



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first Metropolitan Schools and Youth Newsletter for 2022. With a new year, we are blessed with new opportunities to encounter Jesus and put our faith into action. Despite the challenges of 2021, staff and Members of Vinnies were again overwhelmed with joy at the recent response to the 2021 Christmas Appeal.

Schools and Youth across Metro demonstrated great generosity in their endeavors to support individuals and families experiencing hardship, and for that, we are deeply grateful! We thoroughly look forward to working with you again in 2022 for a much better year filled with happiness, laughter, and good health for all.

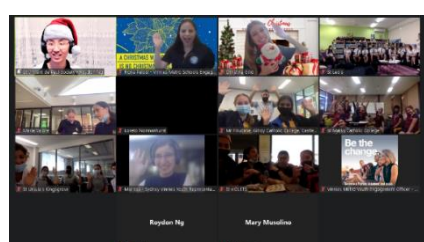


Thank you also to students including from St Patrick's Primary, Blacktown, for donating Christmas Cards of Hope to provide encouragement for our clients.

As we enter 2022, it is with sadness that we bid farewell to Fiona Pelosi (previous Broken Bay Schools Engagement Officer) and would like to wish her the very best with her future endeavors. Schools in the Broken Bay Diocese will remain an integral part of Vinnies Metro and will be serviced by our existing team until the position is filled.

Also, we bid temporary farewell to Metro Youth Engagement Officer, Kate Conroy. Wishing Kate and her family all the best as they await the arrival of their newest addition to the family. We are delighted to welcome Alysha Wong-O'Connor as our new Vinnies Youth Engagement Officer.

Primary & Secondary School Virtual Christmas Gatherings



In December 2021, the Schools Engagement Team hosted the inaugural Primary and Secondary School Christmas Gatherings via Zoom. Over 600 students attended and shared in two afternoons full of games, virtual activities, karaoke, reflection and more!

Primary students were shown a video of the [good works conducted by High School Conferences](#) while Secondary students gained an insight into the [array of actions being taken by Vinnies Metro Youth](#).

A massive congratulations to Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School, Gladesville, and Gilroy Catholic College, Castle Hill, for being the overall winners from the gatherings and earning their participants a prize pack complete with Vinnies' goodies!

Term 1, 2022

We love to hear from you!

Metropolitan Schools & Youth Team

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Please contact Mary Musolino regarding
any Metropolitan Schools Engagement in
Broken Bay Diocese and **Metropolitan
Vinnies Youth**

Formation Program
<https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>
formationprogram@vinnies.org.au



Metropolitan Vinnies Vans Services

Metropolitan Vinnies Vans Services (VVS) has revised operations due to COVID. We now have daytime distribution sites across Greater Sydney providing around 2,500 snack packs per week and other essential supplies.

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities to achieve your Community Service or Duke of Edinburgh hours, please consider the following:

- Preparation of snack packs and toiletry packs for clients of Vinnies Vans Services
- Macramé bag making for clients of Vinnies Vans Services

The resumption of Night Patrol, Behind the Scenes, Sandwich and Soup Making rosters have been delayed by the recent increase in COVID cases.

We ask all Night Patrol volunteers to be vaccinated and provide their vaccination status to be sighted by Vinnies as soon as possible to assist us with the resumption of service in late February.

In the interim, we are accepting donations of bulk snacks and snack packs to our Lewisham, Liverpool, or Parramatta Kitchens. To book a drop off or pick up, please contact Josie Charbel (Vinnies Vans Services Coordinator) on josie.charbel@vinnies.org.au or 0490 282 121.



Mini Vinnies Formation Program: 2022



The Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) nurtures students who undertake the Program, to be a light in the world, inspired by the spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Gospel values.

One of the Modules in the MVFP titled, "Through the Eyes of Bl Frederic Ozanam" is about researching a key event in Australia such as R U OK? Day and NAIDOC Week.

The Metropolitan Schools Engagement Team recently received an incredibly heart-warming submission in response to this module. Aoife from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Randwick, selected International Day of People with Disability. To read Aoife's story, [please click here](#).



The MVFP is open to all students from Years 4-6. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>.

Starting Up a Mini Vinnies or High School Conference in 2022



There are thousands of dedicated Mini Vinnies and High School Conference Members across the Metropolitan region. If you would like to introduce this social justice program to your school, or if you would like more information, please contact your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer.

Prayer of Love

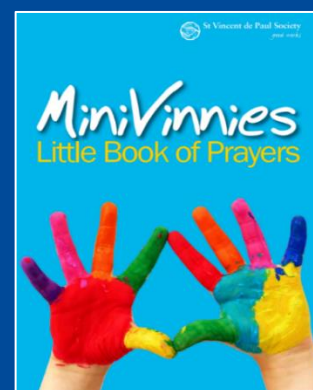
Dear Father

Thank you for all that you do in our lives. Please help us to see you in the mountains and the valleys, the highs, and the lows.

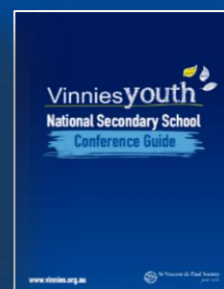
Please bless all the students and staff in the Diocese to see and experience your saving love. May we be Your light in the darkness and Christ-like to all we encounter this year.

St Vincent de Paul, Pray for Us.
Amen.

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



Resources to Start Your Mini Vinnies or High School Conference Group



Before, After & Out of School Hours Care Centers (OOSHC) are also invited to start a Vinnies group!

Download Resources at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources>



Vinnies Youth & School Students Come Together

In the lead up to Christmas, dedicated Vinnies Youth volunteer and Founder of AllRounders Tuition Company, Alexia Paglia, reached out about the possibility of volunteering to help people in need with students from her tutoring company.



