



MEDIA RELEASE

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Vinnies less than half way to target with less than two weeks out from end of financial year

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW is only half way to meeting its \$1.2 million Winter Appeal target, prompting a call to make a last minute tax deductible donation before the end of the financial year.

Denis Walsh, President St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, said that following the recent storms, the Winter Appeal was needed more than ever.

“We are asking those in the community who are in a position to donate, to do so. Financial donations allow us to assist each family or individual with exactly what they require. People turn to Vinnies for the most basic of needs such as food, rent, and clothing,” said Mr Walsh.

“Even though we have been through severe flooding and the late winter is proving to be a cruel one, we have found that donations are down this year.”

Last year, Vinnies provided over 820,000 meals and almost 258,000 bed nights to those experiencing homelessness. Without the support of ordinary Australians, people will continue to face a tough and unforgiving winter.

Dianne Lucas, Acting CEO St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, said that it was important to look at homelessness differently, because it takes so many forms.

“We challenge the public to rethink homelessness. Over 105,000 Australians do not have a place to call home and while many are living in improvised dwellings like tents or sleeping on the streets, homelessness also takes on more invisible forms. Too many people are living in inadequate housing with insecure tenancies, others are couch surfing or staying in refuges and crisis centres,” said Ms Lucas.

“They too are in dire need of support. If we can assist them earlier, we may be able to find more secure housing and provide them with services to improve their physical and mental health and keep their power connected.”

Please donate to the Vinnies 2016 Winter Appeal and help us continue to change lives every day.

To make a donation visit vinnies.org.au or call 13 18 12.

News grabs and interviews available.

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