



## St Vincent de Paul Society (NSW)

### Metropolitan Schools Newsletter Term 2, 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 second Metropolitan Schools Newsletter for 2024. We hope your school community had a happy Easter and a safe holiday break. Term 2 is an exciting term for the Schools and Youth Engagement team, and we are looking forward to engaging with you in some way during our 2024 Winter Appeal.

### Vinnies Winter Appeal 2024: The Working Homeless



We invite you to support our 2024 Vinnies Winter Appeal. This Appeal aims to help people currently, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness to rebuild their lives. This year, our Winter Appeal focuses on the Working Homeless, an emerging group of people who are experiencing housing hardship and disadvantage despite being in employment.

To find out how your community can best support the Appeal, please refer to the 2024 Winter Appeal launch email recently sent to your school. You can also 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/>

### Mini Vinnies Gathering

**Wednesday, 24 July 2024, 9:00am registration - 2:00pm**  
**Australian Catholic University, Strathfield**



The Mini Vinnies Gathering is the annual opportunity for primary schools to gather and like-minded Mini Vinnies to work together on social justice workshops and spiritual formation. Up to 5 students and 2 teachers are invited per Mini Vinnies group. Registration closes on Friday 5 July, limited spaces available.

Please register your School Group online: <https://bit.ly/minivinniesgathering2024>

Each **Student Registration (Parental Consent)** form must be emailed to [metroschools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au)

Promo Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOTUZvq1ECE>

### 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 Winter Sleepouts

Vinnies Sleepouts give you a glimpse into the realities of homelessness by 'sleeping rough' for a night, or an 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.

A Vinnies Schools Team member is available to speak about your school during business hours, and a Vinnies Conference member can be arranged to speak at your school after hours for evening events.

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

## Start a Mini Vinnies group or 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.

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

The Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) aims to enhance students' knowledge of 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 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 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.

## 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 (especially for parents and teachers).

### Sandwich Making Roster

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

Donations for Vinnies Vans can be dropped off by appointment to Lewisham, Greystanes, Ryde, or Woy Woy. Enquiries should be directed to [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)



## Volunteering 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 volunteering opportunities.

To learn more about current volunteer [opportunities for school communities](#), email [metroschools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au) or contact your School Engagement Officer.

## Youth Week 2024: Express, Empower, Get Loud!

As part of Youth Week 2024 (11<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April), the Vinnies Schools & Youth Team held a series of events in Western Sydney providing opportunities for high school students and young adults to put their faith into action (SEE, THINK, DO) especially on the important social justice issue of housing and homelessness.



## Vinnies Youth

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

## Vinnies is Here to Help!

If anyone in your school community requires support including food, energy, and utility bills, rent and housing assistance; please contact our **Vinnies Support Hotline** on **13 18 12** or visit [www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-support-centres](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-support-centres)

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.



NSW SOCIAL JUSTICE  
**NETWORK**

# SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM 2024

SATURDAY 1 JUNE 2024



Help us achieve positive change for those we assist!

Join us as we:

- Learn more about the root causes of poverty and the unjust structures that perpetuate it
- Discuss how we can work together to alleviate need, and shape fairer systems and structures that will uphold the rights of those in our communities
- Share your thoughts and experiences, and help shape our social justice advocacy agenda
- Come together to forge solid relationships

All members, volunteers, employees and supporters of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW are welcome to attend. This is a free event, with lunch and refreshments provided, but registrations are essential.

Registrations close 18 May 2024, or when spaces are filled.

If you require financial support for travel and accommodation, please contact your Social Justice Representative or the Social Justice Team (via [social.justice@vinnies.org.au](mailto:social.justice@vinnies.org.au)).

**WHEN:**

1 June 2024,  
9:00am – 4.30pm

**WHERE:**

Mary MacKillop Place,  
7-11 Mount Street,  
North Sydney  
(a short walk from  
North Sydney station)



To register, please visit:

[socialjusticeforum2024.eventbrite.com.au](https://socialjusticeforum2024.eventbrite.com.au)

or scan the QR Code



St Vincent de Paul Society  
good works