



# ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (NSW) METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second Metropolitan Schools & Youth Newsletter for 2021. This year, we have already seen so much joy and generosity from our school and youth communities! We thoroughly look forward to the many activities and programs that are coming up that you can be involved in to support Vinnies!

## Vinnies 2021 Winter Appeal

We invite you to support our 2021 Vinnies Winter Appeal! This Appeal is in place to help people already/at risk of experiencing homelessness to rebuild their lives, especially considering the current pandemic. Please contact your Schools Engagement Officer for ways to support the Appeal or to book a presentation about the Winter Appeal at your school.



We are also excited to announce the return of the Family Winter Sleepout @ Home initiative for ALL schools in 2021! On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July, students and their families will gather in their own homes to raise funds and awareness for those experiencing homelessness and disadvantage.

Last year, through your tremendous efforts in this event, over \$70,000 was raised to help those most in need across our communities. Schools can register now at the following link: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/family-winter-sleepout-home-1>

## Vinnies Van Services Programs

We are delighted to announce that Sydney, Bayside and Liverpool Night Patrol returned to service Week 1 of Term 2. Appropriately, the Behind-the-Scenes Program has resumed in Sydney and sandwich making opportunities are now available across all Night Patrol Services (including Greater Western Sydney operating 7 nights a week from May with a new stop at Merrylands following Mount Druitt and Parramatta). Donations of bulk snacks and snack packs are still being accepted to our Lewisham, Liverpool, or Greystanes (Greater Western Sydney) kitchens.



Woy Woy Van Services will soon be starting up for the Broken Bay Diocese and we need your help! We are welcoming donations in the form of bulk snack supplies, pre-made snack packs or monetary donations. You may also wish to [sponsor a snack or toiletry pack](#). Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated! To book a drop off, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.

## In-Person School Visits Resuming in Term 2

The Schools Engagement Team is delighted to announce that in-person school visits will be commencing in Term 2. To book a student or staff presentation, Reflection/Outreach Day, or Sacramental Retreat Day, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.



## Term 2, 2021

We love to hear from you!

Metropolitan Schools & Youth  
Engagement Officers

**Christina Gilio**

(Sydney Archdiocese  
including North Sydney Region)

☎ 0477 440 567

✉ [christina.gilio@vinnies.org.au](mailto:christina.gilio@vinnies.org.au)

Book a Meeting/Presentation:  
<https://bit.ly/ChristinaGilioVinnies>

**Roydon Ng**

(Parramatta Diocese  
& Kingsgrove – Bankstown Region)

☎ 0487 001 186

✉ [roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au](mailto:roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au)

Book a Meeting/Presentation:  
<https://bit.ly/RoydonNgVinnies>

**Fiona Pelosi**

(Broken Bay Diocese)

☎ 0429 333 055

✉ [fiona.pelosi@vinnies.org.au](mailto:fiona.pelosi@vinnies.org.au)

Book a Meeting/Presentation:  
<https://bit.ly/FionaPelosiVinnies>

**Kate Conroy**

(Metropolitan Youth Engagement)

☎ 0478 180 235

✉ [kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au)

**Mary Musolino**

(Metropolitan Manager, Schools and  
Youth Engagement)

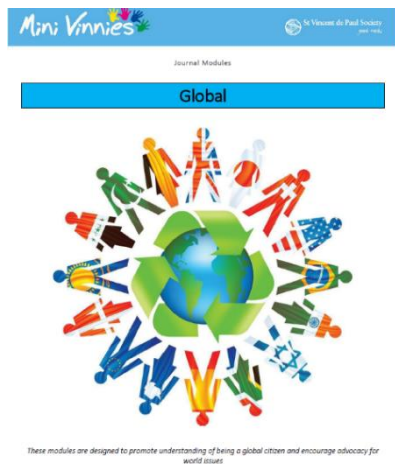
☎ 0408 622 294

✉ [mary.musolino@vinnies.org.au](mailto:mary.musolino@vinnies.org.au)

**Formation Program**

<https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>  
[formationprogram@vinnies.org.au](mailto:formationprogram@vinnies.org.au)

## Mini Vinnies Formation Program: 2021 Edition



The Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) is designed for students in Years 4-6 to develop their understanding of the St Vincent de Paul Society and to nurture an active response to needs in their communities. Upon participating, students will develop a deep understanding of how Vinnies operates on a personal, local, environmental, and global level.

