We used your scholarships for buying the school materials such as school uniforms, sport uniforms, shoes, socks, school bags, textbooks, note-books, pens and pencils. Besides, we used the scholarships for transportation fee to school, meal expenses, and extra course fees. Thank you again for your generosity and support. May God bless you and your good works.

Please note: names of the names and identity of students supported, and in accordance with the Rules of the St Vincent de Paul Society and Civil Protection Department, names, addresses and photographs of donors are not provided to donors. Our online portal includes a small fundraising fee which is reflected in the amount of the grant, not the St Vincent de Paul Society. You have the choice to opt out of this fee.

Education is important to me to get a job. I want to work for government and need to do well at Senior Secondary School.
- Student, Kiribati

The support helps students to fit in and work hard. It also supports the school as it means that students have the materials they need.
- School Principal, Indonesia

If students cannot pay school fees they build a debt, so money can be used to pay this off a little bit. When parents get money, they feel relieved. Students also feel happier and can study better.
- Conference member, Indonesia



Assist a Student is a program of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia. Donations from Australians are used to provide funds to students from partner countries in the Asia and the Pacific to assist with education expenses.



- 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)
- _____
- 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

Request the above brochure

or find out more: <https://www.vinnies.org.au/get-involved/international-impact/twinning>

Learn more about our Overseas Partnerships Program

Projects

We help Conferences and Councils in our partner countries undertake good works through local development projects that are sustainable and benefit their community.

PROJECTS

Assist A Student

The Assist A Student Program recognises the importance of education as key to helping break the cycle of poverty.

ASSIST A STUDENT

Emergency Relief

When natural or humanitarian disasters impact their country, our overseas partners or CIAD may ask Australia for assistance.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

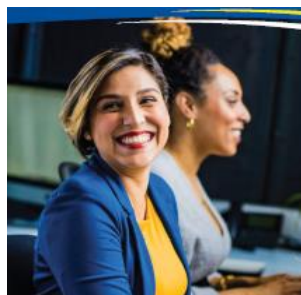


Vinnies Assist—13 18 12

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 for general information or to make a referral to our Vinnies Services or Member support services — 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.

2024—Upcoming Key Social Justice dates

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

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/>

26 May: Sorry Day

27 May - 3 June: National Reconciliation Week

1 June: Vinnies NSW 2024 SJ Forum

5 June: World Environment Day

16 - 22 June: Refugee Week

20 June: World Refugee Day

7 - 14 July: NAIDOC Week

30 July: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

5 - 11 August: Homelessness Week

25 August: Social Justice Sunday

1 September: World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

29 September: World Day of Migrants and Refugees

10 October: World Mental Health Day

13 - 19 October: Anti-Poverty Week

13 - 19 October: Rosalie Rendu Forum (day to be confirmed)

Mid November: World Day of the Poor (day to be confirmed)

25 November: International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women

3 December: International Day of People with Disability

10 December: Human Rights Day



Our call to rebuild essential social infrastructure and programs



The Society has lodged its NSW **2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission** calling for the NSW Government to rebuild essential social infrastructure and programs across housing, homelessness and cost of living.

Our submission outlines 11 recommendations in response to the persistent cost of living crisis that disproportionately impacts people already doing it tough in our community.

Broadly, these recommendations are to dramatically increase social housing supply with wrap-around supports, increase homelessness services and program funding, extend food relief programs and make energy more affordable.

With economists predicting this year will continue to be difficult for households, we believe it is critical that the NSW Government prioritises investment to strengthen our social safety net so that people can feed their families and have an affordable, safe and healthy place to call home.

What can you do?

Read the [2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission](#) and [Pre-Budget Submission](#) and forward it on to a friend.

Attend our [2024 Social Justice Forum](#) on 1 June in North Sydney

Join us in our upcoming **Affordable Housing Campaign** (details to come).



REBUILDING ESSENTIAL SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS

NSW 2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission

February 2024

Host a local conversation about affordable housing

The Society NSW and the Sydney Alliance are running a campaign calling for more Affordable Housing in the lead up to local government elections in September this year. Local Councils can use planning policy to ensure that affordable rental housing is included in local developments.

However, there is no mandatory requirement for NSW Councils to set and meet targets to provide affordable housing. This often means people on low or fixed incomes are priced out of the areas where they work or have lived for many years. Some Councils are listening to local people, such as Hornsby and City of Sydney, while others are not, such as Parramatta and Kur-ing-Gai.

The Social Justice team is seeking expressions of interest from people who might be interested in either hosting or joining a small team to start a conversation in their local community and with their local Council about how we can make housing fairer. We need local people who know the local area and want to get involved. Please reach out to us if you are interested to explore more at social.justice@vinnies.org.au



NSW SOCIAL JUSTICE
NETWORK

SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM 2024

SATURDAY 1 JUNE 2024



Do you want positive change for the people we assist - addressing the root causes of poverty and systems that perpetuate disadvantage?

The Society NSW's flagship social justice event - the [2024 NSW Social Justice Forum](#) - will be held on **Saturday 1 June** at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney.

This is an opportunity to connect with others who share a passion for more just and inclusive communities.

Join us as we:

- Learn more about the root causes of poverty and unjust structures
- Discuss how we can work together to alleviate need, and shape fairer systems and structures that will uphold the rights of those in our communities
- Share your thoughts and experiences, and help shape our social justice advocacy agenda
- Come together to forge solid relationships

All members, volunteers, employees and supporters of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW are welcome to attend.

This is a free event, with lunch and refreshments provided, but registrations are essential. Please register [here](#).

Having heard from experts, change-makers and fellow leaders, we hope you'll leave the forum inspired to take action, and with the relationships, knowledge and resources you need to do so.

Need more information? Contact the NSW Social Justice Team at social.justice@vinnies.org.au

WHEN:

1 June 2024,

9:00am – 4.30pm

WHERE:

**Mary MacKillop
Place,**

7-11 Mount St,

North Sydney

(a short walk from North
Sydney station)





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

Visit: vinnies.org.au/NILS





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

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

THANK YOU

MAVS Platform

Have you visited the Member and Volunteer Support website?

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

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

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

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

Search the other tabs –Spirituality, Social Justice, Schools and Youth, Resources, Policies for additional information and publications.

For requested updates, please email MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au