



Vinnies
good works

SOCIAL JUSTICE
NETWORK

Welcome to the Social Justice Newsletter for October 2020

11,733 signature petition delivered to NSW Parliament!

This morning, St Vincent de Paul Society CEO, Jack de Groot, and Vice President Social Justice, Brooke Simmons, delivered our *Build Homes, Build Hope* petition of 11,733 signatures to NSW Parliament.

Alex Greenwich, the Independent MP for Sydney, received the petition and committed to table it in Parliament this week. He will also arrange for the petition to be debated, necessitating a response from the Minister for Housing in the Legislative Assembly, as soon as the Parliamentary schedule permits.

Four weeks ago, we had 7,250 signatures and put the call out for members, volunteers, staff and supporters of the Society to help us reach 10,000 before the NSW Budget next month. It was a big ask -- especially given the ongoing need for social distancing -- but Vincentians responded in droves from across NSW.

We received envelopes with hundreds of signatures from conferences and retail stores through to petition sheets with just a couple of signatures and letters of support and encouragement from members of the Society. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who collected petition signatures and to those of you who signed the petition too. Together, your efforts will go a long way towards reminding the NSW Government that they need to make a big investment in social housing in the upcoming Budget.

The delivery and tabling of the petition came together more quickly than we expected. Yesterday we were given an opportunity to share them with MP Alex Greenwich today so that they could be tabled this week. After frantically counting the signatures to confirm we had more than 10,000, we decided this was the right move. That said, if you still have petition sheets with signatures please continue to send them to the Social Justice Team (St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, PO Box 5 Petersham 2049). Alex Greenwich has advised that he can and will table additional signatures as we share them.

[Click here to read our media release about the petition.](#)



Rosalie Rendu lecture 2020

During Anti-Poverty Week, the 2020 Rosalie Rendu Forum brought together a collection of exceptional women to discuss how the disruption created by the pandemic and other recent crises could be used as an opportunity to bring about a more just and compassionate society.

More than 140 Vincentians came together online to hear from Nicki Hutley, Partner at Deloitte Access Economics; Jody Broun, CEO of the Aboriginal Housing Office; and Kirsty Robertson, CEO of Caritas Australia.

Hosted by Geraldine Doogue (ABC Radio National) our three panellists discussed the theme *Reimagining the Future: Can we create more equitable communities post pandemic?*

To read more about the 2020 Rosalie Rendu Forum [click here to read our blog](#). You can also email the Social Justice Team at social.justice@vinnies.org.au if you'd like to access a recording of the event.



Vinnies Virtual Community Sleepout!

This Friday 23 October, participants across NSW will come together in a state-wide effort to raise important funds and awareness for those in our local community who need it the most.

You can show your support for those Vincentians across the State who will spend the night united in a show of solidarity with locals experiencing or at risk of homelessness by [clicking on this link and making a donation](#). By doing so, you'll help raise vital funds to support people doing it tough in our communities, providing a hand up that will help people rebuild their lives.



NAIDOC Week 2020

This year, people across NSW will celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples during NAIDOC Week from 8-15 November.

The theme of the event is *Always Was, Always Will Be* in recognition of the enduring connection and care of traditional lands by Australia's First Peoples for over 65,000 years.

Take time to find out what is happening in your community and [get involved](#). Ideas for how you could celebrate NAIDOC week - including raising awareness in your conference or parish - can also be found [at the bottom of this webpage](#).

This year, the National NAIDOC Committee has partnered with the Woolworths Group to distribute the 2020 NAIDOC Week poster. NAIDOC Week 2020 posters will be available from Woolworths' outlets from Wednesday 21 October until stocks last.

For more information about NAIDOC Week [click here](#).



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**

8-15 NOV 2020

Temporary visa holders left behind in Federal Budget

Following budget announcements, it was disappointing to see that temporary visa holders continue to be left behind during this pandemic. People seeking asylum living in the Australian community, in particular, continue to struggle to pay their rent, buy their groceries and support their families due to the lack of a financial safety net.

The Federal Government plans to further cut funding for people seeking asylum assisted by the Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) program. Spending on financial support for people seeking asylum has been reduced to \$19.6 million for the 2020-2021 financial year, down from \$139.8 million in 2017-18.

The Federal Government has also reduced the Refugee and Humanitarian Program to just 13,750 places per year. While this will reduce expenditure by \$911.3 million over the next four years, at the same time \$1.19 billion has been allocated to offshore processing arrangements in 2020-21, an increase of 23% on 2019-20 expenditure. In addition, the Government will provide \$55.6 million in 2020-21 to reactivate the Christmas Island immigration detention facility.

This unfortunately sends a clear message that the livelihoods of those who try to come to Australia seeking protection, or who are in the process of seeking safety on our shores, are not valued as highly as border protection.



Register for our post-NSW Budget webinar

Government budgets reflect their priorities and indicate how they plan to achieve their objectives.

With the recent Federal Budget missing many key opportunities to transform the lives of people experiencing poverty and disadvantage, we now keenly await the delivery of the NSW Budget on November 17. We hope investment in social housing will feature prominently, but

there are also many other ways in which budget initiatives will impact the wellbeing of our communities.

Join us for a Social Justice Wednesday Webinar on 25 November at 12pm for an overview of key budget measures, with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss what it will mean for our work over the months and years ahead.

[You can register for the webinar here.](#)



Upcoming dates and events

Vinnies Community Sleepout

Friday 23 October

[Donate here](#)

NAIDOC Week

Sunday 8 - Sunday 15 November

[For more information](#)

Religion & Global Ethics: Catholic Social Teaching and the Climate Crisis

5pm-6pm Wednesday 11 November

[Click for information](#)

EWON Consultative Council meeting

Consumer protection during COVID-19

10am-11am Thursday 12 November

[Email to RSVP](#)

Do you know of a local social justice event or news item that you'd like everyone to know about?

CONTACT US