On Saturday, 4th December, Alexia and six students participated in an Outreach Day to support Metropolitan Vinnies Van Services. The students each brought in snack donations throughout the school term and then, on the day, they worked together to prepare 41 snack packs for clients experiencing homelessness.

They also prepared cards of hope to go inside each snack pack and wrote thoughtful and inspirational messages for clients to read throughout the holiday season. The day was such a success that the group was also able to donate several extra bags of grocery supplies along with boxes of hand sanitiser to Vinnies Van Services. Many thanks to Alexia and AllRounders Tuition for reigniting hope this recent Christmas season!

VYCC Brookvale



Planning your 2022 school excursions? Look no further than [Vinnies Youth and Community Centre \(VYCC\)](https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources/)! This multi-purpose space, located in Brookvale, is available for your school to hire in 2022 for half or full day retreats led by the Schools Engagement Team or an external facilitator.

Please contact your Schools Engagement Office if you have any questions about running a school event at VYCC, or if you would like to book a tour of the venue.

Introducing Vinnies Kid's Packs!

After a very successful Pilot period in 2021, Metropolitan Vinnies is proud to announce the launch of the Vinnies Kid's Pack Program!

Made up of four food items, Vinnies Kid's Packs can assist students from your school community who are attending school with little to no food. Parents/Caregivers of recipient children will also receive a Vinnies Information Leaflet about how they can seek further support from Vinnies.



To register your high school as a donor school or your primary school as a recipient school, or for more information, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.

2022 School Hosted Buddies Days

Is your High School keen to host a Vinnies Buddies Day in 2022? Vinnies Buddies Days are 'days out' for kids benefiting from mentoring or who otherwise might not get to experience fun activities on the weekends.

School hosted Buddies Days take place at your school on a Saturday or Sunday, with activities organised and run by your senior students. It is a great leadership and community engagement opportunity for your school.

If your school is interested, please contact your Vinnies School Engagement Officer for more information.

Vinnies Spirituality Guide: Year C

Do you ever get stuck coming up with new religious activities for your classroom, Mini Vinnies, or High School Conference?

The Vinnies Spirituality Guide: Year C is a fantastic resource filled with readings, prayers, and activities for each week of the Church year!



Download our Spirituality Guide at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources/>

Vinnies Fundraising Portal

Is your school organising your next fundraising event? Why not use the Vinnies Fundraising Portal? Please visit:

<https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/>



HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW VINNIES FUNDRAISING PORTAL?

Your school can now create and personalise your own page!

When using our new portal for your schools fundraiser, you can:

- ★ Update and personalise your page at any time
- ★ Share your personalised URL for quick and easy online donations
- ★ No cash handling required by your school and all donors will receive a receipt automatically via email

Check it out here: fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au

Please contact your Vinnies School Engagement Officer if you would like to donate via Bank Transfer.

Vinnies Metro Youth

If you would like to know more about or connect with Vinnies Youth (for individuals aged 18-35 years) in your local area, please get in touch with Vinnies Metro Youth Engagement Officer metroyouth@vinnies.org.au

Vinnies Metro Youth Christmas Gathering

Vinnies Metro Youth held their annual Christmas Gathering in December 2021 and they were fortunate enough to gather safely in person for a fun afternoon. It was a great opportunity to thank them for all their hard work throughout 2021 and to hear about the opportunities to come in 2022. They are wonderful, young, vibrant, and talented people who love being part of Vinnies!



Social Justice Youth Network

The Vinnies Social Justice Youth Network is a new opportunity for 18–35 year olds who are keen to be involved in the social justice work of Vinnies and to connect with each other. They are currently recruiting for new members from all over NSW, so if you are interested and want to know more, get in touch at metroyouth@vinnies.org.au

University Orientation Weeks

During February and March, Vinnies Metro Youth will be busy attending all the university orientation events across Greater Sydney. If you are a new university student in 2022 or a returning student, we would love you to support our Vinnies Youth stalls and information sessions at all the different universities.



Fingers crossed the orientation events will go ahead in-person. If they do, we will have a stall on campus at UNSW O-Week, USYD Welcome Week and UTS Open Day. We will be hosting an online live Zoom session at the UND Orientation Week, and we will have resources available at the other universities. If you are an ACU student, come and find us at any of the three campuses on your Market Day! And if you're studying at Campion College this year, you won't want to miss the information session we will be running during your first week. Refer to your university's orientation guides for dates and locations, then come and find us, and bring a friend along too!

Vinnies Youth Programs Update

Our regular Vinnies youth programs; Buddies Days, Homework Help and Green Team, as well as Vinnies Van Service programs; Brekky Van and Night Patrol are still on hold. We are working on adjusting our programs, so we can relaunch in a safe, beneficial, and fun way for all involved.

Vinnies Little Hands

In November 2021, the Metro Schools Team had the privilege of facilitating a Vinnies Little Hands Day at Guardian Childcare & Education, Phillip Street. Fourteen eager pre-school aged children (3-5 years old) donated several bags of pre-loved goods to Vinnies Retail Stores and snack supplies that they used to prepare 40 snack packs for VVS.

The enthusiastic group also showed off their Picasso skills by making up their own Cards of Hope to complement each snack pack and learned more about how they can continue their 'Vinnies Community Connection' by 'Using their Helping Hands' moving forward. By the end of the day, all the children were singing and dancing along to the [Mini Vinnies Song](#) and were so excited to help pack their donations into the Vinnies Van!

To enquire about running a Vinnies Little Hands Day, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.

