



St Vincent de Paul Society (NSW)

Metropolitan Schools Newsletter: Term 3, 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.

Vinnies Winter Appeal 2024: Thank you



Thank you to the many schools who have participated in this year's Winter Appeal. Vinnies Conferences and Services have received generous donations, and it has been wonderful to see the many [School Sleepout](#) events occurring.

It is not too late to get involved, if your school would like to host a School Sleepout, please [register online](#) to create your fundraising page. Schools may invite a local Vinnies Conference representative to speak at your event and/or a teacher facilitated presentation can also be provided.

Schools donating food and other materials are asked to contact their local Vinnies Conference, Vinnies Support Centre, or the nominated Vinnies Service receiving the items to arrange collection.

National Homelessness Week (5-11 August 2024)

Homelessness Week aims to raise awareness of homelessness in Australia and the importance of social housing as a long-term solution. It is designed to build community support and government commitment to end homelessness.



The year's theme is a focus on ending homelessness for families and children. Contact your Vinnies School Engagement Officer or complete the [booking form](#) to organise a Housing and Homelessness workshop at your school. All school Social Justice Workshops are \$200.

Vinnies Metropolitan Schools Team

Chris Nolan: Sydney Archdiocese (except regions listed below)

✉ chris.nolan@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0408 622 294

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

✉ roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0487 001 186

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

✉ ketaki.wasnikar@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0477 440 5677

St Vincent de Paul Award for Community Service (Year 12, 2024)

This award aims to recognise Year 12 students who have demonstrated a significant contribution and commitment to social justice and community service throughout their secondary school years. Recipients of the award will receive a certificate in recognition of their efforts. Each secondary school is invited to nominate one or two Year 12 students to receive the award.

Contact your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer if you haven't received the award criteria. Please complete the [nomination form](#) at least five working days before your graduation presentation event so the completed certificates can be emailed to you.

Graduating Year 12 Students are also encouraged to register to join Vinnies Youth to keep in touch with Vinnies beyond high school at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/bethechange>

Greater Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout

Friday 30 August 2024: Western Sydney University (Parramatta South), Rydalmere

The Vinnies Greater Sydney Community Sleepout is a unique way for community members to actively combat the issue of homelessness by rising to the challenge and experiencing a small taste of what it is like to sleep rough for a night. Participants are given nothing more than a beanie; a sheet of cardboard; a bread roll and a cup of soup and are responsible for finding their own place to bed down for the night at the Sleepout venue.



We invite everyone from the community to support this event, please extend this invitation to the staff and families of your school community. They are welcome to join us on the night to raise funds and awareness of the challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness.

This year, we are also excited to invite Secondary Schools to organise a group of students aged 16+ and a teacher to attend this year's event. To register or find out more information, go to

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/greater-sydney-vinnies-community-sleepout-2024>

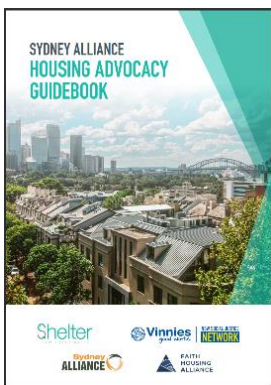
Housing Affordability – Vinnies Social Justice Network

Will you join the call for fairer housing in your local community?

Everyone should be able to afford to live in a stable home, close to jobs, schools and their families. Sadly, this is not the case for thousands of people. NSW is experiencing a housing affordability crisis due to a severe lack of secure and affordable rental housing for people on moderate and low incomes across the state. One way to fix this is to ensure that any new housing developments include affordable rental housing.

More information is available at:

<https://socialjustice.vinnies.org.au/campaign/make-our-communities-affordable/>



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. Contact your Vinnies 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 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 and should be made at least 4 weeks in advance. More information regarding Vinnies Schools Social Justice Workshops is available through the [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

Metropolitan Vinnies Van Services – Opportunities for School Communities

Van Services Roster (ages 16+)

Sydney: Sydney, Bayside, Liverpool, Ryde, Cumberland, Brekky Van

Parramatta: Greater Western Sydney

Broken Bay: Woy Woy

Behind the Scenes (ages 16+)

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

Sandwich Making Roster

[Sydney](#) | [Bayside](#) | [Liverpool](#) (Mt Pritchard) | [Ryde](#)

[Greater Western Sydney](#) | [Woy Woy](#)

For more information, please email: sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au

Donations for Vinnies Van Services can be dropped off by appointment to the Lewisham, Greystanes, Mt Pritchard, Ryde, or Woy Woy base. Please email: sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au

More information about Vinnies Vans is at: www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans

Woy Woy Van & Cumberland Van

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Woy Woy & Cumberland Vans Service on a night roster and sandwich roster.

If your school would like to join, please email Viniana Tamanitoakula (Vinnies Van Services Assistant): sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au

Snack Pack/Toiletry Pack Making

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



Audition Open for new Mini Vinnies Song

Vinnies NSW is recording a new Mini Vinnies Song to reflect on the goods works of school communities in putting our faith into action. We are grateful for the current [Mini Vinnies Song from Vinnies UK](#) but it's time for an updated Australian rendition.



We are looking for a primary school with up to 10 confident singers to be part of the Vinnies audio and video recording for the new Australian “Mini Vinnies Song”. The new lyrics and music have been created by the wonderful [Ozanam Learning Centre Music Collective](#) with the selected school to involved with the final version of the new Mini Vinnies Song, in collaboration with the singers of the Ozanam Learning Centre Music Collective.

If your school is interested with 6 – 10 students (Year 5 & 6, male & female voices) to volunteer to be part of the Vinnies Recording of the new Mini Vinnies Song, please [submit an audition video](#) of your group singing the [current Mini Vinnies Song](#) from Vinnies UK. [Audition Submissions](#) close on **31 August 2024.**

Your school does not need to have a Mini Vinnies group to be involved, but the Vinnies Metro Schools Team would also be delighted to meet with you to start a Mini Vinnies group in your school community!

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 find your local Vinnies Support Centre at www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-support-centres