Parents/guardians of students can register their child for the MVFP at <https://bit.ly/MVFPregistration>

## Mini Vinnies and Teen Vinnies Gatherings 2021

The Mini Vinnies and Teen Vinnies Gatherings will be returning in 2021 at Australian Catholic University, Strathfield, and we cannot wait to see you there! This is a great opportunity for students and staff to learn about some of the Special Works of Vinnies and participate in hands-on activities. Lock in the dates below and register your school today.

- Mini Vinnies Gathering 2021: Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July  
Schools can register at <https://bit.ly/mvg2021teacher>
- Teen Vinnies Gathering 2021: Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November  
Schools can register at <https://bit.ly/tvg2021teacher>



## VYCC Available for Bookings

Vinnies Youth and Community Centre (VYCC), Brookvale, is a space for school communities to attend half or full day retreats to learn about the St Vincent de Paul Society and participate in hands-on activities. The venue is also available for hire to schools looking to host their own events. For more information, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.



## School Fetes, Festivals and Events

Do you have a school fete, festival or event coming up?

Vinnies would love to hold a stall for your school community. Please contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information.

## Duke of Ed Opportunities

Students are invited to complete their volunteer hours with Vinnies! Vinnies is accredited to sign off on Duke of Ed hours and looks forward to having new students onboard.

Some options are to make and donate snack and/or toiletry packs for Vinnies Van Services, make cards of hope to be distributed to the people we serve, to volunteer in our Night Patrol Kitchen or to volunteer in a \*Vinnies retail store.

\*Students must be over 16 years of age or currently in Year 10 and enrolled in work placement.

Please contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information.

## Matthew Talbot Hostel Opportunities

Vinnies Matthew Talbot Hostel (MTH) provides accommodation and specialised support to people who are already/at risk of experiencing homelessness.

There are several volunteer opportunities available at MTH including sorting of donations, attending the kiosk, attending to the dining room, assisting with set up and pack up etc.

To arrange a one-off or ongoing volunteer experience for your College staff and students, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.



## Vinnies NSW Flood Appeal

Vinnies will be supplying food, clothing, household goods, and other everyday necessities to people who are impacted by the floods. Our members throughout the state will be mobilising in the areas of need and providing relief to those who need it most. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Vinnies Flood Appeal. Donations can be made via <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-flood-appeal>, on 13 18 12 or at any Vinnies Shop.



## Haberfield Men's Shed

The Vinnies Men's Shed in Haberfield is a service that provides manual arts, upholstery, and woodwork products. As part of the service, they make and sell educational props for schools, timber serving platters, upholstery products, woodwork project kits, rustic timber garden planters and garden craft and cater to many other special requests. Please contact your Schools Engagement Officer for details.



## New Mini Vinnies and Teen Vinnies Groups

2021 has seen the addition of many new Mini Vinnies and Teen Vinnies members and the initiation of several new groups.

McAuley Catholic Primary School, Rose Bay (pictured below on the left), was the first new Mini Vinnies school in 2021. On Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 31 Mini Vinnies members pledged to put their faith in to action and follow in the footsteps of Blessed Frederic Ozanam by serving those in need.

Other primary schools who have launched Mini Vinnies in 2021 include: St Mark's, Drummoyne; Our Lady of the Assumption, North Strathfield; St Michael's, Lane Cove. Several other schools are also on track to launch their groups in Term 2.

St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga (pictured below on the right), was the first new Teen Vinnies school in 2021. The students are excited to be part of a social justice group that gets them involved in their school and local community.

To start up a Mini Vinnies or Teen Vinnies group at your school, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.

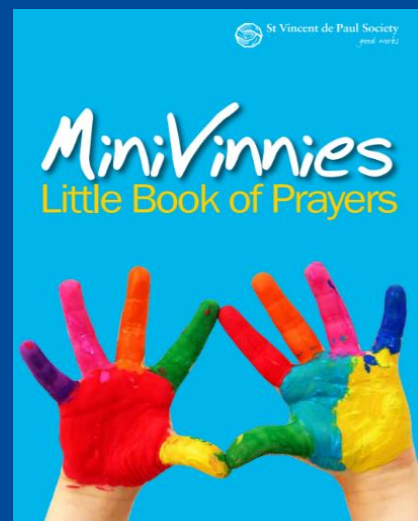


## Prayer of Hope

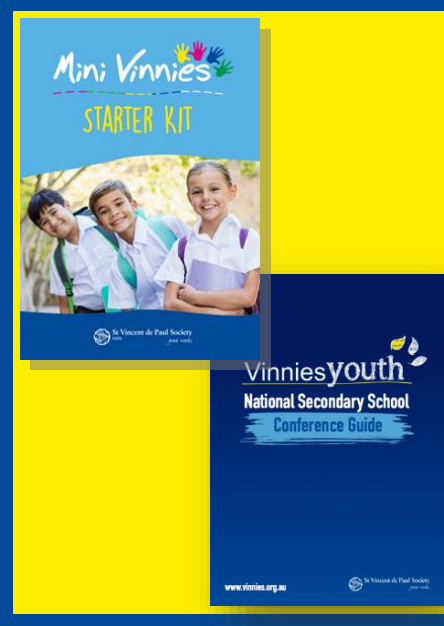
We pray for all the people who have been victims of natural disasters. May they have the strength to carry on and rebuild their lives during this difficult time. Please help and protect these people so that they can recover from this disaster.  
Amen.

-By St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School, Regents Park.

For more prayers like this, look at the [Mini Vinnies Little Book of Prayers](#)



[www.vinnies.org.au/icms\\_docs/167976\\_Mini\\_Vinnies\\_Little\\_Book\\_of\\_Prayers.pdf](http://www.vinnies.org.au/icms_docs/167976_Mini_Vinnies_Little_Book_of_Prayers.pdf)



# Vinnies Metro Youth

## Metro Youth Membership Growing

Vinnies Youth have held several fun and successful recruitment events over the past few months, meeting lots of new youth and young adults who are keen to know more about how they can make a difference in the community by volunteering with Vinnies.

If you're aged 16-35 years and want to know more about how you can join a local Vinnies Young Adult Conference or volunteer on a Vinnies Youth Program, get in touch with Vinnies Metro Youth Engagement Officer, Kate Conroy [kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au)



## Buddies Days – Are Back!



After a 12 month break due to COVID restrictions, we are excited to announce that Buddies Days have returned!

Buddies Days are 'days out' for kids referred through Vinnies conferences or services, kids benefiting from mentoring or who otherwise might not get to do fun activities on the weekends.

If you are a current Buddies Day volunteer, sign up now to a Buddies Day or if you would like to join the team, get in touch

<https://bit.ly/BuddiesDayVolunteerSignUp>

**DID YOU KNOW...** Vinnies Metro Youth partner with Secondary Schools & Colleges to host Buddies Days, it's a great leadership & community engagement

## RE: VINNIES – Youth Online Series

RE: VINNIES is an online series of zoom gatherings to reconnect and reinvigorate both existing and new Vinnies Metro Youth volunteers and members with each and with the wider Vinnies community. The purpose of the online gatherings is to encourage all our young adult volunteers and members, especially those who have not connected with Vinnies in the past 12 months due to COVID restrictions, to reconnect with one another, to feel part of the Metro Youth community and to grow their personal engagement and formation with Vinnies.

The online gatherings are hosted by the Vinnies Metro Youth Reps and they cannot wait to see you online for the next one! **Keep an eye on your emails for details.**

## Sydney Youth & Young Adults Conference

The Sydney Youth and Young Adult Conference consists of a variety of different people that joined the society through different ways including previously being a member of their university or secondary school Vinnies Conference or volunteering on Vinnies programs.

The Conference is inspired and motivated by the Vinnies philosophy to give a hand up. They provide volunteering opportunities for their members that promote active engagement with people in need including: Brekky Van, Buddies Days and Home Visitations. They are motivated to do good and help those in need whilst also offering their members great scope for personal and professional development and connection with each other.

For more information about Vinnies Youth, check out our website <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/>