



MEDIA RELEASE

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Anti-Poverty Week a reminder that many Queenslanders are struggling - Vinnies

Queenslanders are struggling just to get by each day, according to St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland (Vinnies) during Anti-Poverty Week 14-20 October.

With 47 per cent of low income households in Queensland living in housing stress, the highest of any state, Vinnies State President Dennis Innes said demand for the charity's services continues to increase.

"We've helped 231,000 people in need in the past year," he said.

"We've given people food, clothing, paid their bills and got them into steady housing when they've been on the verge of homelessness.

"Our no interest and low interest loans, budgeting advice and advocacy are just some of the other ways we can help change the lives of people who are struggling.

"It is not just people on Centrelink benefits who need our help, it's also single parents and young families who are struggling with bills and the rising costs of living.

"Even working people aren't making ends meet. Often they're not getting enough work hours to bring themselves or their families above the poverty line.

"We're helping more and more women over 60 who have lost a partner and can no longer afford to pay the rent or mortgage on a single income or benefit.

"The fact we have almost 22,000 people considered homeless in Queensland is shocking.

"Every day at Vinnies we see more and more people who are only a pay or two away from potentially being in that same terrible predicament."

Mr Innes said Anti-Poverty Week presented an opportunity to take stock and consider ways to assist people living in poverty.

"One of the key factors in our ability to help people is the support of our volunteers, without the wonderful people who volunteer in our shops and those who visit with people in need we wouldn't be able to do the work we do," he said.

"We are always looking for community minded people and there are a range of different ways people can volunteer to help us.

"The important thing to remember is you can help fight poverty and hardship whether you donate money or your time - together we can make a difference."

To help make a difference to Queenslanders in poverty donate to the Vinnies Spring Appeal <https://www.vinnies.org.au/donate#!state=qld&appeal=164> at or phone 13 18 12.

ENDS.

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