

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **A Goodstart to giving this Christmas**

*Friday 9 December 2016*

Imagine the joy that comes when a family sits down to a substantial meal to celebrate Christmas or when a parent sees their child's face light up when they open a present on Christmas morning.

That's the inspiration for the children, parents and staff of Goodstart Early Learning as they generously prepare more than 250 hampers laden with food, gifts and Christmas fare to give to the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland's Christmas hamper drive.

"The earliest lessons on the spirit of giving are the most memorable and lasting," said Larry Mann, Brisbane Diocesan President, St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland.

"There will be over 250 Brisbane families overjoyed by the generosity of Goodstart Early Learning, who are doing this for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

"Each year we are approached by more than 38,000 people across this area seeking assistance, and we have the privilege of helping connect these hampers with the families who need them most."

Goodstart Early Learning Area Manager Narelle Robinson said it was a wonderful opportunity for the organisation to show their ongoing support to St Vincent de Paul Society and help vulnerable families celebrate the festive season.

"Every year, our staff and families go above and beyond to help those struggling this Christmas. We are delighted to once again be part of such an important appeal which we know brings some joy and comfort to what can be a difficult time of year for many families," Mrs Robinson said.

"This year, we have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of generosity from our staff and families from at least 100 Goodstart centres in South-East Qld who have contributed to such a heartfelt and worthy cause.

"The Vinnies appeal is a truly wonderful opportunity for children and families to connect with their community and give such a precious gift of support to families in need. It's also great to see the kids learn about the true spirit of giving at Christmas time," she said.

**Date:** Tuesday 13 December 2016

**Time:** 2pm

**Location:** Goodstart Early Learning Centre Support Office, 43 Metroplex Avenue, Murarrie

**Photos/ vision opportunity:**

- Countless volunteers and hundreds of hampers filling the foyer of Goodstart Centre Support Office, ready to be picked up and loaded into waiting cars by Vinnies and sent to needy families.

**ENDS**

**Media contacts for interviews or additional information**

**St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland**

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**Notes for editors/ background:**

**Goodstart Early Learning**

Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest early learning provider with 645 centres throughout the country. The not-for-profit social enterprise exists purely to improve the lives of Australia's children and their families. For more information, visit [www.goodstart.org.au](http://www.goodstart.org.au)

**St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland**

There are hundreds of reasons to donate. You only need one. To help give a struggling family a merry Christmas, donate online at [vinnies.org.au/donate](http://vinnies.org.au/donate) or call 13 18 12.

Across the state, over 260,000 Queenslanders in need were helped by St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland, who provided almost \$28 million worth of assistance.

Your valued donation to St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland could help provide the following;

**\$25** can provide food for a week

**\$50** can provide bedding for someone sleeping rough

**\$100** can provide basic necessities for a struggling family

**\$200** can provide safety in crisis

**\$500** can provide rent and stability