



**3 May 2013**

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

The St Vincent de Paul Society will launch its 2013 Winter Appeal today challenging 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 over 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 NSW CEO, Michael Perusco said, "The St Vincent de Paul Society is really concerned about the long-term impact of current cost of living pressures. There's no question that the current situation is undermining the ability of many Australians to fully participate in education, access healthcare, feel included in their local communities and care for their families."

Between June and August 2012 the St Vincent de Paul Society provided over \$3.12 million in assistance to people in NSW alone. This includes around \$950,000 in energy vouchers and cash to help people pay their utilities. A further \$1.19 million was provided in food assistance during this period.

Across NSW, the Society has over 16,000 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 38,000 visits were made to homes, nursing homes, hospitals and prisons.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW President, Ray Reynolds 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 Reynolds.

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 generous donation visit [dosomethingaboutit.org.au](http://dosomethingaboutit.org.au) or call 13 18 12.

**News grabs available.**

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