



**8 October 2013**

### **St Vincent de Paul Society co-chairs Anti-Poverty Week 2013**

Anti-Poverty Week 2013 is being held from 13-19 October. After being established in Australia as an expansion of the UN's annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17, Anti-Poverty Week has grown to become an important week for advocacy and education.

Last year, figures from the Australian Council of Social Services showed that 2.2 million Australians live below the poverty line with one in six children growing up in poverty.

Michael Perusco, CEO St Vincent de Paul Society NSW and NSW Co-Chair of Anti-Poverty Week explains that face of poverty in Australia is changing.

“We have moved away from the definition of poverty as solely a measure of income and now looking at a range of indicators for social inclusion such as access to health services, education, employment opportunities and public transport, which many Australians do not have,” said Mr Perusco.

In NSW there will be a number of Anti-Poverty Week events supported by the St Vincent de Paul Society including:

- Rosalie Rendu Lecture featuring a lecture titled ‘Who is my neighbour?’ by Dr Maryanne Loughry RSM, Associate Director of Jesuit Refugee Services on Sunday 13 October.
- Anti-Poverty Week launch attended by the Hon. Greg Smith, NSW Attorney General on 14 October.
- NSW Council of Social Services Pre-Budget Submission Launch at Parliament House on 14 October.
- Social Justice in the Pub with guest speaker Professor Julian Disney on Wednesday 16 October.
- Screening of *A Place like this* Documentary on Thursday 17 October.
- Launch of the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council Report: Two Australia’s.

For more information on any of these events please contact Sophie Bawden on (02) 9568 0278.

**Media welcome at all events.**

**Please contact Yolanda Saiz on 0417 446 430 for interview and photo opportunities.**