



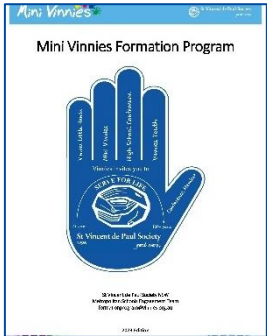
# ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (NSW)

## METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

With a new year, we are blessed with new opportunities to live Gospel values and put our faith into action. Despite the challenges of 2022, staff and local conference members of Vinnies were again overwhelmed with joy at the recent response to the 2022 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 2023 for a much better year filled with happiness, laughter, and good health for all.

We are delighted to welcome back [Kate Conroy](#) as our new Metro Schools Engagement Officer for Broken Bay Diocese and the Sutherland Region of Sydney Archdiocese.



### Mini Vinnies Formation Program: 2023

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.

The MVFP is open to all students from Years 4-6. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the program as part of their Mini Vinnies group.

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>.

### Starting Up a Mini Vinnies or High School Conference in 2023



Is your school thinking about starting up a Mini Vinnies group or High School Conference? The start of a new year is a fantastic time to introduce this social justice program to your school community.

Vinnies School Conferences are a great way to get young people thinking and talking about their spirituality and to connect their faith with issues affecting their community through volunteering, advocacy, and fundraising.

Not only do students benefit from the experience but so does the school and wider community. Get in touch with your Schools Engagement Officer today for more information about starting a Mini Vinnies or Vinnies High School Conference.

### Metropolitan Vinnies Vans Services

Thank you for your ongoing support of Metropolitan Vinnies Van Services (Night Patrol and Daytime Distributions). Our various services are in particular need of snack packs, toiletry packs, and sandwiches.

If your school community has the capacity, we invite you to join our regular Food Preparation Rosters. Our Night Patrol Rosters are currently full, but if you want to express your interest or for more information about Metropolitan Vinnies Van Services, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.

## Term 1, 2023

We love to hear from you!  
Metropolitan Schools & Youth Team

Book a School Workshop/Presentation:  
<https://bit.ly/vinnieschoolbookings>

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

*Please contact your Schools Engagement Officer for Vinnies Merchandise Orders*

## SAVE THE DATE Mini Vinnies Gathering

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
Australian Catholic University, Strathfield

## Retail Volunteers Needed

Duke of Edinburgh students aged 14+, and all other students aged 16+, are invited to volunteer in our Vinnies Retail Stores, especially in the Kingsgrove-Bankstown Region.

Volunteering is a fantastic way to increase your skills, experience, employability and to be engaged in the community. Apply to be a Vinnies Shop Volunteer at <https://vinnies.org.au/shopvolunteernsw>

## Good News Story: Dressed by Vinnies at St Bernard's Catholic Primary School



At the end of 2022, St Bernard's Catholic Primary School, Botany, held their inaugural 'Dressed by Vinnies Day Fashion Parade'. In the lead up to the day, students learned about Vinnies Retail Stores and the process that occurs after donating to a charity bin.

On the day, Mini Vinnies students had the opportunity to either wear something they purchased from Vinnies or something they later donated to Vinnies and showcased their items through a Fashion Parade for students and families. Students also visited their local Vinnies Store as part of the experience – many for the very first time – and were thrilled to find the treasure trove inside. Thanks to the St Bernard's school community for supporting Vinnies.

If your school has a Good News Story you would like to share, please email your Schools Engagement Officer.

## 2023 Vinnies School Social Justice Workshops & Fees

Our workshop topics are designed to facilitate meaningful engagement in social justice issues and to provide opportunities for participants to put their faith into action. All workshops provide hands on activities to support Vinnies Services and ways to provide ongoing support to the Society.

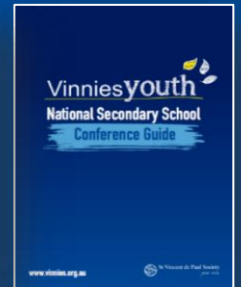
Vinnies workshops are targeted at all members of your school community - primary and secondary school students, teacher, and parent groups. Each topic can be delivered in your school or prebooked venue as a face to face, through online video conferencing (such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams) or facilitated by the teacher - your Schools Engagement Officer will provide the workshop presentation, with speaker notes, and information regarding hands on activities to support Vinnies Services.

A number of workshops can be booked for all day events and each workshop can be designed to meet the required time frame and age group of participants. Please provide your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer with at least 6 weeks notice prior to your first preferred date for the workshop.

