



Applications NOW OPEN



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

National Indigenous Immersion Program

6 – 21 April 2019

Program

The National Immersion Program is an intensive two-week cross-cultural experience in a remote Indigenous community. The program is run in Ngunmariyanga (Palumpa), home to approximately 500 people and located in the Northern Territory's far north-west.

The program begins with a three-day orientation in Darwin before flying into the community by light aircraft. The time in community involves a mix of activities organised and run by the Immersion group. There are also opportunities to immerse in daily life with local community members, including school and parish activities. The program concludes with a two-day debrief in Darwin.

The Immersion Program focuses strongly on relationship – with the community, with fellow Vincentians, with self and with God.

Living conditions

The program will involve living simply in community and being away from most of the conveniences of modern life for two weeks. This includes sleeping on inflatable mattresses, simple food and definitely no TV, internet, or mobile phones. Participants must have a willingness to live in a communal environment.

Costs

Participants will be required to cover the cost of their flights to and from Darwin, and a contribution toward the program's running costs of \$400 (\$250 for full time students and pensioners). Once in Darwin, accommodation, meals and travel to and from the community is covered by the program.

Key Dates

1 October 2018 – Applications open

16 November 2018 – Applications close

Mid to late November 2018 – Phone interviews

December 2018 – Successful applicants notified

6-21 April 2019 – Immersion Program

Who can apply

The program is open to all current St Vincent de Paul Society members and volunteers aged 18-79. The group will comprise 8-10 people including a spiritual adviser and program coordinator.

Participants must have an interest in sharing themselves and learning from our Indigenous brothers and sisters in community. They will be team players and must be actively involved with preparation of activities leading up to, during and after the program. Participants must have a willingness to participate in Vincentian spirituality and reflection. Participants will need excellent communication skills, a keenness to interact with a broad range of people and be flexible and adaptive to different conditions and experiences. We strongly encourage members and volunteers with experience leading kids camps or buddies days to apply.

"Having come back after ten days in a remote Aboriginal community I feel somewhat embarrassed as an Australian to have not known really anything about Aboriginal peoples." – Brendan, past participant

More information and application forms are available from the Vinnies National Office or the Vinnies website

National Immersion Program, St Vincent de Paul Society National Council, PO Box 243 Deakin West ACT 2600

Web: https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Our_Impact/Indigenous_Australia/Immersion_Program_2019/

Email: immersion@svdp.org.au Phone: (02) 6202 1213

This program is open to members and volunteers of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia