



St Vincent de Paul Society

NATIONAL COUNCIL

good works

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Media Release

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St Vincent de Paul Society calls for compassion for asylum seekers

The St Vincent de Paul Society says hundreds of asylum seekers will be pushed into homelessness and poverty following the Government's decision to immediately cut off their income support payments and move them out of assisted accommodation in three weeks' time.

"This latest decision shows cruelty and contempt for people seeking safety," said Dr John Falzon, CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council.

"It is a shameful to cast people onto the street and make them destitute in a cynical attempt to force them to return to the countries from which they have fled."

"This latest development is designed to inflict suffering and anguish on one group of people, but in doing so it is also creating a nastier, meaner Australia."

The Society's National Council has consistently called on the federal government to end the detention of asylum seekers and refugees at Nauru and on Manus Island, and bring them to Australia.

MEDIA CONTACT: For media enquiries please call 0400 845 492 or (02) 6202 1200.