



Term 1, 2025



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 our first newsletter for 2025 – the Jubilee Year! With a new year, we are blessed with new opportunities to live gospel values and put our faith into action.

Christmas Appeal 2024: Thank You



Thank you to the schools who supported the 2024 Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Despite the cost of living challenges, staff and local Conference members of Vinnies were again overwhelmed with joy at the recent response to the Appeal.

Schools demonstrated great generosity in their support for individuals and families experiencing hardship during the festive season and for that, we are sincerely grateful!

We look forward to working with you again in 2025.

Vinnies Term 1 Teacher Zoom Meetings

The Schools Team invites all interested primary and secondary teachers to attend a Zoom meeting to learn more about the work of Vinnies and the Schools team, the Winter and Christmas Appeals and how your school can contribute to the mission of the Society throughout the year. There will also be an opportunity for a Q&A.

Secondary teachers: Tuesday, 4 March 3:30-4:30pm. [Zoom link](#) (or please email us).

Primary teachers: Thursday, 6 March 3:30-4:30pm. [Zoom link](#) (or please email us).

Our 2025 Introduction video is available at <https://youtu.be/Gb9Lr5F7j44>

We look forward to seeing you online!



Mini Vinnies Gathering and Vinnies Secondary Schools Gathering

The Schools team is looking forward to hosting another successful Mini Vinnies Gathering in 2025.

Primary schools: Thursday, 24 July at ACU Strathfield

We also invite secondary schools to participate in a Secondary School Gathering in 2025.

Secondary schools: Friday, 25 July at ACU Strathfield

Both days are an opportunity to learn more about the work of Vinnies across Sydney and how students can contribute. More details and registration information will be available soon.

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: Liberty Plains/Auburn, Kingsgrove-Bankstown)

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

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

✉ ketaki.wasnikar@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0477 440 567

Key Dates for Term 1



- Sr Rosalie Rendu Feast Day (7 February)
- World Day of Social Justice (20 February)
- Vinnies Teacher Zooms (4 and 6 March)
- Sydney Alliance Assembly (13 March)
- Harmony Week (17-23 March)
- Youth Week (9-17 April)
- Youth Homelessness Matters Day (16 April)



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 (minimum 1 hour duration) and should be made at least 4 weeks in advance. More information is available on the [Vinnies Schools Social Justice Workshop flyer](#) (and [booking form](#)) or by contacting your Vinnies School Engagement Officer.

Contribute to the video for the new Mini Vinnies song

Vinnies is seeking video clips from primary schools to be used for the new Mini Vinnies song, which will be released soon. We are looking for footage of:

- children playing in the playground and running to class
 - high energy children holding up individual cards with a single word of the chorus written on it. Children can hold the card and smile, dance, laugh. Each shot needs to be 10 seconds long. The words are:
- | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| see | think | and | do | Mini | Vinnies |
| here | for | you | care | for | you |

Videos should be shot horizontal and as high a quality as a smart phone allows.

Please upload footage to <https://we.tl/r-F5eoEpnpt4> by **Wednesday, 19 February**.

Vinnies will require signed Media Consent Forms for all students in the clips submitted.

Vinnies Rebuilds Lives Episode 2 – Voiceover Competition for Primary Students

Primary students (and their teachers) are invited to submit an audio file recording of a voiceover for Episode 2 of Vinnies Rebuilds Lives video. [Watch the video](#) and submit your voiceover of the captions to roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au by Friday 11 April. The selected voiceover will then be asked to complete a Vinnies Media Consent Form and be credited with the voiceover in the final version of the new video.

State of Origin 2 Watch Party – Year 12 & Vinnies Youth

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday 18th June 6:30-10:30pm at Vinnies NSW Boardroom (Lewisham).

Year 12 students are invited to join Vinnies Youth for a night of footy fun and learning about opportunities with Vinnies as young adults beyond school. The Vinnies Schools & Youth Team will provide a catered evening as we share in the delight of the blue and white colours.

Start a Mini Vinnies Group in 2025

Mini Vinnies is 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](#).



Vinnies Service Medallion for High School Students

The Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) 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



Resources for School Communities

Spirituality Guide for the Liturgical Year (Year C):
<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesSpiritualityGuideYearC>

Mini Vinnies Starter Kit:
<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23>

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.

Sydney Alliance Federal Pre-Election Assembly 2025

With a Federal Election approaching, the Sydney Alliance is organising an Assembly of its partner organisations to meet with Federal politicians. Vinnies NSW is a prominent member of the Alliance, and we are hoping to have as many supporters at the event as possible.



When: Thursday 13 March, 5:40 – 7:40pm (subject to variation depending on an announcement of the Federal election date)

Venue: Morley Centre, 2 Darcy Rd Westmead (less than 8 mins walk from Westmead Station and less than 40 min from Central by public transport)

Who: Minister Chris Bowen, other politicians TBC, 1000+ Sydneysiders from Alliance organisations

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-federal-assembly-2025>

This is a free event if you choose the “Assembly without Dinner” option.

