



## Role Description: Associate Member

<b>Role title</b>	Associate Member
<b>Reports to</b>	Conference President
<b>Roles reporting to this role</b>	Nil
<b>Primary role objective</b>	Associate members are those who are committed to the ethos, mission, aims and objects of the Society, and who seek to live out their faith in action by assisting in the works of the Society, but do not attend Conference meetings. Associate Members are registered by a procedure established by the relevant State or Territory Council. (The Rule, 2012, Part 3, pp.56-57)
<b>Duration</b>	Ongoing

### The St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in Paris 1833 by 20-year-old university student Frederic Ozanam. Frederic and his friends wished to put their faith into action by serving the poor and needy of the time. The first Australian Conference was founded shortly after, in 1854.

Their compassionate outlook, enthusiasm and vision continues in Australia today. There are thousands of people who regularly share their time and energy to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged people all around Australia. Our aspiration is an Australia transformed by compassion and built on justice.

### Mission

The Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope, and joy, by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

### Vision

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering 'a hand up' to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging people to take control of their own destiny.

### Our Values

- **Commitment:** Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values
- **Compassion:** Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgement
- **Respect:** Service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions
- **Integrity:** Promoting, maintaining and adhering to our mission, vision and values
- **Empathy:** Establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception
- **Advocacy:** Working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the cause of human injustice
- **Courage:** Encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future

### About this role

In this voluntary role, you will be part of a group of members who serve people experiencing disadvantage in your community.

The work you will undertake will vary depending on local need, and your own strengths and interests. This work might include, but is not limited to:

- Visiting with people in need. Members visit in pairs and visitation may take place in the home of the person seeking assistance, on Society premises, or in an institution such as a hospital or prison.
- Providing assistance to people in need in the most responsive and dignified manner. Assistance may include material help, advocacy, referrals, and/ or a range of other actions.
- Keeping accurate records and reporting back about visits.
- Volunteering within services such as Vinnies Vans, on programs such as homework help for disadvantaged kids, or with another service or program in your community that utilises volunteers, including Vinnies Shops.
- Participating in advocacy and other work related to matters of social justice.
- Assisting a Conference or Council with fundraising or promotion of the Society.

In this role you will:

- Enjoy the support and community of other members if you wish to participate in meetings and activities.
- Learn more about your community, including the issues that exist, and the resources available
- Gain a greater understanding of poverty and disadvantage and how it impacts people's lives.

### **Qualities needed to perform the role**

The role suits an adult of any age who would like to engage in service with others in their local community in a faith-based organisation. You will have:

- A genuine desire to serve those in need
- An ability to listen and respond without judging
- Sensitivity to the values of people of other faiths, cultures and lifestyles
- Interest in personal and spiritual growth through service with others
- Willingness to support the Society's mission and vision and the Catholic ethos of the Society.

### **Time commitment**

- This varies according to local needs and your availability. There is a wide range of involvement from 1 to 4 hours per week to just offering occasional assistance.

### **Training and support**

- Comprehensive onboarding program using a mix of online and face-to-face methods
- Welcome, support and mentoring from a Conference President and other members
- The Vincentian Visitation Guidelines will be provided.
- Access to the Vinnies Learning Centre to complete mandatory and other training requirements
- Access to other opportunities to learn and grow within your role as a member
- Support from a Member and Community Engagement Officer (employee) when required.

### **How to get involved**

- Meet with a member or members of the Conference to discuss your interest
- Complete an application form
- Complete a Working with Children and National Criminal History Check.

The Conference President or their delegate will speak with the two people you nominate as referees on your application form and will also have a face-to-face conversation with you before you commence.