



## Opportunities for Community Engagement.

### 1.6 ADAPTATION TO A CHANGING WORLD

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.

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## Opportunities Currently Available

### 1) Community stalls and markets

- **WHY?**

Community stalls and markets provide three main benefits:

- a) Inform the community of the multiple ways that Vinnies provides a hand up to the community. It has been reported that many members of the Community only recognize St Vincent de Paul through the Retail outlets.
- b) Connect with community members who may need a hand up but are unaware of how Vinnies can assist.
- c) Recruitment opportunity for community members who may like to volunteer for, or join, Vinnies.

- **WHO?**

- Community engagement co-ordinators will bring the Vinnies marquee and all material to the event as required and assist with setup and pack-down.
- Members – need to assist with setup and pack-down. Be present on the stall for the duration of the day – generally 3 per shift. 10 members required to be available for the roster.
- Vinnies Youth and Schools – invited to join the table.
- Volunteers – invited to join the table.

- **WHAT?**

People on a Vinnies stall will have banners, flyers and merchandise available for the community. Some Vinnies T-Shirts are available for loan on the day of the stall. A Vinnies marquee is available for booking within Metro region.

**Flyers are available for:**

- Members
- Vinnies Metro
- Youth
- Social Justice
- Support Centres
- Assist a student
- Volunteers
- Amelie Housing
- No Interest Loans

**Merchandise for give-away.**

- Temporary tattoo stickers – ‘Give Hope’
- Temporary tattoo stickers – ‘Vinnies Logo’
- St Vincent de Paul Society bookmarks
- Vinnies pens
- Vinnies magnet notepads



**Suggestions for members/volunteers to take along:**

- Fruit can be popular as a give-away when people are browsing past the stall.
- Some councils or event organisers do not allow bottled water, however if it is permitted, this is also popular.

Donation buckets could be available at the side of the stall for any community members wishing to make a donation, however as the purpose of the stall is to inform the community and build a relationship with the community, it is helpful to be aware that obvious fundraising can cause some people to give the stall a wide berth. In addition, some applications for a stall have different conditions if the intention of hosting the stall is fundraising, rather than giving back to the community or informing the community.

Members, staff and volunteers on the stall can utilize the flyers to speak to the community about Vinnies works, ways Vinnies can assist the community, and volunteering or becoming a member of Vinnies.

- **WHERE?**

Please contact your member and community engagement coordinator ([MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au)) if you are interested in requesting a Vinnies stall at your local markets. The member and community engagement coordinator will contact the organiser of the market and depending on the wait list and cost of hosting a stall, will engage with the organiser to have a regular stall or one-off Vinnies stall.

Many markets are organized by local government councils, and applications need to be submitted to request a stall. A commitment of at least 10 members would be required prior to submitting an application for a stall.

- **WHEN?**

Options appear to be monthly; bi-monthly; or one-off depending on the event organiser.

Weekend stalls preferable.

Is there a desire for mid-week stalls (pending confirmation of availability)?

- **NEXT STEPS**

For regions interested in hosting a Vinnies Community Stall at a local markets:

- Confirm sufficient interest from member to attend the stall (estimating at least 10 required)
- Identify the market where you would like to host the stall.
- Contact [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au) with your preferences and your region/conference.



## 2) Shopping Centre Information and Donation Table

- **WHY**

Benefits to hosting an information table at a shopping centre:

- a) It's an opportunity to inform the community of the multiple ways that Vinnies provides a hand up to the community. Vinnies is about more than Retail stores.
- b) Connect with community members who may need a hand up but are unaware of how Vinnies can assist.
- c) Recruitment opportunity for community members who may like to volunteer for, or join, Vinnies.
- d) Collect food or toiletry donations for the local Vinnies Support Centre. This gives the community a sense of 'giving back' without having to make a cash donation and informs the community of where their donations go and why.

- **WHO**

- Community engagement co-ords will provide materials prior to the event and liaise with the shopping centre. If required, the coordinators may attend on the day to assist with setup.
- Members to be in attendance for the duration of the event.
- Vinnies Youth and Schools – invited to join the table.
- Volunteers – invited to join the table.
- In collaboration with local club, eg Lions or Rotary

The event could also be publicized through the local parishes and school community to request their support in the donation drive.

- **WHAT**

- Banners, table, flyers, printed lists of requested food items or toiletries to hand out to shoppers.
- Some Vinnies T-Shirts are available for loan on the day of the stall.
- Member and Community Engagement Coordinator will provide the items above.

**Flyers are available for:**

- Members
- Vinnies Metro
- Youth
- Social Justice
- Support Centres
- Assist a student
- Volunteers
- Amelie Housing
- Homelessness Services (TBC)
- No Interest Loans



**List of requested food items:**

- As part of planning the event, the member and community engagement coordinator will confirm with the Conference President or the local Vinnies Support Centre Coordinator, the list of food items and toiletries most in demand in the area.  
Eg, Brown rice; nappies; baked beans etc...
- Lists of the required items will be made available, for Conference members to hand out to community members as they enter the Shopping Centre. Donations can be collected in a shopping trolley at the Vinnies table as community members exit the centre.

