

30th April, 2020



Metropolitan Schools Newsletter

Term 2, April 2020

Welcome to the Vinnies School Newsletter for Term 2

As we entered into the new year, we have also had some staffing changes and organisational restructures. Please note; Sydney, Broken Bay and Parramatta regions have now amalgamated to form Vinnies 'Metropolitan Region'.

The Schools Engagement Officers for the new Metropolitan Region are:

- Christina Gilio (Sydney) - now servicing the whole Sydney region including schools that were previously attended to by Josie Charbel;
- Chantelle Smit (Broken Bay) - replacing Kate Conroy (now Youth Engagement Officer); and
- Roydon Ng (Parramatta) - replacing Zoe Grant (who has since moved on from her role with Vinnies)

Sending our deepest congratulations to Josie Charbel and family for the birth of their newest baby boy. We would also like to congratulate Kate Conroy in her new role with Vinnies!

Adapting to Online Learning

The Metropolitan Schools Engagement Team is available to deliver our presentations and programs to your students online using Zoom or video conferencing tools currently used by your school community.

Topics of our presentations include The Winter Appeal, Homelessness, Social Justice, Sacramental Days.

Please do not hesitate to contact your Schools Engagement Officer to make a booking:

- **Christina Gilio** (Sydney Region): **m:** 0477 440 567 **e:** Christina.Gilio@vinnies.org.au
- **Chantelle Smit** (Broken Bay Region): **m:** 0429 333 055 **e:** Chantelle.Smit@vinnies.org.au
- **Roydon Ng** (Parramatta Region): **m:** 0487 001 186 **e:** Roydon.Ng@vinnies.org.au
- **Kate Conroy** (Metropolitan Youth Engagement Officer) **m:** 0478 180 235
e: Kate.Conroy@vinnies.org.au
- **Mary Musolino** (Metropolitan Manager, Youth and Schools Engagement) **m:** 0408 622 294
e: Mary.Musolino@vinnies.org.au

Important Announcements

- 1 Mini Vinnies Formation Program Launch
- 2 2020 Mini Vinnies and Teen Vinnies Gatherings Cancelled
- 3 COVID Winter Appeal
- 4 Vinnies Buddies Day temporarily suspended

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Retail Stores & Donations

Unfortunately our retail stores have closed due to coronavirus resulting in staff being laid off. However select stores in the metropolitan region are continuing to function as donation drop off locations.

All Donation Stations are open 9am – 3.30pm daily, please come during these hours to ensure we can accept your donation.

- Brookvale: 24 Roger Street, Brookvale
- Waverly: Judges Lane, Waverley (back gate)
- Crows Nest: 8 Willoughby Lane, Crows Nest (roller door)
- Sutherland: 710 Old Princes Highway, Sutherland (driveway)
- Burwood: Clarendon Place, Burwood (back gate)
- Greystanes: 433 Great Western Highway, Greystanes (left hand side dock)
- Mt Pritchard: 248 Humphries Road, Bonnyrigg
- Hornsby: Jersey Lane, Hornsby (back gate)

Donations to our charity bins are still being regularly collected.

[Find your nearest Vinnies donation bin.](#)

Announcements

Mini Vinnies Formation Program

The Schools Engagement Team are excited to announce the upcoming launch of a new **Mini Vinnies Formation Program** in Term 2. This social justice formation program will be offered to students in Years 5 and 6, with a similar program for Teen Vinnies currently in the development phase.



Mini Vinnies and Teen Vinnies Gatherings Cancelled

Due to the ever changing and ongoing risks associated with COVID-19, we are regretful to announce the cancellation of the Mini Vinnies and Teen Vinnies Gatherings in 2020. We understand that this may come as a disappointment to school communities and students and wish to extend our sincerest apologies. We will continue to update you should an alternative solution arise.

COVID Winter Appeal

This year, Vinnies has combined its 2020 Winter Appeal with a COVID-19 Appeal to assist individuals and families who are experiencing hardship during this time. Further information on the Vinnies 2020 COVID Winter Appeal will be sent out to schools in the coming days.



Vinnies Buddies Day

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the Vinnies Buddies Day program has been temporarily suspended. If your school is booked to host a Buddies Day in 2020, your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer will be in touch with you about the booking. If your school is interested in hosting a Buddies Day in the future then please also get in touch with your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer for more information.

Snack Packs and Sydney Van Services

In response to COVID-19, Sydney Vinnies Van Services (SVVS) have been temporarily suspended until further notice. In the meantime, Vinnies is working in collaboration with a number of other organisations to ensure that our clients have access to daily sandwiches (sourced internally) and pre-packed snack packs from central pickup locations across Sydney.



At present, we are in urgent need of the following donations to our service:

- Popper juices;
- Cans of tuna;
- Cuppa soup/packets of soup;
- Cuppa noodles/packets of noodles;
- Le Snack/Cheese Dippits;
- Family boxes of single-serve chips;
- Fruit cups;
- Packets of sultanas;
- Packets of biscuits—(e.g. single serve Tiny Teddies);
- Muesli bars (nut-free) *Please note: muesli bars must be chewy e.g. Uncle Toby's Choc Chip Bars.*

PLEASE NOTE: ALL drop offs are to be BOOKED IN ADVANCE. We have now implemented a drop-off roster to ensure that drop offs **ONLY** occur when staff are onsite at Lewisham or Liverpool to collect the items. *Offsite Snack Packing Instructions can be found as an attachment in this email. To book in a drop off time, please contact Christina Gilio on christina.gilio@vinnies.org.au*



Parramatta Van Services

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the Parramatta Vinnies Van Service (PVVS) is in operation 4 nights a week at Kelly Close, Mount Druitt (8.30 – 8.45pm), and Prince Alfred Park, Parramatta (9.15 – 9.30pm) on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday nights.

