

VINNIES METRO SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

TERM 3 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 thank you for your ongoing support of the Society and look forward to working with your community this term.



Winter Appeal 2026

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.

Winter Sleepouts

Vinnies School 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. It's not too late to organise your school sleepout for Term 3. Registration and resources are [available online](#).



2026 Greater Sydney Community Sleepout

Teachers, parents and students over the age of 16 are invited to join us for the 2026 Community Sleepout to raise awareness and funds for Vinnies services and programs in the greater Sydney region.

Friday, 28 August, Australian Catholic University Strathfield campus.

See page 5 of the newsletter for registration and donation details.



Metro Schools Engagement 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)

✉ 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 ☎ 0477 440 567

Term 3 Social Justice Calendar



- Homelessness Week (3-9 August)
- Social Justice Sunday (30 August)
- Season of Creation (September)
- Frederic Ozanam Feast Day (9 September)
- RU OK? Day (10 September)
- St Vincent de Paul Feast Day (27 September)
- Anti-Poverty Week (11-17 October)

VINNIES IS HERE TO HELP

Call 13 18 12



“ Go to the poor ... go not with empty hands. ”

Blessed Frederic Ozanam



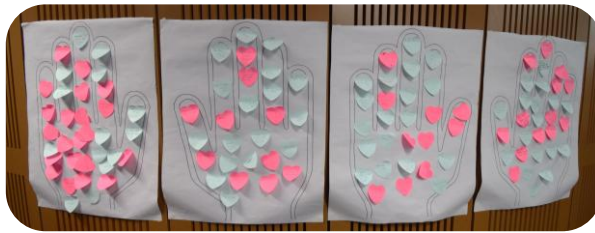
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Mini Vinnies Formation Day – 24 July

175 people from 22 schools from across the Sydney, Parramatta and Broken Bay dioceses attended the Mini Vinnies Formation Day at ACU Strathfield.



The day was a chance for students to reflect on how they can use their hearts and hands for others, supporting the work of Vinnies to offer hope to those struggling in the local community. Students gained a greater understanding of the history, mission and work of Vinnies and how they can be part of the Vinnies story in their school community. It was wonderful to see so many interested and engaged students keen to be part of the Vinnies story.

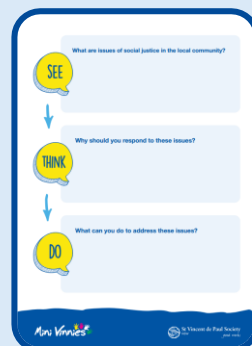
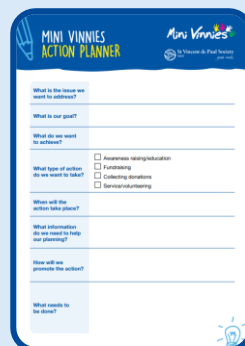


NEW Mini Vinnies Resources available now!

Visit our Youth NSW website to view our new resources for Mini Vinnies students!

New materials include colouring pages, Catholic Social Teaching and See, Think, Do reflections and a student action planner.

<https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources/>



Does your primary school have a Mini Vinnies group?

Contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information or view our **UPDATED** [Mini Vinnies Starter Kit](#).

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Kindness is the key to hearts.



St Vincent de Paul



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St Vincent de Paul Award for Community Service (Year 12 2026)

This Award recognises 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, 4 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>.

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>



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), 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/join a roster, please email sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au.

More information about Vinnies Vans is at 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
- 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



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



Register for the 2026 Greater Sydney Community Sleepout Friday 28th 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.

🕒 6pm, Friday 28 August 2026

📍 Australian Catholic University, Strathfield Campus

Event Coordinator: Kate Conroy

E: kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au

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? All funds raised from the 2026 Sleepout will directly support vital local programs across the three Central Councils: Sydney Central Council - Maternal Heart Conference. Greater Western Sydney Central Council - Vinnies Support Centres and the Cumberland Vinnies Van. Broken Bay Central Council - Woy Woy Vinnies Van and the Broken Bay Domestic Violence Fund.

Every dollar stays within our region, helping to provide practical, immediate support where it's needed most.

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 NSW has provided the following assistance over the past 12 months:



105,000 people
supported by members



11,800 people
assisted by services



115,000 people
supported by Vinnies Vans



\$15.1 million
provided in financial and material aid



31%
of people seeking assistance for the first time

To register, scan the QR code or visit:

my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/greater-sydney-vinnies-community-sleepout-2026





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

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