

## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT & CEO

The international Catholic fraternal organisation of lay persons that is the St Vincent de Paul Society was founded by a group of university students in response to structural inequality and endemic injustice in a tumultuous France in 1833. It was a response from the heart, a faith inspired call to service, a person to person way of relieving human suffering and hardship based on supporting individuals and families in need and to give them hope. Over time our founding fathers developed sound guidance and laid out the rules for others to follow.

We who have come after them are similarly guided by the same desire to do God's will through service to those who suffer deprivation, marginalisation and inequality. That has not and will not change, however the world has changed and the environment in which we operate has become much more complex. To be able to sustain our works we must respond to these changes and evolve to maintain capacity and remain relevant in ever changing times.

The fundamental principles and essential characteristics of the Society have not changed but the challenge to serve Christ in the poor in our contemporary world requires us to refocus, review what has worked, aspire to what is possible and plan for the future.

The aim of this Strategic Plan 2017-2022 is to better equip the organisation, and us as members of the Vincentian family, to become more effective and capable to deliver our help to those in need. It provides a grounding and embeds proper planning and best practises in all that we do. We are called on and challenged to broaden the scope of the services we offer to meet the expectations of our companions in need. Our members, volunteers, staff and supporters will through this plan facilitate a measured and sound response to that call.

Following wide consultation, facilitated workshops and focus working groups the end result is this Strategic Plan which has the five key strategies of:

1. Spirituality
2. Our story
3. Our partnerships
4. Governance
5. Sustainability

These elements provide the platform for us to remain steadfastly committed to our Mission, to face change where it is required, reinforce our spirituality and underpin our sustainability.

We invite all Vincentian members, volunteers and employees, to join me on this journey over the next five years. This is our Society and our Strategic Plan, it will not succeed if we don't all take ownership and commit to make it a success so that we can better serve those living on the margins of society and meet the primary challenge of this Strategic Plan which is to be unambiguous in our desire to serve Christ in the Poor.



John Forrest  
State President



Peter Maher  
CEO



St Vincent de Paul Society  
QUEENSLAND  
*good works*

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2022

### CONTACT US

For more information on the Strategic Plan please contact:

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## STRATEGIC THEME 1 – OUR SPIRITUALITY

**GOAL** To support and develop our people to ensure a spiritually focused and fully engaged membership can deliver on our Mission of serving Christ in the poor through a true understanding of their needs.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Formation and training to embed and enrich the Society's values, history and ethos across the organisation
- Vincentian leadership and development, practical application of the Rule and advocacy
- Celebration of spirituality and our connection to the Church

## STRATEGIC THEME 2 – OUR STORY

**GOAL** To enhance the journey and support provided to the people we assist, and sharing our success with our people and the community.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Development of a state campaign to improve awareness and knowledge of the organisation across all internal and external stakeholders
- Define the organisations purpose so that all stakeholders can clearly and concisely advocate for the organisation
- Improve the process for providing assistance to people in need

## STRATEGIC THEME 3 – OUR PARTNERSHIPS

**GOAL** Develop and grow our partnerships to ensure sustainability and positive outcomes for the organisation and those we assist.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Build a culture of partnering that is future oriented, and embraces and initiates change
- Develop the organisations partnering capabilities for effective relationship management
- Engage in new and develop existing mutually beneficial partnerships and collective impact

## STRATEGIC THEME 4 – OUR GOVERNANCE

**GOAL** To ensure that appropriate, effective and efficient governing and support structures are in place across the organisation and are regularly reviewed, to enhance the values, culture and operations of the Society.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Redefine roles and responsibilities of all governance positions and bodies within the Society
- Training of key leaders and emerging leaders
- Consult with the broader membership on key issues impacting the organisation
- Increase diversity in the Society
- Review the structure of the organisation to determine efficient and effective models of operation

## STRATEGIC THEME 5 – OUR SUSTAINABILITY

**GOAL** To strengthen our performance and capacity to sustainably resource our organisation, to enable us to effectively support those we assist.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Recognition and development of existing membership and implementation of strategies to grow membership
- Develop a culture of innovation to test, plan, implement and evaluate new ideas and concepts for outcome focussed service provision
- Develop and implement a technology system that enables greater access, functionality and reporting
- Develop an holistic model to ensure the Society maintains diverse funding streams (financial and in kind partnerships)
- Develop a culture of learning to measure and report on the impact and success of our activities
- To become the retail charity of choice

## OUR MISSION

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate community.

## OUR VISION

The Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering “a hand up” to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

## OUR VALUES

**Commitment** – Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values.

**Compassion** – Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgement.

**Respect** – Service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions.

**Integrity** – promoting, maintaining and adhering to our mission, vision and values.

**Empathy** – Establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception.

**Advocacy** – Working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the causes of human injustice.

**Courage** – Encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future.

## OUR AMBITION

We are committed to supporting people through their life journey, ensuring human connection and service provision that enriches lives and empowers communities. We will do this through person to person engagement and exemplary service provision that enriches their lives and contributes to strengthening the communities in which they live.

## OUR ASPIRATION

We aspire to serve Christ in the poor through service to and unwavering support for those who suffer deprivation, marginalisation and inequality.