



16 February 2015

Vinnies to launch Social Justice Statement in lead up to NSW State election

As it launches its Social Justice Statements, the St Vincent de Paul Society is asking both sides of politics in the lead in to the NSW State election to focus on social justice issues impacting ordinary people across NSW.

The Society will launch its Social Justice Statements from 16-20 February across NSW, shining the spotlight on housing affordability, rising energy costs and wider cost of living pressures and asylum seekers and refugees.

Across the State, Society members will help launch the Statements in their local communities, taking advocacy to the grass roots. Each day our 5,000 members visit almost 600 people in their homes and in hospitals, prisons, nursing homes and detention centres. This places the Society in a unique position to understand the difficulties that people are facing in homes across NSW.

The launches will see the St Vincent de Paul Society urge all political parties to outline their policies to the people of NSW as well as support the key recommendations included in the Statements. Some of the key recommendations being made in the Statement include: increasing the availability of social and affordable housing in NSW by establishing an Affordable Housing Fund to incentivise construction of new social and affordable housing; improving the NSW energy concessions scheme; and moving all children remaining in detention to community arrangements. A full list of recommendations is available in the Statement.

The Society in NSW is a strong voice in support of asylum seekers and refugees. The Society advocates on behalf of asylum seekers and shares the many stories of successful refugees and asylum seekers in our community.

St Vincent de Paul Society Humanitarian Settlement Services Manager Deirdre Moulden, says "While we are very concerned about the issues around the state that many asylum seekers and refugees are facing, here in the Riverina region we are seeing positive outcomes with refugees. Through Humanitarian Settlement Services we provide person centred support for refugees living in the Riverina region of NSW to help them settle into community life. Through building self-confidence and connecting refugees with their community we continue to see positive changes and growth every day."

Interviews available with Vinnies Humanitarian Settlement Services staff and local family assisted through the service.

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