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Donation Hotline: 13 18 12

Fred's Van to start serving meals in Kilburn

Vinnies' Fred's Van service, which offers a free, warm, nutritious meal to men, women and children who are doing it tough in our community – is opening up a new weekly service in Kilburn as of 31 July.

Serving meals every Thursday night (at 7pm), this new service will operate from the Kilburn Community Centre (59 Gladstone Road, Kilburn). Fred's Van anticipates they will serve each week approximately 70 people - half of which will be young children.

Kilburn was determined as the newest site for Fred's Van due to the increased call for assistance Vinnies' has experienced from this community. Fred's Van supports some of the most vulnerable people in our community who experience a range of issues such as homelessness, social isolation and unemployment. Those forced to live rough can access Fred's Van for a hot, nutritious meal, blankets, clothing and food vouchers, donated books, social connection and referrals to other community service and Government agencies. The service provides nutritious meals and take home hampers with the support of its 460 volunteers.

The newest Fred's Van location comes at a time when Vinnies typically sees more people turn to them for assistance – during winter. Keeping in line with trends over the past few years, Vinnies 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, Brian Spencer said, "Vinnies 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 look after themselves in their local communities. This new Fred's Van service will go a long way to ensuring we are able to better assist men, women and children who are doing it tough."

Each year Fred's Van helps in excess of 2600 South Australians – almost half of which are children.

Brian Spencer continues "whilst we have volunteers in the western suburbs working to give a hand up to those seeking assistance from us, this new Fred's Van service is another way we are able to better support the community."

To support Fred's Van so that Vinnies can continue to assist men, women and children who are doing it tough, please call Vinnies on 8112 8700. Volunteers are also required to help with Fred's Van. If you would be able to donate a little of your time, please also call 8112 8700.

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