A non-refundable fee will be required to secure your booking and to cover the Vinnies staff facilitation of your event. Teacher facilitated workshops will not require a fee.

Further information regarding donation fees and how to book can be found through our [Vinnies Schools Social Justice Workshop flyer](#).

## Resources to Start Your Mini Vinnies or High School Conference Group



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

## Spirituality Guide: Year A

The Vinnies Spirituality Guide: Year A 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 Retail Stores

Did you know that our Vinnies Retail Stores have NEW ITEMS not just second hand? NEW MATTRESSES can now be purchased from Vinnies stores!

To find your local Vinnies store, visit <https://www.vinnies.org.au/shops>

# Vinnies Metro Youth

If you would like to know more about or join Vinnies Youth (for individuals aged 18-35 years), please get in touch with our Vinnies Metropolitan Youth Engagement Officer [Allie Wong-O'Connor](mailto:Alysha.Wong-O'Connor@vinnies.org.au) ([Alysha.Wong-O'Connor@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Alysha.Wong-O'Connor@vinnies.org.au))

## Vinnies Metro Youth Christmas Gathering

Vinnies Metro Youth held their annual Christmas Gathering in December 2022 in collaboration with the Redfern Vinnies Support Centres. On the day, we had Santa handing out gifts, face painting, games, and a BBQ lunch in the park. In preparation for the holiday festivities, our youth volunteers played the role of Santa's elves, and gift wrapped hundreds of gifts to be handed out. What a wonderful group of young, vibrant, and talented people who love being part of Vinnies!



## University Orientation Weeks

With the 2023 semester commencing in February, Vinnies Metro Youth will be busy attending all the university orientation events across Greater Sydney. If you are a new university student in 2023 or a returning student, we would love you to support our Vinnies Youth stalls and information sessions at all the different universities.

You can expect to see a Vinnies stall on campus at UNSW, USYD, UTS, UND, MQU, Campion College, WSU, Australian Health Sciences Institute, and ACU Strathfield, North Sydney and Blacktown. 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

For 2023 we have youth volunteer programs for everyone, from Buddies Days, Homework Help, Green Team, Van services, the Listening Ear program, Gift from the Heart, and the retail stores. If you want to secure your spot in one of these programs, to scan the QR code and begin your onboarding!



## Vinnies is Here to Help

If anyone in your school community requires support or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Vinnies Support Hotline on 13 18 12.

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### Vinnies are currently looking for volunteers (18+) for our Vinnies Support Centres

Vinnies Support Centres are client-centered support and referral services operated by the St Vincent de Paul Society. They offer face to face support to those in the community who require financial, food or material assistance. The support teams work with our clients to offer the best possible assistance for their needs and connect them to the Society's Conference home visitation teams or Vinnies' Services.

As a Vinnies Support Centre volunteer, you will assist staff with providing advocacy, referrals and support to clients navigating the appropriate services. Vinnies have a number of volunteer roles available including administration & reception support, assisting with client interview rosters, data entry and helping out with ad hoc duties as requested.

Vinnies Support Centres offer a friendly and supportive team environment, flexible volunteer hours (school hours available) and the opportunity to learn a variety of skills. Significantly, your volunteer contribution will make a tangible difference to the lives of those in your community.

If you are interested in hearing more about volunteering in a Vinnies Support Centre, or helping out in a volunteer capacity elsewhere, please contact the Volunteer Experience Team at [volunteers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:volunteers@vinnies.org.au).

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### Want to assist Vinnies but time poor? Volunteer and to be there for the kids too?

Vinnies NSW are currently looking at what we can offer in terms of increased flexibility around volunteering. Covid 19 has encouraged many of us to reassess our priorities including where we spend our valuable time. The historical volunteer model of committing to a regular weekly time slot no longer suits our busy lifestyles.

The Volunteer Experience Team at Vinnies are looking to create a mailing list of volunteers who would be happy to volunteer on an ad hoc basis. Volunteer tasks may range from assisting packing Christmas hampers at a Vinnies Centre for a few hours to committing to sharing a Vinnies Campaign via social media once a month.

Once placed on our 'Vinnies Support Volunteer Crew' mailing list, you will be contacted once a month via email to inform you of upcoming ad hoc opportunities. To be placed on our mailing list and become a part of our valued Vinnies Support Volunteer Crew please email [volunteers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:volunteers@vinnies.org.au). We thank you wholeheartedly for your contribution.