



**1 May 2014**

## **Vinnies says more people will need help this winter as rental costs increase financial pressure**

As it launches its 2014 Winter Appeal, the St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) says that in a worrying trend, assistance provided over the winter months during 2013 show that 1,049 people in private rentals were assisted between June and August 2013, an increase of almost 10% on figures for the same period in 2012. This same period saw an increase in assistance provided of only 7.7% to people who live in government housing.

Vinnies believes this highlights what is an escalation of housing and rental affordability across the state.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) CEO, David Wark said, "The St Vincent de Paul Society is concerned that a lack of affordable housing and rentals is putting extreme pressure on people already struggling to make ends meet; pushing them further into poverty."

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) is calling for people to dig deep and donate to its Winter Appeal, and says the reasons to help someone are all around us in the many cities, towns, neighborhoods and streets, where people are struggling to keep their heads above water.

Between June and August 2013 the St Vincent de Paul Society assisted over 8,200 men, women and children in SA providing \$376,000 in support. This includes just under \$17,500 in energy vouchers and financial assistance to help people pay their utilities. A further \$61,000 was provided in food assistance during this same period. St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) CEO, David Wark explains that the generosity of ordinary Australians will make a real difference to the lives of many people who will face a very bleak winter.

"Time and time again, the kind-hearted deeds of our supporters shine through, providing comfort and solace to the people in our community who need it most. The public's donations tell people doing it tough that they matter and haven't been forgotten," says Mr Wark.

Please find your reason for giving this winter and donate to the 2014 Vinnies Winter Appeal so that we can continue to change lives every day. To make a generous donation visit [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) or call 13 18 12.

News grabs and interviews available.

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