

# VINNIES METRO SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
*good works*

TERM 2 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.

We hope you and your school community had a happy and safe Easter holiday break. The Schools team looks forward to engaging with you during Term 2.



## Winter Appeal 2026

We invite your school community to support our 2026 Winter Appeal, which focuses on the fact that for more and more people homelessness is just one sudden crisis away.

Our Appeal this year highlights people's capacity to deal with a sudden unexpected crisis e.g. job loss, illness, death of a loved one, unexpected bill etc. Increased cost of living and unaffordable housing exacerbates the issue driving more people into homelessness and poverty.

Your school's support will allow our services, members and volunteers to support those who are already, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness, as well as the growing number of people struggling with the cost of living.

To find out how your community can support the Appeal, please refer to the Term 1 Winter Appeal email. You can also contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information or to book a presentation.

Winter Appeal resources are available at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal>

## Mini Vinnies Formation Day (Years 4-6)

Friday, 24 July 2026, 9:00am registration - 2:00pm

Australian Catholic University, Strathfield

The Mini Vinnies Formation Day is the annual opportunity for primary schools to gather to learn more about the work of Vinnies and to connect with like-minded schools. Groups of 7 (including at least 1 adult) are invited.

Complete the Registration Form at <https://bit.ly/minivinniesformationday2026> and send in the completed and scanned [Student Information and Media Consent forms](#) by Friday 19 June to [metroschools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au).



## 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 2 Social Justice Calendar



- St Louise de Marillac Feast Day (9 May)
- Laudato Si' Week (17-24 May)
- Volunteer Week (18-24 May)
- Sorry Day (26 May)
- Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June)
- World Environment Day (5 June)
- Refugee Week (14-20 June)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday (5 July) and NAIDOC Week (5-12 July)

VINNIES IS HERE TO HELP

Call 13 18 12



“ You must see God in the faces of the poor. ”

St Vincent de Paul



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## Resources for Schools

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



## School Winter Sleepouts

Vinnies Sleepouts give participants a glimpse into the realities of homelessness by 'sleeping rough' for a night or an afternoon, learning about and raising funds for Vinnies' homelessness services or Conferences. This experience challenges the sense of "home" and offers unique insights into the issues faced by people experiencing homelessness.

A Vinnies Schools team member can speak at your school during school 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>

## Youth Week 2026: Dream. Dare. Do.

As part of Youth Week 2026 (16-26 April), the Vinnies Schools and Youth team attended a series of events across Greater Sydney to provide information about Vinnies services and how youth can support Vinnies.



Randwick Council Youth Week, 10 April



Georges River Council Outdoor Cinema, 10 April



Hawkesbury Council YouthFest, 17 April



Cumberland Council Youth Week, 17 April



Colour Fest, North Sydney 18 April



Bring It On! Youth Festival, 19 April



“ Be kind and love. For love is the first gift to the poor. ”

Sr Rosalie Rendu



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## 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. Our topics are: Homelessness and Cost of Living; Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching; Environmental Stewardship; Migrants and Refugees.

A booking fee applies to the above (\$200 GST exempt; minimum 1 hour duration) with whole day staff/teacher bookings being \$500. For more information, see the Vinnies Social Justice Workshop flyer or contact your Schools Engagement Officer.

**Book a Workshop**

<https://bit.ly/vinnieschoolworkshops>



## 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>

## Vinnies Service Medallion for High School Students (VSM)

The 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.



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

If your school would like to learn more about the VSM, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.

## 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

### HELP NEEDED! 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.

### Did You Know?

Vinnies Vans assisted 115,000 people across NSW in the past year.

To drop off donations/join a roster, please email Viniana: [sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au](mailto:sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au).

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)



## How to Give



### MATERIAL DONATIONS

Contact your Vinnies Youth team members to connect you with your local Conference, support centre or service to confirm their donation needs.

Please ensure all donated items are in new condition and have a 6-month use-by date.



### SCHOOL SLEEPOUTS

A School Sleepout is a great way for students to experience the impacts of homelessness in a safe environment, while also raising funds and prompting action in your school community.

Your local Conference or Vinnies Youth team member can support your School Sleepout with stories of their experiences providing assistance to those we support.



### FINANCIAL DONATIONS

You can make a financial contribution to our Winter Appeal through:

- Vinnies Website  
[www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)
- Direct Debit  
**Bank Name:** Commonwealth Bank  
**Account Name:** St Vincent de Paul Society Appeals Account  
**Account Number:** 10057471  
**BSB Number:** 062 193  
**Branch:** LEICHHARDT NSW

Please be sure to reference your direct debit with SCHOOL NAME – WINTER APPEAL

Remittance advice should be provided for all donations. Please email [remittances@vinnies.org.au](mailto:remittances@vinnies.org.au)



### PRAYER AND ADVOCACY

Your school community can make a difference to those experiencing homelessness by praying for shelter, safety and hope.

Through prayer, we remind students of the importance of empathy and compassion.

Schools may wish to gather for prayer during assemblies or in the classroom, as well as encouraging individual or small group prayers. These simple acts help create solidarity with those in need, ensuring they are not forgotten this Winter.

Resources are available at:

[youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources](http://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources)





# 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](http://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources)

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