



November 2014

Vinnies asks you to make a Christmas wish come true this year

As it calls for support of its 2014 Christmas Appeal the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW says it is a bleak situation when, providing people with a basic need such as food, accounts for more than 50% of the total spend of assistance provided by the Society during the Christmas period.

The reality is that for many people Christmas is a stressful time and far from the joyous celebration it is for most Australians. These people will struggle to pay their bills and put food on the table let alone dream of buying gifts for their children or preparing a special Christmas meal.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW CEO, Michael Perusco says that the difficult situation many families find themselves in is beyond what most of us could ever imagine.

“As rental and living costs continue to put pressure on the family budget, people continue to juggle with difficult decisions about how to provide for their families with very little income. We really need the support of those Australians who can afford to do so, to dig deep and make a generous donation to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal,” said Mr Perusco.

The St Vincent de Paul Society will provide people in New South Wales this Christmas period with financial assistance, clothing, utilities, food hampers and gifts for children. For the period November 2013 to January 2014, the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW provided over \$3.7 million worth of assistance to people in need in New South Wales, including close to \$2 million worth of assistance with food, and \$1 million worth of assistance to help people cover energy bills.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW President, Ray Reynolds says that the across 400 communities in New South Wales, close to 6,000 members are visiting people in their homes every day to lend crucial financial and emotional support.

“Our members and services go about their work each and every day ensuring that those people experiencing disadvantage are able to turn to someone for help when things get too hard. Many people that we assist tell us that without our help, they would not be able to cope,” said Mr Reynolds.

Please donate to the 2014 Vinnies Christmas Appeal so that we can continue to change lives every day. To show your support and make a donation visit vinnies.org.au or call 13 18 12.

Media contact: Yolanda Saiz | yolanda.saiz@vinnies.org.au | 0417 446 430