Attending this event is a great opportunity to be part of a political action, to meet other members and faith and community groups who all aspire to a more just and compassionate society.

Metropolitan Vinnies Van Services – Opportunities for Schools

Van Services Roster (ages 16+)

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

Sandwich Making Roster

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

Woy Woy Van & Cumberland Van

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

Snack Pack/Toiletry Pack Making

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

Donations for Vinnies Van Services can be dropped off by appointment to the Lewisham, Greystanes, Mount Pritchard, West Ryde or Woy Woy bases.

To drop off donations or to join a roster, please email Viniana Tamanitoakula (Vinnies Van Services Assistant): sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au. More information about Vinnies Vans is at: www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans



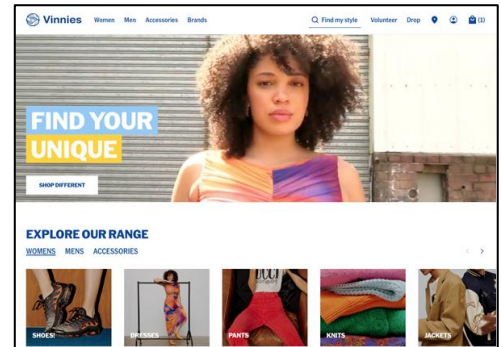
Vinnies is Here to Help!

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

Volunteer Opportunity: Be Part of the Vinnies Finds Fashion Revolution!

Calling all high school students and Vinnies Youth! Are you passionate about fashion, sustainability, and making a difference? Vinnies Finds, our exciting new sustainable fashion e-commerce store, is launching on 28th April, and we need YOUR help to make it a success!

This is your chance to be part of a fashion-forward initiative that's all about style, sustainability, and doing good. Whether you're into photography, organising, or just love fashion, there's a role for you!



About Vinnies Finds:

- A sustainable fashion hub with 30,000 items – a mix of new and second-hand treasures.
- Designed for millennial fashion lovers who care about the planet.
- Powered by Shopify and run from our Stanmore warehouse.

Why This Matters:

Did you know that Vinnies Retail proceeds go towards Vinnies Services? By volunteering with **Vinnies Finds (Stanmore E-Commerce)**, you're directly supporting our mission to combat homelessness and provide critical services to those in need. Your help ensures we can continue offering food, shelter, and support to vulnerable communities.

What You'll Do:

- Style and photograph fashion items for our online store.
- Help with barcoding and stock management to keep everything organised.
- Be part of the launch team for this exciting new venture.

Why Volunteer?

- Gain hands-on experience in fashion, e-commerce, and sustainability.
- Perfect for work experience during the Easter school holidays and/or after school.
- Volunteer with friends and make a difference together!
- Be part of a youth-driven movement that's changing the way we think about fashion.
- Support a cause that directly helps fight homelessness and supports those in need.

Details:

- Where: Vinnies Stanmore Warehouse (66-72 Salisbury Rd, Stanmore).
- When: anytime on Monday to Friday between 8am–6pm (weekends may also be available).
- Commitment: We'd love volunteers who can join us for a week (but even a day helps!).

Who Can Join?

- High school students – this is a perfect opportunity for work experience or just to get involved.
- Vinnies Youth & university students – come and represent your community!

How to Get Involved:

- Contact Tiffany Hua (tiffany.hua@vinnies.org.au) or retailvolunteering@vinnies.org.au for more info.
- Become a Retail Volunteer <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/get-involved/retail-volunteering> (and indicate your volunteering location as "**Stanmore E-Commerce**")

Spread the Word:

Tell your friends, share this with your school, or post it in your community. Let's make the launch of Vinnies Finds a huge success! Don't miss out – join the Vinnies Finds fashion revolution today! Together, we can make a real impact on homelessness and sustainable fashion.



SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

for students, teachers and parents

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

Workshops are in-person and are designed for all members of the school community — primary or secondary school students, teachers, staff, and parents.

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

BOOKING A WORKSHOP

All workshops are a minimum of 1 hour in length and require 4 weeks' notice.

Workshops incur a booking fee of \$200 (GST exempt) which will be invoiced to the school.

MINI VINNIES & VSM

Why not start a primary school Mini Vinnies group or join the secondary school Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM)?

These programs empower students to become leaders and advocates within their school and local community by putting their values into action.

Contact the Schools Engagement team to find out more.

WORKSHOP TOPICS



Housing and Homelessness

How Vinnies provides support to people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.



Poverty and the Cost of Living

How Vinnies responds to the challenges of poverty and cost of living that people experience.



Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching

How the good works of Vinnies are expressions of Catholic principles and teachings.



