



February 15, 2018

Cameras to be installed at Vinnies Fernvale

Vinnies Queensland has more funds for its many community programs in the Somerset region, with CCTV cameras in its Fernvale location set to save the charity thousands of dollars.

Vinnies was successful in securing \$5,500 (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's Western Diocese Executive Officer Roberta Jays 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 rectify or clean up, that money that we don't have to spend can then be put towards assisting people in need in the community," she said.

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

Illegal dumping is very demoralising for our volunteers to have to clean up and can cost Vinnies up to \$80 an hour to run trucks to the tip.

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 Ms Jays.

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

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

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

As the Stronger Communities Program is a matched funding initiative Vinnies Queensland has contributed towards the total cost of the CCTV's installation.

Vinnies Western Diocese, which encompasses the Somerset area, supported 39,154 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.



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