



FAITH IN ACTION



St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that has almost 20,000 volunteers carrying out good works on behalf of the Society in NSW alone.

"Catholic schools have an enviable record in and a deep commitment to supporting a range of charitable organisations. It is important that this service to others is informed and guided by the key principles of Catholic social teaching, and that due consideration is given to the competing needs of different groups and organisations..." (p4 Sydney CEO 'Catholic Social Teaching' A framework for Faith in Action).

Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies program introduces primary school children to social justice issues and the good works of the St Vincent de Paul Society, giving them the opportunity to participate in a variety of meaningful activities that have a positive impact on others.

Mini Vinnies groups are facilitated by teaching staff and meet on a regular basis in their school environment to share ideas, have fun and support others in their local community.

High School Conferences

A High School Conference is a structured and active body of students within a school community who aim to make a difference to those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised.

This group of students, along with the guidance of school staff and St Vincent de Paul staff meet to discuss and organise ways to help others in need, be it within their own school community, or beyond.

Students can become members of the St Vincent de Paul Society by joining a High School Conference which meets regularly within the school environment and focuses on social justice issues. Older members of a High School Conference are able to participate in programs such as Buddies' Days and Green Team- these programs are open to those aged over 16 years and part of a school.

Youth and Young Adult Conferences

We encourage students to have been part of Vinnies in school to extend their involvement beyond school and join a Young Adult Conference.

A Young Adult Conference is a Vinnies Conference with Young Adults aged 18 – 35 as its members. Society Conferences are made up of a group of people, known as members, who meet regularly to address the needs of people in their local community through home visitation or other volunteering activities that meet these needs.

If you are over 18 you can join a Young Adult Conference through your:

- local Parish
- tertiary educational facility
- community group.





SYDNEY VINNIES PROGRAM INFORMATION

Assist a Student

The Assist a Student program gives you the opportunity to provide funding for a scholarship to educate an overseas student for one year. Your donation of only \$70 will be matched with a student from one of our partner countries. This is a scholarship program aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty. The program includes students of all levels, from primary, secondary to post-secondary.

This program is open to those in both primary and high school.

Buddies' Days

Buddies Days are a care and respite program run by Vinnies Youth volunteers. They run over a single day (one/ month on a Saturday or Sunday) in which children aged 5-12 years are taken out on a recreational activity (such as sport days, craft days, variety days, movies, ice skating or swimming) and are designed to offer disadvantaged and disengaged kids with a break from any hardships they may be experiencing. As a volunteer on a Buddies Day, you are there to participate in the planned activities alongside them and to ensure that their day is both safe and lots of fun. These days can also be run on a local level at a school.

Volunteers for this program must be 16 years and over if part of a school group, or 18 years if volunteering as an individual.

Green Team

Green Team is a program run by young volunteers to support those in need within our community. Clients are referred to us for gardening work which may include mowing, pruning and planting. This gives us an opportunity to sit with those we meet and share our stories and stretch out the hand of friendship to individuals who are feeling lonely, isolated or marginalised within their homes and communities.

Volunteers for this program must be 16 years and over if part of a school group, or 18 years if volunteering as an individual.

Homework Help

The Homework Help Program aims to assist students who are disadvantaged due to various reasons, be they financial, social, intellectual, and/or other influences. Young Adult volunteers work with children who are currently accommodated in Vinnies' refuges across Sydney one afternoon a week during the school term to help them complete homework and assessment tasks. Whilst assisting the child with their homework and study, it is intended that the program foster interpersonal skills, improve self esteem, and further develop social and communication skills.

Volunteers for this program must be 18 years and over.

Sydney Vinnies Van Services

Sydney Vinnies Van Services is dedicated to helping people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness within Sydney Archdiocese and includes:

- Sydney Night Patrol and Liverpool Night Patrol - services that provide an evening meal, blankets, toiletries, snacks, hot beverages to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness within the inner city of Sydney and Liverpool and surrounding areas.
- Brekky Van - a service that provide a cooked breakfast, cereal and hot drinks, each Saturday and Sunday morning to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness within the inner city of Sydney.

Volunteers for this program must be 18 years and over.