Members, staff and volunteers at the table can utilize the flyers to speak to the community about Vinnies works, the ways in which Vinnies can assist the community, and volunteering or becoming a member of Vinnies.

- **WHERE**

Once Conference Presidents have identified a shopping centre to be approached and have confirmed several Conference Members that will attend and take part in a Vinnies table, please contact your Member and Community Engagement Coordinator ([MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au)). The Member and Community Engagement Coordinator will contact the shopping centre to determine if this can be arranged and if so, will liaise with the shopping centre and the Conference President.

- **WHEN**

On request

- **NEXT STEPS**

For Conference interested in hosting a Vinnies table at a local shopping centre:

- Please confirm sufficient interest from member to attend the table (estimating at least 5 required)
- Identify the shopping centre and area where you would like to host the table.
- Contact [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au) with your preferences and your region/conference.



### 3) Vinnies Table outside Masses or at School Fetes

- **WHY**

Benefits to hosting an information table after Mass or at local school fetes:

- a) It's another opportunity to inform the Parish and School community of the multiple ways that Vinnies provides a hand up to the community.
- b) Connect with the Parish and School community members who may need a hand up but are unaware of how Vinnies can assist.
- c) Recruitment opportunity for Parish and School community members who may like to volunteer for, or join, Vinnies.

- **WHO**

- Community engagement coordinators will provide materials prior to the event and liaise with the Member, Parish or School contact. If required, the coordinators may attend on the day to assist with setup.
- Members to be in attendance for the duration of the event.
- Vinnies Youth and Schools – invited to join the table.
- Volunteers – invited to join the table.

The event could also be publicized through the local parishes and schools.

- **WHAT**

- Banners, table, flyers, marketing material, temporary tatoos, membership application forms.
- Vinnies T-Shirts are available for loan on the day of those attending the Vinnies table.
- Member and Community Engagement Coordinator will provide the items above.

**Flyers are available for:**

- Members
- Vinnies Metro
- Youth
- Social Justice
- Support Centres
- Assist a student
- Volunteers
- Amelie Housing
- No Interest Loans

Members, staff and volunteers at the table can utilize the flyers to speak to the community about Vinnies works, the ways in which Vinnies can assist the community, and volunteering or becoming a member of Vinnies.



- **WHERE**

Members local parishes or school.

- **WHEN**

On request

- **NEXT STEPS**

Confirm you have Conference Members that would be interested in taking part in a Vinnies information table.

For Conferences interested in hosting a Vinnies table at a local school event:

- Please contact your Vinnies Schools Coordinator or [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au). We can submit a request to the school for a Vinnies marquee or stall to be at the event and request for Vinnies Schools and Youth to be in attendance if possible.

For Conferences interested in hosting a Vinnies table after Mass:

- Member can confirm with their Parish Priest that a Vinnies table is OK to be held on a particular date, or alternatively Member can contact [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au), for a Vinnies Community Engagement Coordinator to contact the Parish Priest.



#### 4) Aged Care Visitation

- **WHY**

**Up to 40% of aged care residents receive no visitors**

Minister Ken Wyatt 2017

**“Socially isolated people over 60 are 49% more likely to die in the next 12 months than their socially-connected peers, and 64% more likely to develop dementia. “**

2018 Australian Loneliness Report <https://psychweek.org.au/2018-archive/loneliness-study/>

**“It’s found loneliness increases the risk of death more than such things as poor diet, obesity, alcohol consumption, and lack of exercise, and that it is as harmful as heavy smoking. “**

Loneliness Kills <https://theconversation.com/loneliness-is-a-social-cancer-every-bit-as-alarming-as-cancer-itself-126741>

- **WHO**

- Conferences

- Members would receive an induction at each of the facilities.
- Members are required to have a police check – the existing Vinnies Police Check is sufficient.
- Members would be requested to have a flu vaccination or an exemption if unable to have one.
- Vinnies Members could possibly wear Vinnies caps, T-shirts or badges to identify themselves as Vinnies Members.

- Columbia Aged Care facility:

- Chatswood – 90 beds – demographics of residents is Anglo/Japanese/Chinese
- Marrickville – 50 beds – demographics of residents is predominantly Greek
- Strathfield – 126 beds – demographics of residents is mainly Korean and Anglo.

- Community Visitors Scheme including Catholic Healthcare

15 facilities across Western Sydney including Emmaus Nursing Home Kemps Creek – 5

- **WHAT**

**Columbia Aged Care programs:**

- Community Visitor:

- a volunteer would be assigned to a resident for regular (eg monthly) visits.
- These would mainly be with residents that receive no or limited visits.
- This could be as simple as reading a newspaper to the resident or looking through photo albums.

