



Vinnies
good works

SOCIAL JUSTICE
NETWORK

Welcome to the Social Justice Newsletter for November

New Climate Equity Social Justice Statement

Last week, during the Global Climate Conference Day of Action, Vinnies NSW launched our newest Social Justice Statement on Climate Equity. The Statement acknowledges that our climate is changing dramatically and that there is broad consensus that human activity is largely responsible for these changes.

It observes that, left unchecked, climate change will lead to more frequent and more severe weather events such as floods and droughts, more intense bushfires, rising sea levels, widening health inequalities, and increased pressure on health and emergency services. This will disproportionately affect people and communities already experiencing poverty and disadvantage, both in Australia and overseas.

Our newest Social Justice Statement also includes recommended actions the NSW and Federal Governments can take to reduce our impact on our environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change. To learn how we can avoid the worst injustices of climate change and other ecological crises, [click here to read our new Climate Equity Social Justice Statement](#).



Register for an upcoming candidate forum!

With local council elections scheduled for Saturday 4 December, Vinnies NSW is encouraging members and supporters to attend a local candidate forum or assembly organised by the Sydney Alliance over the weeks ahead.

So far, events in Sutherland, Blacktown and Lake Macquarie have provided opportunities for candidates to commit to specific actions to increase the supply of affordable housing, support people seeking asylum and refugees, and take steps to mitigate the impact of climate change. These events have also given local residents the opportunity to understand candidates' positions on key issues so they can better decide who will represent their interests.

Over the next fortnight, events will also take place in for residents of Campbelltown, Hornsby, Parramatta and the Inner West.

[For more information or to register to attend please click here.](#)

2021 NSW Local Government elections

Saturday
4 September



New Reconciliation Action Plan

Last week the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW was proud to launch its second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The RAP sets out our commitment to build strong and meaningful relationships between the First Peoples of Australia and non-Indigenous Australians as we work to address the causes and consequences of poverty and exclusion.

At the online launch event we heard about several initiatives already underway to support the plan. Our homelessness and housing services have established a First Nations Mentoring and Development Program, [recruiting for traineeship roles across the State](#). Vinnies shops have been celebrating First Nations culture with innovative window displays, and our [Dubbo-based partnership with REDI.E and TOMRA Cleanaway](#) continues to deliver community benefits, including employment opportunities.

The Bulbulwul Baya Advisory Group will provide ongoing cultural guidance as we implement our Reconciliation Action Plan, while most Vinnies' Regions have established local RAP Committees to help drive local actions. Tools and guidance documents for individuals and groups interested in supporting the plan are available via the [Members and Volunteers Website](#).



COVID supports wind back

As COVID restrictions ease across NSW, the support and protections available to people who have been financially impacted are also being wound back.

From November 6, COVID-19 Disaster Payments are no longer available in NSW. People who are still looking for work may apply for other income support payments: [you can check your eligibility here](#).

The moratorium on evictions officially ended on 11 November, but some protections remain in place for COVID-19 impacted tenants. Households whose income has reduced by 25% since 15 July as a result of COVID-19 may now also make a [direct application for a residential tenancy support payment of up to \\$4500](#).

The energy regulator's Statement of Expectations - which provided additional protection from disconnection and debt collection to people experiencing financial difficulties - has also lifted. People struggling to pay their bills can apply for [Energy Accounts Payment Assistance online](#) or [find a provider here](#).

And if you need support, you can also call Vinnies on 13 18 12.



NEED HELP DURING COVID?
Call **13 18 12**
or email **vinnies@vinnies.org.au**

World Day of the Poor - last chance to register!

This Wednesday evening at 7:00pm we will come together to reflect on the World Day of the Poor, and consider how we can take up the Pope's call to embrace the challenge of mutual sharing.

Bishop Vincent will reflect on the [Pope's message](#), while Leo Tucker, our Executive Director, Mission and Spirituality will consider how it resonates with the Vincentian approach today. We will also hear from a number of members involved in practical initiatives responding to new and emerging forms of poverty in our world today.

[Registrations are essential, and available here.](#)



Rosalie Rendu Forum 2021

It was wonderful to have over 100 people join us online for this year's Rosalie Rendu Forum. The year's event explored the intersections between gender, poverty and domestic violence. We heard from a number of experts in the field as they reflected on how broader social issues such as lack of financial security, social support, and access to affordable housing can increase a woman's risk of falling into poverty due to domestic and family violence, or may entrap women or women with children in violent households. To watch the Rosalie Rendu Forum, you can view the recording [here](#).

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

ROSALIE RENDU FORUM 2021

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 17 - 23 October 2021
anti-poverty week
act on poverty

Hope out of Horror webinar - 150 Days of Action Campaign

On Thursday 23 September 2021, The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, Jesuit Refugee Service and Social Justice Around the Bay facilitated the *Hope out of Horror* webinar as part of the 150 Days of Action campaign for people seeking asylum. For those of you who missed the event, you can view the recording [here](#).



Events

The Ageing Mosaic - First Nations Communities
Wednesday 16 November 2021, 1:30pm
[Register here](#)

*Embracing the Challenge of Mutual Sharing -
World Day of the Poor*
Wednesday 17 November 2021, 7:30pm
[Register here](#)

*Sydney Alliance - Regroup of Afghanistan
delegations*
Tuesday 23 November 2021, 5pm
[To attend, please click this link](#)

NSW Domestic Violence Vigil
Thursday 25 November at 4pm
[Facebook live stream](#)

**Is there a local social justice event or news
item you'd like everyone to know about?**

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