



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NSW

METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS & YOUTH NEWSLETTER



Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2023

Christmas is a time of hope, joy, and of giving from the heart. Yet, as we know, Christmas can be a challenging time for many who are burdened by a daily struggle of survival, comfort, and dignity.

This Christmas, more families are experiencing poverty and are on the brink of homelessness. After struggling with the cost-of-living crisis for over a year, they barely have anything left to hold on to. As the crisis deepens, so does their desperation. **Your urgent help can provide relief.**

Schools donating food and materials are kindly asked to contact their local Vinnies Conference, Vinnies Support Centre, or the nominated Vinnies Service receiving the items to arrange logistical support. Please visit the **Christmas Appeal 2023** webpage for resources: <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal>

The **Vinnies NSW Christmas Card Competition** for school students is now running for 2023. We are looking for five beautiful designs to use as the official Vinnies Member Christmas Cards for 2024. For more information, visit: <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/christmascardcompetition>

Thank you for supporting the Vinnies Winter Appeal 2023

As we conclude the 2023 Winter Appeal, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all school and youth communities who put their faith into action and worked to assist people experiencing hardship this Winter. As always, we have been deeply heartened at the generosity shown by supporters of Vinnies in the Metro region and we are so very thankful.

Vinnies Members in Action



Vinnies Support Centres are client-centred support and referral services operated by the St Vincent de Paul Society with face-to-face support to those who require financial, food or other material assistance. The support teams will work with you to offer the best possible support for your needs and link you in with Vinnies' Conference home visitation teams or Vinnies Services. Please share this information and our **Vinnies Support Hotline** (13 18 12) with your school community.

Are you seeking ways that you can support people experiencing hardship in your local community? Consider learning more about becoming a part of a Vinnies Conference now at <https://bit.ly/joinvinniesmetro>

Volunteers Needed for Vinnies Vans Services: Sydney, Bayside, Liverpool, Greater Western Sydney, Ryde (new service from 2024)



Vinnies Van Services promote social inclusion and cohesion by providing an opportunity for people to gather in a place where they will be accepted and not judged. For many of those we assist, our volunteers and members are often the only people that they speak to all day. The people we assist are provided with a safe place to meet and build community.

If your school community would like to join and/or donate to any Vinnies Vans (Night Patrol roster, Sandwich Making Roster for Night Patrol, Behind the Scenes at Lewisham, Brekky Van on Sunday mornings etc), please email your Schools Engagement Officer and sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au for more information.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Award for Year 6 Students

Primary Schools can nominate 3 graduating Year 6 Students to receive the Blessed Frederic Ozanam Award via: <https://bit.ly/BlessedFredericOzanamAward2023> Certificates will be emailed to your school in the week of your Year 6 Graduation.

Term 4, 2023

Vinnies Metropolitan Schools & Youth Team
32-36 Hampstead Road, Auburn NSW 2144

✉ metroschools@vinnies.org.au

✉ metroyouth@vinnies.org.au

Christmas Appeal

Vinnies Christmas Appeal Schools Kit and Resources

➔ <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal>

School Resources

Vinnies Schools and Social Justice Resources
(including Mini Vinnies Starter Kit and Vinnies High School Conference Starter Kit, Spirituality Guides)

➔ <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources>

Vinnies School Social Justice Workshop Bookings

➔ <https://bit.ly/vinnieschoolbookings>

Mini Vinnies Formation Program (for Primary)

➔ <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

✉ formationprogram@vinnies.org.au

Vinnies Service Medallion (for High School)

➔ www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/get-involved/vinnies-service-medallion

Vinnies Badges, Certificates, Merchandise Orders

➔ <https://bit.ly/vinniesmetroschoolsmerch2023>

Vinnies Schools & Youth Team

For more information, please contact your regional Vinnies Schools & Youth Engagement Officer:

KATE CONROY

Acting Manager

Metropolitan Schools Engagement Officer

Broken Bay Diocese – all regions

Sydney Archdiocese – Northern Suburbs, Rozelle, St George, South East Sydney, Sutherland Shire, Sydney

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ROYDON NG

Metropolitan Schools Engagement Officer

Parramatta Diocese – all regions

Sydney Archdiocese – Kingsgrove/Bankstown, Liberty Plains, Liverpool, Macquarie

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POSITION VACANT – FULL TIME

Metropolitan Schools Engagement Officer

(Sydney Archdiocese)

☎ Please contact Kate Conroy or Roydon Ng

✉ metroschools@vinnies.org.au

ALYSHA (ALLIE) WONG-O'CONNOR

Metropolitan Youth Engagement Officer

☎ 0478 180 235

✉ Alysha.Wong-O'Connor@vinnies.org.au



VINNIES SCHOOLS & YOUTH TEAM – TERM 3, 2023 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Mini Vinnies Gathering 2023 “I Choose to be a Helper” (held at Australian Catholic University, Strathfield – 26 July 2023)
Watch our Mini Vinnies Gathering recap video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz1rKv4sa3c>



Homelessness Week: Vinnies Metro Schools & Youth Team joined our Vinnies Assist, Community Engagement, and Auburn Vinnies Support Centre at Auburn Youth Centre. We provided information and hampers for the Cumberland Council community.



Busking for Vinnies (Centenary Square, Parramatta): Thanks to our event co-coordinator John Neylan, our talented school performers from Our Lady of Mercy College (Parramatta), Mt Saint Benedict College (Pennant Hills), St Edmund's College (Wahroonga), and Oakhill College (Castle Hill), the Vinnies Winston Hills Conference, and our Vinnies Youth volunteers for participating. Over \$5,400 was raised in support of people experiencing homelessness and hardship in Western Sydney.



The Vinnies Schools & Youth Team has worked with various community organisations and educational institutions offering opportunities for students to be involved in giving a ‘hand up and not just a hand out’ to those in need. Vinnies is a firm supporter of mental health wellbeing (**RUOK Day** stall with Youth off the Streets, Bankstown) and being good stewards of the environment through recycling & sustainability (Australian Catholic University **Sustainability Day** Stall).



The Vinnies Schools & Youth Team had a very busy Term 3 including presentation of **Mini Vinnies Formation Program** GOLD completion awards to students at St Patrick's Primary School, Blacktown; running an interactive workshop on Human Dignity at **Ignite Conference**; and helping our university Vinnies groups raise over \$2,000 to assist people experiencing homelessness in Sydney.

To join Vinnies Youth, visit <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/bethechange>