



9 May 2013

St Vincent de Paul Society asks Australians to 'Do something about it' this winter

The St Vincent de Paul Society SA will launch its 2013 Winter Appeal tomorrow and challenge Australians to take a positive stand against poverty by *doing something about it* this winter. This year the Society asks Australians to dismiss attitudes of powerlessness and be inspired to take action on the things that matter to them.

Keeping in line with trends over the past few years, the St Vincent de Paul Society expects to see an increase in demand for assistance during the winter months. With energy prices and the cost of living continuing to put pressure on household budgets, more Australian families are struggling to make ends meet.

St Vincent de Paul Society SA State President, Dominic Lagana said, "The St Vincent de Paul Society is really concerned about the long-term impact of current cost of living pressures. There is no question that the current tough economic climate is undermining the ability of many Australians to fully participate in education, access healthcare, adequately care for their families and feel included in their local communities."

Between June and August 2012 the St Vincent de Paul Society in South Australia provided over \$472,000 in assistance including just over \$222,000 in food assistance during this period.

Across SA, the Society has over 2,500 members and volunteers who continue the crucial work of visiting people in their homes, providing assistance and friendship. During the long winter months last year, more than 20,000 visits were made to homes, nursing homes, hospitals and prisons.

Dominic Lagana explains that people already struggling, face an even bleaker time during winter.

"Sadly, too many Australians will experience a long, cold and often lonely winter. Our members see the struggles they face each and every day. By donating to the Vinnies Winter Appeal, you can help us continue this crucial work and make a real difference to people's lives this winter," said Mr Lagana.

Please 'do something about it' this winter and donate to the Vinnies 2013 Winter Appeal so that we can continue to change lives every day. To make a donation visit www.dosomethingaboutit.org.au or call 13 18 12.

Media Contact:
Victoria Turner
Marketing Communications SA
E: vturner@svdpsa.org.au
M: 0439 023 463