- Pet therapy:

- There is no restriction on the sort of pets that could be brought to the centre.
- All pets would need to have their vaccination certificates or a letter from the vet.

- Music – involves volunteers playing the piano or guitar to entertain the residents.





- Computer workshops – on ipads or mobile phones.
- Reminiscing program – Volunteers bring historic pictures of town or places where some residents suffering dementia have lived. Look through the photos with the resident and talk of where they grew up.
- Armchair travel – looking at pictures of overseas locations. Reading about those locations.
- Carers and Kids (Trial at Chatswood required before rollout to other facilities).
  - Volunteers bring along their young ones (Pres-school, toddlers, babies) to spend time with the residents.
  - This would be hosted in a particular area of the facility.
  - Only those residents who would like to take part in this program would visit this area.
  - The facility could possibly provide muffins and poppers for the children.
  - This could involve the residents simply watching the children play and talking to the children.
  - Carers would bring their own games for the children – eg ‘knuckles’ or books.

#### **Garrawarra / Caringbah Aged Care programs**

- Accompany residents to Mass and Morning tea.
- **WHERE**
  - Columbia Aged Care Chatswood – 90 beds – demographics of residents is Anglo/Japanese/Chinese
  - Columbia Aged Care Marrickville – 50 beds – demographics of residents is predominantly Greek
  - Columbia Aged Care Strathfield – 126 beds – demographics of residents is mainly Korean and Anglo.
  - Garrawarra Centre – Waterfall.
- **WHEN**
  - Columbia Aged Care – ready now to accept volunteers.
  - Garrawarra – on hold.
- **NEXT STEPS**
  - Confirm if Members would like to attend Aged Care facilities on an individual basis, or as part of a group or roster. This may determine the type of programs that the facility asks us to be involved in.
  - Confirm which Aged Care facility outlet (currently, only Columbia outlet available) you would like to volunteer at, which program and available frequency.
  - Contact [MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroMembers@vinnies.org.au) with details. We will connect you with the contact at the facility and assist with arranging inductions and reviews.



## 5) Engaging Parish Community via Vinnies Social Justice actions

- **WHY**
  - To raise awareness amongst the Parish community of the work St Vincent de Paul Society does in addressing Social Injustices.
  - Possible recruitment opportunities for Parishioners who are interested in taking action on various Social Justice issues or possibly join Vinnies Social Justice network.
- **WHO**
  - Conference Members who would like to speak to Parishioners from the pulpit during or at the close of Mass.
  - Conference Members who would like to submit a short paragraph regarding Vinnies in the Parish bulletin.
- **WHAT**
  - There are around 15 dates in the Social Justice calendar, which Vinnies addresses as part of their advocacy and day-to-day actions:
    - 26/01 - Survival Day / Australia Day
    - 20/02 – World Day of Social Justice
    - 21/03 - National Harmony Day
    - 17/5 - 23/5 - National Volunteer week.
    - 26/05 - National Sorry Day
    - 27/05 - 02/06 - Reconciliation Week.
    - 14/06 - Refugee Week
    - 20/06 - World Refugee Day
    - 04/07 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
    - 04/07 - 11/7 NAIDOC week
    - 29/08 – Social Justice Sunday
    - 26/09 - Migrant and Refugee Sunday
    - 10/10 – World Mental Health Day
    - 10/10 - 17/10 - Anti-Poverty week
    - 21/11 - World day of the poor
    - 10/12 – Human Rights Day
  - In the weeks leading up to these dates, several items are uploaded to the MAVS Social Justice page <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/social-justice/> under the heading “**Social Justice Diary 2021 – resources for Members**”
  - Members can utilize these resources to publish a small paragraph in the Parish bulletin, speak about Vinnies and the Social Justice date after Mass plus some suggested activities for their Conference to do.
  - Please check the above link for updated information prior to Social Justice dates.



## Future opportunities under development or pending post COVID:

6) Hospital Visitation

7) Social and Affordable Housing Social Engagements.

8) Social Isolation.

- WHY

***“Socially isolated people over 60 are 49% more likely to die in the next 12 months than their socially-connected peers, and 64% more likely to develop dementia. ”***

*2018 Australian Loneliness Report <https://psychweek.org.au/2018-archive/loneliness-study/>*

***“It’s found loneliness increases the risk of death more than such things as poor diet, obesity, alcohol consumption, and lack of exercise, and that it is as harmful as heavy smoking. ”***

*Loneliness Kills <https://theconversation.com/loneliness-is-a-social-cancer-every-bit-as-alarming-as-cancer-itself-126741>*

9) Group Mentoring Programs – refugees and migrants

10) Driving Change