



**February 12, 2018**

**Cameras installed at Vinnies Ashmore**

Vinnies Queensland has more funds for its many community programs on the Gold Coast, with CCTV cameras in its Ashmore location set to save the charity thousands of dollars.

Vinnies was successful in securing \$3,725 (inclusive of GST) in funding as part of the third round of the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Programme to install the cameras, which will help the charity deter illegal dumping, vandalism, theft and anti-social behaviour.

Vinnies Queensland South Coast Diocese Executive Officer Kris Martin said any money saved by the increased security would be put back into the local area.

"Ultimately the CCTV will help us cut down on theft, illegal dumping and vandalism, which we have to pay to remove or clean, that money that we save from their reduction we can then put toward people in need in the community," he said.

"The proceeds from our shops go directly towards our many community programs which include housing and homelessness support, mental health and youth programs, disaster relief and more."

Illegal dumping can cost Vinnies up to \$80 an hour to run trucks to the tip with a paid driver.

Vinnies has already had success in creating a safer shop and a safer community, by installing CCTV at their Grovely location through a previous grant according to Mr Martin.

"Installing CCTV at our Grovely shop in Brisbane has resulted in a reduction of theft, vandalism and illegal dumping," he said.

"Neighbouring business have also reported a decrease in crime to their shop fronts which may be down to the external cameras we installed.

"We are confident that alongside volunteer training, public education and improved lighting, the CCTV at Ashmore will help us deliver similar results for the community."

As the Stronger Communities Program is a matched funding initiative Vinnies Queensland made a co-contribution towards the total cost of the CCTV's installation.

Vinnies South Coast Diocese, which encompasses the Gold Coast supported 34,601 Queenslanders in need in 2017.

In 2017 Vinnies Queensland assisted 306,831 Queenslanders and provided \$191 million in services and support to people in need.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
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**ENDS**

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