



MEDIA RELEASE

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Wollongong man takes up State President role at Vinnies NSW

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Denis Walsh, newly elected NSW State President of St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, will be officially commissioned into his new role at a Commissioning Mass **this Saturday** at St Francis Xavier Catholic Cathedral in Wollongong.

After 11 years as a member of the Society in Wollongong and a six year term on the Central Council and three years as President, Mr Walsh moves to his new role. His position as Wollongong Central Council President is being filled by Gaynor Mason. She too will be commissioned into her new role at the Mass, led by Most Rev. Peter Ingham DD, Bishop of Wollongong.

Mr Walsh said he was honoured to have been elected to the role of State President and would take much of what he had learned and experienced in Wollongong to assist him in his new role.

"I am proud to be leading such a large organisation – we have 20,000 members and volunteers supported by some 2,000 employees across NSW," said Mr Walsh.

"As a lay Catholic member-based organisation, the vast majority of members are sourced from our Catholic parishes. In addition, many of our services are run by volunteers from all parts of the community as well as the Catholic community.

"With 450 conferences (local membership groups) undertaking home visitation on a daily basis and over 100 special works, we are able to make a significant and positive impact upon the lives of those experiencing disadvantage within NSW.

"My commitment is to ensure that our professional arm along with our grassroots conferences and volunteers continue to flourish and work together as we carry Blessed Frederic Ozanam's vision successfully into the future."

Ms Mason has been a Vincentian for the last 17 years and on Wollongong Central Council since 2003. She said she was humbled to have been elected to this position and accepts the responsibility of this important role as Wollongong Diocesan President.

"While in this role my aim is to serve our many Vincentians, volunteers and staff leading them to continue being a strong, united society in the Wollongong Diocese."

Where: St Francis Xavier Catholic Cathedral,
cnr Crown and Harbour streets, Wollongong

When: 10.30am Saturday 27 February 2016

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