



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.

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to working with your school during Term 3.

Winter Appeal 2025: No One Chooses to be Homeless



Thank you to the many schools who have so far participated in this year's Winter Appeal. Vinnies Conferences, Support Centres and Services have received many generous donations, and it has been wonderful to see School Sleepout events occurring.

It is not too late to get your school community involved. Appeal information and resources are available at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal>

Please contact your local Vinnies Conference, Vinnies Support Centre, or the nominated Vinnies Service receiving your donations to arrange collection or drop off.

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 at your school during business hours, and a Vinnies Conference member can be arranged to speak at your school after hours for evening events.



Registration and resources: <https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/create-your-own-vinnies-school-sleepout>

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

Term 3 Social Justice Days



- Homelessness Week (4-10 August)
- Social Justice Sunday (31 August)
- Season of Creation (September)
- Frederic Ozanam Feast Day (9 September)
- RU OK? Day (11 September)
- St Vincent de Paul Feast Day (27 September)
- Anti-Poverty Week (12-18 October)

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

Mini Vinnies Gathering – 24 July

220 people from 28 schools from across the Sydney, Parramatta and Broken Bay dioceses attended our annual Mini Vinnies Gathering at ACU Strathfield.



The day was a chance for students to reflect on how they are leaders of hope, supporting the work of Vinnies to offer support to those struggling in the local community. Students gained a greater understanding of the cost of living and the work of Vinnies Support Centres, housing and homelessness, stewardship and the Vinnies Van.

It was wonderful to see so many interested and engaged students willing to be part of the mission of Vinnies which everyday brings hope to so many.



New Mini Vinnies Song Launched!

The new Australian version of the Mini Vinnies song was launched at the Mini Vinnies Gathering. The song was written and produced by the Forbes St Band, an initiative of the Ozanam Learning Centre (OLC).

The Forbes St Band creates opportunities for the OLC music program participants to write, record and perform original works of music. It is a diverse group of Sydney-based artists who have found belonging and healing through their shared passion for music. The Band developed the new song especially for Mini Vinnies students and collaborated with students from St Anthony of Padua Catholic College Austral to record the final track.

We invite all schools to learn and use the new song in your community. [Click here for the song and video.](#)

Start a Mini Vinnies Group

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 Secondary Schools Gathering – 25 July

90 high school teachers and students from across the Sydney, Parramatta and Broken Bay dioceses attended our first-ever Secondary Schools Gathering at ACU Strathfield.

The day was filled with engaging activities that encouraged students to explore social justice issues, develop leadership skills and connect with like-minded peers. It was inspiring to witness their enthusiasm and commitment to growing as leaders of hope and making a positive difference in their communities.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build upon this experience and plan for an even bigger and more impactful gathering next year.



Vinnies Service Medallion for High School Students

The Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) is a state-wide initiative by the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW that recognises and celebrates the contributions of secondary students to community service, leadership, advocacy and fundraising. The VSM provides a clear and flexible framework for students to engage in social justice while acknowledging their impact through a formal award.



Students can register via <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vinnies-service-medallion/>

St Vincent de Paul Award for Community Service (Year 12 2025)

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 submit the names of one or two Year 12 students to receive the Award. Nominations can be made via [this link](#) by Friday, 5 September.

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>.



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.

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 day + 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



Cumberland Vinnies Van – Volunteers Needed

Looking for a way to engage parents and support people who need 'a hand up'?

Vinnies Vans is seeking volunteers to join a team of enthusiastic people who look forward to chatting and sharing with people in the Cumberland Area through the Merrylands CBD service.

Both Van drivers and assistants are needed for this daytime service operating every Thursday. To find out more, [click here](#). Email Viniana via cumberlandvv@vinnies.org.au to apply.

Join us for a youth-led workshop to explore homelessness in Western Sydney, hear how Council and Vinnies are responding, and help shape a youth social justice action plan.



Wednesday 6 August 2025



4pm to 5:30pm



Auburn Centre for Community

Expect real talk, ice-breakers, and a chance to make a difference. Your voice matters. Be the change. 🗣️

Register online:

<https://www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/event/national-homelessness-week-vinnies-youth-info-session>



Register for the 2025 Greater Sydney Community Sleepout Friday 29th August



It's all about locals supporting locals

Help Vinnies break the cycle of homelessness by joining our Greater Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout and braving the cold for one night.

Event Details

When: 6pm, Friday 29 August 2025

Venue: Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus (Rydalmere)

Event Coordinator: Kate Conroy

E: kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au **M:** 0403 241 986

What to Expect: Inspiring guest speakers sharing real stories of homelessness, addiction, and recovery. Small group discussions & Trivia. Simple dinner: a cup of soup. Experience sleeping rough with just cardboard, a pillow, and a sleeping bag. Light breakfast in the morning.

Where Does the Money Go? Funds raised from the 2025 Greater Sydney Community Sleepout will directly support local services including: Maternal Heart Conference, Vinnies Support Centres, the Cumberland Vinnies Van, Woy Woy Vinnies Van and the Vinnies Broken Bay DV Fund. Your support helps ensure these vital services continue to make a difference in the lives of those doing it tough in our communities.

How you can get involved:

- Register as an individual or team
- Dollar for Dollar Sponsor – Sponsor provides a donation and over a 24 hour period, all public donations are matched until the sponsored amount has been exhausted.
- Other event sponsorship opportunities are available.

Did you know?

Vinnies in Greater Sydney has provided the following assistance over the past 12 months:



37,842 people
assisted (7% increase)



\$5,478,600
financial and material
assistance provided
(20% increase)



31% seeking
assistance for the
first time



49% experiencing
housing stress



21% are experiencing
homelessness or
are in temporary
accommodation

To register, scan the QR code or visit:

my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/greater-sydney-vinnies-community-sleepout-2025





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.

Scan to book



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

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.

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



Sunday, August 31st

WANGAL COUNTRY



Free | All Welcome | 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Wentworth Common, Sydney Olympic Park

We're living in a time where the cracks in our communities are widening; driven by politics that divide and voices that inflame. We're heartbroken, but we're not helpless.

Sydney's Picnic for Peace is our response: a public, interfaith, cross-cultural and intergenerational event: a radical reclaiming of peace, hope, and shared humanity.

This is about more than one day in a park, it is about reconnecting Sydney's spirit and compassion through music, dialogue, breaking bread, and shared purpose. The opportunity to regain our common ground, and rediscovering what it means to belong.

We encourage you to bring a picnic to share and wear your cultural dress, come as your peace hero, or simply wear something blue!





BUSKING FOR VINNIES

**11am – 1:30pm
August 2025**



DONATE ONLINE

visit: youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/busking
or scan the QR code



Springwood Town Square, Springwood

FRIDAY 8 AUGUST

St Columba's Catholic College, Springwood

Centenary Square, Parramatta CBD

TUESDAY 12 AUGUST

Gilroy Catholic College, Castle Hill

THURSDAY 14 AUGUST

Catherine McAuley, Westmead

TUESDAY 19 AUGUST

Parramatta Marist High School, Westmead

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST

Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta

MONDAY 25 AUGUST

Mount St Benedict College, Pennant Hills

St Edmund's College, Wahroonga

WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST

John Paul II Catholic College, Schofields