

# VINNIES METRO SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
*good works*

TERM 1 2026

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 2026!** The Vinnies Schools Engagement team looks forward to working with you and your community this year as we continue to contribute to the Good Works of the Society, putting faith into action and being the hands of service for others.



## Christmas Appeal 2025: Thank You

Thank you to the schools who supported the 2025 Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Vinnies staff and local Conference members received a very positive response to the Appeal at the end of last year.

The Society is sincerely grateful for the generosity shown to individuals and families experiencing hardship during the festive season. Your support has enabled Vinnies to provide practical and immediate support.

We look forward to working with you again in 2026.

## Vinnies Term 1 Teacher Zoom Meeting

All primary and secondary teachers/Vinnies contacts are invited to attend a Zoom meeting to learn more about the work of Vinnies and the Schools team, 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.

**Wednesday, 4 March 3:30-4:30pm.** Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/schoolvinnies26>



- Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Encounter Day (Years 5-12): Monday, 22 June (St John Paul II Catholic College, Nirimba Fields)
- Mini Vinnies Formation Day (Years 4-6): ACU Strathfield. Details coming soon!

## Metro Schools Engagement Team

**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: Liberty Plains/Auburn)  
✉ [roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au](mailto:roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0487 001 186

**Ketaki (Ket) Wasnikar:** Broken Bay Diocese  
(& Sydney: Macquarie; Northern Suburbs; Western Suburbs)  
✉ [ketaki.wasnikar@vinnies.org.au](mailto:ketaki.wasnikar@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0477 440 567

## Term 1 Social Justice Calendar



- World Day of Social Justice (20 February)
- Harmony Week (16-22 March)
- Youth Homelessness Matters Day (15 April)
- Youth Week (16-26 April)

## Vinnies Merchandise Orders for 2026

To order Mini Vinnies badges, prayer cards and other items, please email a completed [order form](#) to [supplycentre@vinnies.org.au](mailto:supplycentre@vinnies.org.au).



“ Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands. ”

Blessed Frederic Ozanam



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## Resources for Schools

Social Justice factsheets, Mini Vinnies materials and Appeal details: <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources/>

## Vinnies Schools 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.



- Homelessness and Cost of Living
- Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching
- Environmental Stewardship
- Migrants and Refugees

### Book a Workshop

<https://bit.ly/vinnieschoolworkshops>



A booking fee applies to the above (\$200 GST exempt; minimum 1 hour duration) with whole day staff/teacher bookings being \$500. More information is available on the Vinnies Social Justice Workshop flyer or by contacting your Schools Engagement Officer.

## Does your primary school have a Mini Vinnies group?

Mini Vinnies is a fantastic way to empower primary school students to become advocates within their school and local community by putting their values into action. Contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information or view our Mini Vinnies Starter Kit (<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23>)



Don't forget to use our new Mini Vinnies song! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMezYUVPSK8>

## 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

### NEW! Van Day Services

Small groups of two or three teachers and/or parents are needed to join the roster for the Vans Day Services at Haymarket (Mondays), Eastlakes (fortnightly Tuesdays), Maroubra (Thursdays) and Merrylands (Thursdays).



### Sandwich Making Rosters

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

### Woy Woy Van & Cumberland (Merrylands) Van

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Woy Woy & Cumberland Vans Service (day, night and sandwiches).

### Snack Pack/Toiletry Pack Donations

Our Vans services are always in need of items for snack packs and toiletry packs or completed packs. Donations 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: [sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au](mailto:sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au).

### Did You Know?

Vinnies Vans gave out 70,000 snack packs last year across Sydney.

More information about Vinnies Vans is at [www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans)



# 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 \$200 booking fee and whole-day staff/teacher bookings are \$500 (GST exempt).

### 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



#### Homelessness and Cost of Living

How Vinnies provides support to people experiencing homelessness and the rising cost of living.



#### 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](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au). Vinnies school resources are available at [youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources](https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources)

Visit <https://bit.ly/vinniesschoolworkshops> to book.

# VINNIES SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES for Greater Sydney



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## WINTER APPEAL

Schools organise drives to collect clothing, blankets, and donations for those facing hardships. e.g. supporting Vinnies Conferences or Support Centres Vans opportunities for participants to put their faith into action.



## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Schools collect and distribute gifts and essential items for families in need during the holiday season. e.g. supporting Vinnies Conferences, Support Centres, Vans



## VINNIES SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

Homelessness, Catholic Social Teaching, Environmental Stewardship, Migrants & Refugees, Domestic & Family Violence



## MINI VINNIES & SECONDARY SCHOOL GATHERING

Introducing students to the principles of social justice and the importance of helping those in need



## SLEEPOUT

Students experience simulated homelessness for a night to raise awareness and funds. e.g. supporting Vinnies Conferences, Support Centres, Vans



## MINI VINNIES

Mini Vinnies empowers primary school students to become advocates within their school and local community by putting Vinnies values into action



## VINNIES SERVICE MEDALLION

A Secondary school social justice program to recognise students who demonstrate outstanding commitment to service and advocacy



## COLLECTION DRIVES

Organising school-wide efforts for items such as toiletry packs and hygiene kits e.g. supporting Vans



## BUSKING FOR VINNIES

Student musical performances to benefit Vinnies and local Council Civic Activations



## VINNIES VAN ROSTER

Night & Day Services across Greater Sydney providing food relief, companionship, and referrals



## VINNIES VAN FOOD PREPARATION

Engaging students in preparing meals and snackpacks for those supported by Vinnies Vans services



## FINANCIAL GIVING

Encouraging schools to incorporate financial donations to provide direct support for Vinnies' programs and services



## RETAIL

Vinnies shops, warehouses, and e-commerce help raise funds for support services.



## GRADUATION AWARDS

Year 6 Blessed Frederic Ozanam Award for Social Justice and Year 12 St Vincent de Paul Award for Community Service

## QUESTIONS?

For more information, please contact the Vinnies Metropolitan Schools Team  
via email: [metroschools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au)

# FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

for students, teachers and parents



## 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 2026: [bit.ly/vinniesschoolworkshops](https://bit.ly/vinniesschoolworkshops)



## MINI VINNIES

Empowers primary school students to become advocates within their school and local community by putting their values into action.

Start a group: [bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23](https://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.

Find out more: [youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vinnies-service-medallion](https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vinnies-service-medallion)



## 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.

Register: [fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/create-your-own-vinnies-school-sleepout](https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/create-your-own-vinnies-school-sleepout)



## 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](https://mavs.vinnies.org.au).

## QUESTIONS?

Contact your Schools Engagement Officer or email [metroschools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au).

Vinnies school resources are available at [youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources](https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources).



# VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

for students, teachers and parents



## CONTRIBUTE TO VINNIES VAN SERVICES

- Form a group (ages 16+) to join a Vinnies Van roster (Sydney, Bayside, Liverpool, Ryde, Cumberland, 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 Vans enquiries:  
[sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au](mailto:sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au)



## 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 to volunteer: [www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/get-involved/retail-volunteering](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/get-involved/retail-volunteering)



## 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: [www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-support-centres](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-support-centres)



## 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.

Register for online fundraising: [fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way](http://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way)

## QUESTIONS?

Contact your Schools Engagement Officer or email [metroschools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au).

# JOIN TODAY!



The **Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM)** 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.

## 2026 Registrations

VSM 2026 registrations remain open, and we are excited to see schools already joining us for another inspiring year. With more than 500 students recognised in 2025, we look forward to celebrating even more young people for their service across NSW. The registration process is quick and can be completed online, with a hardcopy for student registrations also available.

Once registered, participants can continue supporting Vinnies through their usual activities or begin their service journey, knowing their efforts will be acknowledged throughout the year.

School Registration form: <https://forms.office.com/r/wsGcC5YECS>

Student Participant Registration:  
<https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vinnies-service-medallion>



## VSM Information Session

We are excited to invite schools, staff, community groups and other interested organisations to join us for this online session on **Tuesday, 10 March 2026 from 3:30 to 4:15 pm**. This webinar will introduce the Vinnies Service Medallion, outline the new guidelines for 2026, and highlight the supportive resources available to supervisors and participants. We also intend to share insights from those already involved in the program, offering a helpful look at how VSM is being put into practice across different settings.

A dedicated Q+A portion will give attendees the chance to seek further guidance and ask any questions they may have. We encourage all who support young people in service to join us for this informative and energising session.

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/2026-vsm-information-session>

## Further Information

Please contact your Schools Engagement Officer to organise a meeting to discuss the VSM. Further details are also at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vinnies-service-medallion/>

# Dream.

# Dare.

# Do.

Youth Week | 16–26 April 26  
**Dream. Dare. Do.**

[nsw.gov.au/youth-week](https://nsw.gov.au/youth-week)



#### Further Information

Please contact your Schools Engagement Officer to find out what Vinnies events are happening during NSW Youth Week. Visit <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au> for details.