The service is seeking donations for snack packs including: juice poppers, cheese dippits, tuna, chips, crackers. All items need to be individually packaged.

Please contact Penny Wood (Parramatta Van Services/Penrith Hub) on (02) 88619770 or email penny.wood@vinnies.org.au if you would like make a donation.



Thank you for your support and generosity!

Prayer during COVID-19

God of life,

*you have promised to
be with us every day,
also in difficult days,
like in times like these.*

Give us

*clarity in our minds,
strength in our work
and rest as we sleep,
peace in our minds.*

Be with those

*who need help
more than we do our-
selves,*

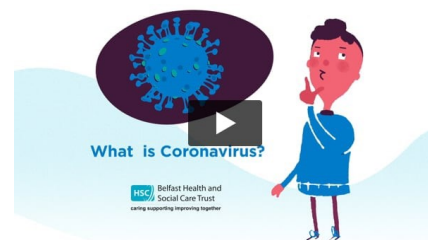
*help us to see what we
can offer*

from your love.

Amen.

Explaining COVID-19 to Children

The Belfast Health Services Trust have put together a great video to explain Coronavirus to children. [This short video](#) uses children as narrators to address some likely concerns of children whilst they are isolated from school, and puts COVID-19 into perspective.



Vinnies Determined to Respond During COVID-19

As the health and economic impacts of the Coronavirus take hold across NSW, households experiencing poverty and disadvantage are continuing to face additional financial pressures. At the same time, many households currently making ends meet are at risk of experiencing economic hardship for the first time.

As always, Vinnies NSW will be available to assist those in need of support. If your personal situation - or someone you know - has been impacted, please contact us on **13 18 12**. Vinnies can help with groceries, gas and electricity bills, rental bills, clothing, medical expenses, household goods and furniture, no interest loans and referrals to other agencies.

For the time being, Vinnies has ceased visiting people in their homes, but Vinnies personnel are still dropping off groceries and essential supplies to those in need.

To find out how you can help, please visit our [Kindness Revolution Food Drive](#).



Vinnies Metro Youth

Vinnies Metro Youth is our post school cohort of volunteers and members, it is made up of a wonderful mix of young people at many different stages of life aged between 18-35 years. Our youth Members and volunteers run the Vinnies Youth Programs such as Buddies Days, Green Teams & Homework Help Programs, as well as gather socially to meet with likeminded people wanting to make a difference.



Vinnies Youth Conference Connect Project

While Vinnies Youth programs have temporarily been put on hold, our enthusiastic youth volunteers continue to find ways to remain engaged and supportive of their local communities during this time. The Vinnies Conference Connect Project provides Vinnies Conferences with youth volunteers to help them with tasks such as packing and delivering food hampers, letterbox drops of food vouchers and making social phone calls. If this is something you are interested in, we are always welcoming new volunteers. If you are over 18yrs and would like to be involved, please email Kate Conroy – Vinnies Youth Engagement Officer on kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au

Acknowledgements

We are overwhelmed with the response we have received for our snack packs, both donations and packing. We thank you for your ongoing support, especially during these challenging times.

A special thanks to:

- Sr Margaret Ghosn, Principal from St Maroun's College, Dulwich Hill for picking up supplies from Lewisham and preparing snack packs with college staff before returning to Lewisham
- Bethany College, Hurstville for donating and preparing 850 snack packs at school and donating to Vinnies
- Jane Sulis and the Santa Sabina School Community for their extremely generous donations of snack pack supplies
- Tanya Sarkissian and the St Mary St Joseph, Maroubra school community for their donations of snack supplies to SVVS
- Natasha Ellis and the St Joseph the Worker, Auburn school community for their donations of snack supplies to SVVS
- Julia Clements and the St Mary's, George's Hall school community for their donations of snack supplies to SVVS
- Kelly Oastler and the St Joseph's College, Huntershill, for donating bread, toiletpaper, snack supplies and sandwich supplies to SVVS
- Gillian Daley and the St Patrick's College, Strathfield school community for their extremely generous donations of snack supplies to SVVS
- Daniela Ferrone and the Christian Brother's, Lewisham school community for their generosity in donating supplies and packing 455 snack packs to SVVS
- Tanja Dunne and the John Berne School, Lewisham community for donating snack supplies to SVVS
- Margaret Marriott and the De La Salle, Revesby Heights school community for donating snack supplies to SVVS
- Marisa Squadrito and the All Hallow's Catholic Primary School community, Five Dock for donating snack supplies to SVVS
- Joanne Kalayzich and the St Paul's College, Manly community for donating snack pack supplies to SVVS
- Rosey Stewart, Judy Martin and the Trinity Grammar School Community for donating muffins, cupcakes and cake mixes to SVVS and Vinnies Refuges during these testing times

