

# Activate 2022 Vinnies NSW Youth Convention



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
*good works*

BECOME A PART OF  
**VINNIES YOUTH**

BY JOINING OR ESTABLISHING A YOUTH CONFERENCE!





# VINNIES YOUTH

The St Vincent de Paul Society started when 20-year-old Frederic Ozanam walked through the poorer areas of Paris on his way to university lectures. He decided to take action and make a difference in the lives of people in his community. Today, Vinnies Youth brings together young people from all walks of life to continue this legacy and the fight for a more just and compassionate society right across Australia.

Do you dream of making a real difference to the lives of people in your community? Become a **Member** of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW in an existing youth group (called a **Conference**), or start a new Youth Conference, with like-minded people, to meet the needs of your local community.

Conferences can be established in a Parish, suburb, school, university, ethnic or social group. Once a Conference is endorsed by the Society, Members can leverage the resources of a highly respected organisation of over 10,000 Members and volunteers.

## WHAT THE SOCIETY CAN OFFER YOU

### Resources

- Online fundraising portal and resources
- Fixed and mobile food services
- Vinnies Assist Helpline

### Programs

- No Interest Loan Scheme
- Visitation
- Case management

### Networks

- Interagency
- Social justice
- Reconciliation

### Facilities

- Meeting rooms
- Care and Support Centres

### Reputation and Standing

- Large charitable organisation
- Significant local presence
- 170-year Australian history

### Skills

- Social justice campaigning and advocacy
- Leadership development
- Ongoing online training



“It’s something so different and meaningful compared to normal things we would do in our everyday lives . . . Vinnies, provides that outlet to be able to make some meaningful change that I can’t do in other parts of my life.” – Damien



“Gratitude for my place in society with a passion and compassion for our community have been motivating factors for my contribution to Vinnies!” – Tasfia



## NETWORKS

Youth Conferences leverage relationships between the community, members of parliament, local councils, and interagency networks to deliver tangible outcomes for vulnerable communities. Members also have countless opportunities to meet and connect with other like-minded Members of Vinnies Youth through Social Justice events, social mixers and the annual NSW Youth Forum.

## FACILITIES

Youth Conferences improve the quality of their support by using Vinnies Support Centres, hubs, meeting rooms and training kiosks. They identify community needs, develop support responses, access skills-based training, pastoral support, Vincentian formation, and develop leadership skills in environments that support learning and reflection.

## REPUTATION AND STANDING

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a reputable organisation with a significant local presence. Today, there are over 45,000 Members and volunteers across Australia who provide support through over 200 services and programs.

Youth Members draw on and protect the Society's reputation by obtaining guidance from experienced Society leaders on how to advocate ethically and effectively within their communities.



## YOUTH CONFERENCES IN ACTION

Some examples of campaigns and initiatives that Youth Conferences can be involved in are:

- Sleepouts to raise funds for people at risk of and already experiencing homelessness
- Community Closet and Book Swap Days to demonstrate the importance of upcycling
- Morning Teas with the Elderly to help foster connections with vulnerable members of the community
- Christmas Hamper Packing to provide hope and joy to people experiencing hardship during the festive season
- Youth Members may also like to become involved with Youth Programs such as Buddies Days, Homework Help and Green Team. For more information about these programs, visit:

[youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/volunteer](https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/volunteer)



## NEXT STEPS

**Membership is free!** If you are excited about making a difference in your community by becoming a part of Vinnies Youth in an existing Conference or by establishing a new Conference, scan the QR code or email: [youth.nsw@vinnies.org.au](mailto:youth.nsw@vinnies.org.au)







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