



St Vincent de Paul Society
NATIONAL COUNCIL *good works*

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Vinnies CEO interviewed by Naomi Woodley for ABC AM

***Topics:** Today's release of the Australian Community Sector Survey 2011 showing a spike in demands for welfare assistance, calls for a rethink on social security to avoid UK style riots.*

PRESENTER, EMILY BOURKE: ...the results (of the survey) have prompted one charity to warn that Australia needs to rethink its social support system if it wants to prevent riots like those seen in the UK. From Canberra, Naomi Woodley reports....

[Reporter interviews the Australian Council of Social Services CEO, Dr Cassandra Goldie, and Annette McKail from Whittlesea Community Services, Victoria.]

REPORTER: That call is supported by Dr John Falzon, the CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council.

DR JOHN FALZON: People who are sitting in a permanent state of recession even during the economic boom times are disproportionately affected by a further downturn.

REPORTER: Dr Falzon says the recent riots in the UK show the dangers of leaving such people disengaged and disillusioned.

DR JOHN FALZON: We've got to rethink the whole way that we do social security in Australia. We've got to end the demonisation and blaming of people who remain unheard. We've got to ensure that they don't remain unheard. We've got to engage in policies that remove the barriers that bring down walls rather than making those walls higher.

REPORTER: But he says the ACOSS survey provides the information to avoid the social disharmony seen in the UK.

Link to full transcript: <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2011/s3293141.htm>

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Every day in Australia the Society helps many thousands of people through Home Visitations, Migrant and Refugee Assistance, Hospital Visitation, Aged and Special Care Service, Retail Centres, Sheltered Workcentres, Hostels for Homeless Men, Women and Children, Overseas Relief, Disaster Recovery, Budget Counselling and Youth Programs.