



## St Vincent de Paul Society (NSW)

### Metropolitan Schools Newsletter Term 1, 2024

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Welcome to the first Metropolitan Schools Newsletter for 2024. With a new year, we are blessed with many new opportunities. Let us embrace this new beginning as we continue to SEE, THINK, and DO “Good Works” as we address the ongoing hardships faced in our local communities.

Schools and Youth have demonstrated great generosity to support individuals and families experiencing hardship, and for that, we are deeply grateful including for the donations given in the 2023 Christmas Appeal.

We thoroughly look forward to working with your school communities (students, teachers, and parents) again in 2024, and it is with delight that we welcome two new School Engagement Officers on the team with Chris Nolan for Sydney Archdiocese and Ket Wasnikar for Broken Bay Diocese.

### Start a Mini Vinnies group or Vinnies High School Conference



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 your community through volunteering, advocacy, and fundraising.

Get in touch with your Schools Engagement Officer today for more information about starting a Mini Vinnies group or Vinnies High School Conference.

#### SAVE THE DATE

**Mini Vinnies Gathering: Wednesday 24 July 2024**

**Venue: Australian Catholic University, Strathfield**

### Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) now available to all high school students!

The Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) aims to enhance students’ knowledge regarding key social justice issues and provides a platform for students to demonstrate their strengths beyond the classroom, increasing employment and university admission prospects. Learn more at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/get-involved/vinnies-service-medallion>

### Vinnies Metropolitan Schools & Youth Team

✉ [MetroSchools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:MetroSchools@vinnies.org.au)

**Member, Community & Schools/Youth Engagement Manager: Kate Conroy**

✉ [Kate.Conroy@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Kate.Conroy@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0403 241 986

Schools Engagement Officers

**Chris Nolan: Sydney Archdiocese (except regions listed below)**

✉ [Chris.Nolan@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Chris.Nolan@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0408 622 294

**Roydon Ng: Parramatta Diocese (& Sydney Archdiocese: Liberty Plains/Auburn, Kingsgrove-Bankstown)**

✉ [Roydon.Ng@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Roydon.Ng@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0487 001 186

**Ketaki (Ket) Wasnikar: Broken Bay Diocese (& Sydney Archdiocese: Western Suburbs)**

✉ [Ketaki.Wasnikar@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Ketaki.Wasnikar@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0477 440 567

## Vinnies School Social Justice Workshops

Our workshops are designed to facilitate meaningful engagement in social justice issues and provide opportunities for participants to put their faith into action.

School Social Justice Workshops include an introduction to the St Vincent de Paul Society and hands-on activities (with donated materials from your school) to support Vinnies good works.

Workshops are delivered in-person for primary and high school students, teacher, and parent groups.

### School Social Justice Workshop topics include:

Housing and Homelessness, Poverty and Cost of Living, Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching (CST), Migrants and Refugees, Environmental Stewardship.

All School Social Justice Workshops are \$200 (including GST) and should be made at least 4 weeks in advance.

More information regarding Vinnies Schools Social Justice Workshops is available through [Vinnies Schools Social Justice Workshop flyer](#) (and [booking form](#)) or by contacting your Vinnies School Engagement Officer.



*Vinnies Social Justice workshops at St Ursula's College with Vinnies Kingsgrove Conference President Bernie Deady*

## Resources for School Communities

### Spirituality Guides for Liturgical Year (B)

<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesSpiritualityGuideB>

### Mini Vinnies Starter Kit

<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23>

### Vinnies High School Conference Starter Kit

<https://bit.ly/VinniesHighSchoolConferenceStarterKit23>

### Social Justice Factsheets

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

### Merchandise Orders can be placed for:

- Vinnies (Logo) Lapel Badges
- Vinnies (Conference Role) Lapel Badges
- Vinnies Prayer Cards and Bookmarks

Please email your completed [ORDER FORM](#) to [supplycentre@vinnies.org.au](mailto:supplycentre@vinnies.org.au)

## Metropolitan Vinnies Van Services – Opportunities for School Communities

### Van Services Roster (ages 16+)

Sydney Diocese: Sydney, Bayside, Liverpool, Ryde, Brekky Van  
Parramatta Diocese: Greater Western Sydney  
Broken Bay Diocese: Woy Woy

### Behind the Scenes (ages 16+)

Volunteer as a kitchen hand at Lewisham for Sydney Vinnies Van Services during school hours (designed especially for parents and teacher development).

Donations for Vinnies Vans can be dropped off by appointment to Lewisham, Greystanes, Ryde, or Woy Woy. Enquiries for Vinnies Vans should be directed to [joanne.riakos@vinnies.org.au](mailto:joanne.riakos@vinnies.org.au) or [sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au](mailto:sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au) For more information about Vinnies Vans, please visit: [www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans)

### Sandwich Making Roster

[Sydney](#) | [Bayside](#) | [Liverpool](#) | [Ryde](#)  
[Greater Western Sydney](#) | [Woy Woy](#)

### Snackpack/Toiletry Pack Making

School communities can donate items for snackpacks and toiletry packs and/or donate completed packs to Vinnies Vans.





# St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW

*good works*

## Vinnies is Here to Help!

If anyone in your school community requires support including food, energy, and utility bills, rent and housing assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our **Vinnies Support Hotline** on **13 18 12**.

Vinnies also offers safe, completely **interest-free loans** of up to \$2,000 to individuals and families across NSW. The **No Interest Loans Scheme (NILs)** Team can be contacted on 1800 484 664.

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## Volunteer Opportunities for school communities!

Individual students, parents, and teachers along with Mini Vinnies Groups, High School Conferences, Duke of Edinburgh and/or Community Services students can participate in the following volunteering opportunities:

### SUPPORTING VINNIES RETAIL STORES

- Organise a **collection of pre-loved goods** (in good condition) to be collected at school, local organisation, or club. These can include clothes, shoes, handbags, jewellery, DVDs, games, crockery, books, toys, etc.
- Provide **retail assistance in our Vinnies Retail Stores**. Students are welcome to volunteer in our stores from 16 years of age, or from 14 years if they are participating in Duke of Edinburgh. Apply online to become a Vinnies Retail Volunteer at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/get-involved/retail-volunteering>

### FUNDRAISE FOR VINNIES

- Hold **fundraising events** such as a bake sale, barbecue day, crazy hair/sock day, craft stall at school or local venues such as shopping centres, in the community or your local parish. All fundraising for Vinnies must be registered online at <https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/>
- Promote **Vinnies Appeals**, fundraisers, and social justice initiatives by speaking at Mass and/or other venues and writing articles for school/Parish newsletters and community publications.
- Liaise with **local Conference and/or Vinnies Support Centre** to make up hampers, welcome packs, or specific gifts for local families and community members.

For more Vinnies School Community volunteering opportunities, please email [metroschools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au) or contact your School Engagement Officer.

## Vinnies Support Centres needs adult volunteers!

[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 volunteer roles available including administration & reception support, assisting with client interview rosters, data entry and helping 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. If you are interested in hearing more about volunteering in a Vinnies Support Centre, please contact the Volunteer Experience Team at [volunteers@vinnies.org.au](mailto:volunteers@vinnies.org.au)

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**Vinnies Youth has volunteering and program opportunities for persons aged 18 – 35. Please contact Allie (Youth Engagement Officer) for more information:** ✉ [Alysha.Wong-O'Connor@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Alysha.Wong-O'Connor@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0478 180 235

