



Media Release

19 October 2017

Holden closure prompts Vinnies expansion of services in Adelaide's northern suburbs

The St Vincent de Paul Society in SA (Vinnies) has been preparing for the closure of Holden in Adelaide by expanding services in Adelaide's Northern suburbs, and is now bracing for further escalation in demand as the closure's flow on effects are set to intensify community needs.

Vinnies SA CEO David Wark said "The northern suburbs of Adelaide are already a high need region with many people struggling to put food on the table.

"When Holden closes its doors, resulting in more people out of work and intensifying flow on effects among local supplier and service providers, there is no doubt we will need to rise to the challenge of extra demands on our services."

Vinnies has ten Fred's Van services across South Australia and the Elizabeth and Salisbury sites record some of the highest numbers of customers, including many families with children. Both of these services have seen an enormous increase in number of meals served over the last twelve months – from 30,000 a year to 40,000 - and both have been brought indoors to offer guests comfortable, dignified dining.

Requests for financial, clothing and food assistance has also increased, with Vinnies Elizabeth Centre reporting a 50% increase in appointments from 2016 to 2017 and ever increasing telephone enquiries for assistance. Vinnies has also introduced new programs, with extensions to services planned in the short term.

"The closure of Holden prompted us to expand our Elizabeth Centre last year, which now includes interviewing offices, a Vinnies shop and Fred's Van." Mr Wark said.

The Vinnies Elizabeth Fred's Van will commence a new service from early next year, which will provide a nutritious weekend hot meal in addition to the Wednesday evening meal currently provided by that service.

Increasing demand in Adelaide's north has also prompted the establishment of other services including Vinnies Community Response Team, which provides an in-depth counseling and assistance service and the pending expansion of a youth program to offer after school homework/mentoring.

"Vinnies stands with the workers of Holden, those already retrenched and the thousands of people employed by Holden's suppliers or service providers all over Adelaide, who face uncertain futures." Mr Wark said.

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For interviews with David Wark, CEO St Vincent de Paul Society SA please phone Megan Andrews, Marketing Manager on (08) 8112 8712 or 0419 940 721.

Overleaf: Notes for editors:

Vinnies in SA:

South Australians in need can contact Vinnies on its assistance line 1300 729 202.

Vinnies assistance for South Australians experiencing hardship includes:

- A home visit program assisting around 60,000 people each year with food, clothing, furniture & emergency funds
 - 10 Fred's Vans providing over 40,000 meals across the State
 - A Migrant and Refugee Centre assisting new arrivals to SA
 - Financial and specialist counselling services
 - Vinnies youth programming supporting disadvantaged children through regular "Buddy Days" outings
 - A 47 bed Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre
 - A 20 room Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre scheduled to commence operations in late October/early November 2017
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