Environmental Stewardship

How supporting Vinnies demonstrates cares for creation and the natural world.



Migrants and Refugees

How Vinnies advocates for and support new arrivals to Australia.

Scan to book



QUESTIONS?

Contact your local Schools Engagement Officer or email metroschools@vinnies.org.au. Vinnies school resources are available at youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources

Visit bit.ly/metroschoolsbookings2025 to book



VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES

for students, teachers and parents



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works



CONTRIBUTE TO VINNIES VAN SERVICES

- Form a group (ages 16+) to join a Vinnies Van roster (Sydney, Bayside, Liverpool, Ryde, Cumberland, Brekky Van, Greater Western Sydney, Woy Woy).
- Prepare and donate snack packs, toiletry packs, sandwiches and food items (rosters and instructions available).
- Donations can be delivered by appointment to Lewisham, Mount Pritchard, Greystanes, West Ryde or Woy Woy.

Vinnies Van enquiries:
sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au



ASSIST A VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRE (VSC)

- Contact your local Support Centre to create hampers, welcome packs or specific gifts for local families and community members.
- Volunteer with a Support Centre to assist with administration, donation and hamper packing and supporting appeals as required (ages 18+).

Find your nearest VSC



SUPPORT A VINNIES RETAIL SHOP

- Organise a collection of pre-loved goods (in good condition) at your school, local organisation or club. These can include clothes, shoes, handbags, jewellery, DVDs, games, crockery, books, toys etc.
- Students 16+ can volunteer in a shop or from 14+ if they are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh or Vinnies Service Medallion.

Apply here to volunteer



FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS RAISING

- Hold a fundraising event such as a cake stall, market day, concert or crazy hair/sock day at school, in the community or your local parish.
- Participate in a Bunnings BBQ to raise funds for Vinnies.
- Promote Vinnies Appeals and social justice initiatives by speaking at Mass and/or other venues and writing articles for newsletters and community publications.

Online fundraising

QUESTIONS?

Contact your Schools Engagement Officer or email
metroschools@vinnies.org.au.



FORMATION

OPPORTUNITIES

for students, teachers and parents



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

Designed to facilitate meaningful engagement in social justice issues and provide opportunities for participants to put their faith into action. Book for 2025: bit.ly/metroschoolsbookings2025



MINI VINNIES

Empowers primary school students to become advocates within their school and local community by putting their values into action. Start a group in 2025: bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23



VINNIES SERVICE MEDALLION (VSM)

Enhances secondary school students' knowledge regarding key social justice issues and provides practical opportunities through volunteering that align to meet the needs of their community.



SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SLEEPOUTS

Shine a spotlight on the issue of homelessness by bringing together students to experience a glimpse of "sleeping rough" for one night while raising funds and awareness for Vinnies Services and Programs.



VINNIES CONFERENCES

Join a local Conference and provide regular support to people experiencing hardship in the community. For more information on how to get involved, visit mavs.vinnies.org.au.



ANNUAL APPEALS

The Vinnies Winter Appeal takes place in Term 2 and the Vinnies Christmas Appeal occurs in Term 4.

QUESTIONS?

Contact your Schools Engagement Officer or email metroschools@vinnies.org.au.

Vinnies school resources are available at youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources.



BUSKING FOR VINNIES

Busking for Vinnies has been a long-standing community outreach event, supported by City of Parramatta, held by the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW annually in Parramatta since the 1990s to raise awareness of the Society's services in the region.

In 2025, we are opening expressions of interest for additional school involvement in Parramatta and also other Council areas. The lunchtime student group musical performances accompanied by a Vinnies stall (run by Vinnies staff/members) are also a great way to engage with the local community and showcase the services that are available for people to access in the area, including our van services and support centres.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Expressions of interest for April close on 28th February 2025 and expressions of interest for August close 27th June 2025. For more information and/or to register your school / group's interest, please email: roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au

Busking for Vinnies is held annually in August as an extension of Vinnies' Homelessness Week activities in Parramatta, but we are also seeking expressions of interest to expand this initiative as part of our Youth Week activities in April and Anti-Poverty Week in October.

High School / Youth Group Requirements:

- Public square performances are usually between 10:30am – 1:30pm
- Group of at least 10 (to approximately 40) students with 2 teacher/adult supervision
- School / Group to bring all musical and sound equipment (power available on-site)
- School / Group determined setlist of various sized group and solo performances

Scan the QR code to see the Busking for Vinnies 2024 video 





Vinnies



Youth Week 2025

x

I am... ▼

-  **Committed**
-  **Compassionate**
-  **Respectful**
-  **Integral**
-  **Empathetic**
-  **an Advocate**
-  **Courageous**
-  **add your own**

Vinnies Youth



Scan me to
find out more

Youth Week 2025
We are the future,
and the future is now!

www.facebook.com/NSWVinniesYouth