



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (NSW)

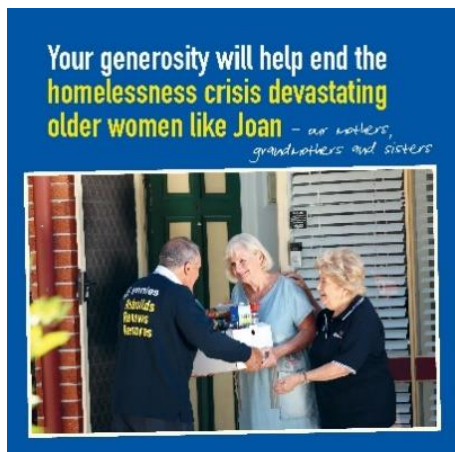
METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second Metropolitan Schools & Youth Newsletter for 2023.

We hope that your school community has had a blessed Easter. Despite the challenges experienced by many, including the rising cost of living, we are delighted to see the incredible generosity and kindness, from school and youth communities, in aiding people experiencing homelessness.

The Vinnies Metro Schools & Youth Engagement Team would also like to extend a fond farewell to our Manager, Mary Musolino, who has been involved with Vinnies Schools, Youth and Van Services over the past 7 years. We wish her all the best. We also farewell Christina Gilio, Schools Engagement Officer, who has moved to a NSW Vinnies role and we welcome Sylvia Vuong to this role.

Vinnies Winter Appeal 2023



Your generosity will help end the homelessness crisis devastating older women like Joan – our mothers, grandmothers and sisters

We invite you to support our 2023 Vinnies Winter Appeal. This Appeal aims to help people currently, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness to rebuild their lives (especially older women, aged over 55, whom are the fastest growing demographic experiencing homelessness).

To find out how your community can best support the Appeal, please refer to the '2023 Vinnies Winter Appeal' launch email recently sent to you or

contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information or to book a presentation on Homelessness. Vinnies Youth NSW Winter Appeal resources are available at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal/>

Start a Mini Vinnies group or High School Conference

Why doesn't your school have a Mini Vinnies group or High School Conference? The Vinnies Schools Team would love to meet with you to discuss introducing this fantastic social justice program to your school.

Vinnies Schools Conferences are a great way for young people to start 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 wider school community.

Vinnies School Winter Sleepouts



Vinnies Sleepouts give you a glimpse into the realities of homelessness by 'sleeping rough' for a night, or afternoon, to learn about and raise awareness/funds for preferred Vinnies' homelessness services or conferences. This experience challenges your sense of "home" and offers unique insights into the issues faced by people experiencing homelessness.

Please register your Sleepout and obtain resources at:

<https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/create-your-own-vinnies-school-sleepout/>

Term 2, 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

Please contact your Schools Engagement Officer for Vinnies Merchandise Orders

Mini Vinnies Gathering

Wednesday 26th July 2023 9:30am – 2pm
Australian Catholic University, Strathfield

If your Mini Vinnies group has not received an invitation letter for the event, please contact your School Engagement Officer.

Up to 5 students and 2 teachers are invited per Mini Vinnies group. *Please note that capacity is limited so registration will close once capacity is reached.*

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.

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 workshop or 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](#).

Mini Vinnies Formation Program



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 Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) is open to all students from Years 4-6. Teachers are encouraged to run the program as part of their Mini Vinnies group.

More information is at <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI)

The Australian Government has established the School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) to provide families with school-aged children and no internet at home, free NBN for 12 months.

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has been approached as a community organisation to participate, alongside education authorities, in providing nominations for the SSBI.

For more information on the School Student Broadband Initiative visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/SSBI.

To nominate a family please contact your Vinnies School Engagement Officer.



NEW!! Vinnies Spiritual Reflections Podcast

The Vinnies Mission, Spirituality & Pastoral Care team has been working a podcast to go with the Vinnies Spiritual Reflection Guides that are published each quarter to guide all members in spiritual formation. Keep an eye out for the launch, and you may recognize some of the voices from students at various Vinnies High School Conferences.

Spirituality Guide: Year A

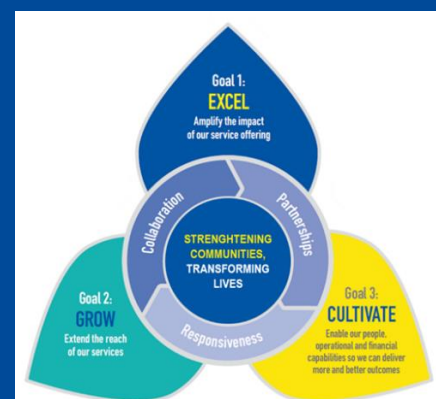
The Vinnies Spirituality Guide: Year A is a fantastic resource filled with readings, prayers, and activities for each week of the Church liturgical year!



Vinnies School Resources

Don't forget about the Mini Vinnies Starter Kit, our Vinnies National Secondary School Conference Guide, and our Vinnies Spirituality Guide: Year A available at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources>

Vinnies Strategic Plan 2024-28



The new Vinnies Strategic Plan 2024-2028, 'Strengthening communities, transforming lives', has now been approved by the Board and State Council.

For more information, please visit <https://mavs.vinnies.org.au/the-societys-new-strategic-plan-2024-2028-strengthening-communities-transforming-lives/>

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)

Vinnies University O-Weeks



We would like to congratulate Vinnies Australian Catholic University Conference for achieving official club status on campus with its inaugural members meeting!

During February and March, Vinnies Metro Youth were busy attending all the university orientation events across Greater Sydney. This year we had stalls on campus at Macquarie University, Western Sydney University O-Week, USYD Welcome Week, ACU Market Days, and UTS Open Day.

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 and not just a hand out.

They provide volunteering opportunities for their members that promote active engagement with people in need including Brekky Van, Buddies Days and The Listening Ear Program. 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>

Vinnies Youth Programs Update



Buddies Days at St Vincent's College, Potts Point (left) and Tangara School for Girls, Cherrybrook (right)

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, scan the QR code or email Alysha.Wong-O'Connor@vinnies.org.au to begin your onboarding!