



MEDIA RELEASE

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St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory launches Annual Appeal

When you're facing a huge energy bill, do you turn off the electricity or do you go without meals?

When you can't pay rent, do you fall deeper into debt, or do you confront the frightening risks of homelessness?

Launching the 2018 Vinnies Annual Appeal St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory President Fay Gurr said every day in the Northern Territory, someone faces impossible choices like these.

"Poverty means making tough decisions every day and every night. Right now in the Territory, more than 15,000 men, women and children are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness," she said.

"With nowhere else to go, people are forced to sleep rough, in run-down houses and tents and in unsafe spaces."

Ms Gurr said the Society remains steadfast in its commitment to helping people in need.

"From 2016 to 2017, St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory helped almost 20,000 people. We provided Territorians with almost \$300,000 in emergency relief and in-kind support."

"Our services are increasingly in demand as the costs of essential goods and services, including health, education and utilities, rise faster than wages for many low-income earners. For men, women and children an abusive relationship, chronic illness, mental health issues or a loss of job can lead to homelessness."

"In response to this we are expanding our services. Our new location in the Darwin suburb of Casuarina will also include a Vinnies shop."

Single mother Jenny is one of the people Vinnies help. She experienced years of domestic violence before facing the impossible choice of continuing to live in fear at home or leaving with nothing. Jenny and her children have had to face family breakdown, hunger and insecurity.

"Fortunately for Jenny and her young children, we were able to step in after she'd made her brave choice," said Ms Gurr.

"St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory has supported accommodation to help vulnerable families like Jenny's get back on their feet."

"This year, many more people will confront equally difficult decisions. By giving a generous gift today you will help provide food, shelter and emotional support to people experiencing disadvantage."

"Please donate to the Vinnies Northern Territory 2018 Annual Appeal, and help turn the impossible choices people face into hope for a brighter future."

To make a donation visit www.vinnies.org.au or call 13 18 12.

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