



MEDIA RELEASE

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St Vincent de Paul Queensland providing supported training in Cairns.

Disadvantaged jobseekers in Cairns will be provided with job ready skills in key growth areas in Far North Queensland thanks to St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland.

From May, 15 participants will receive training and support as part of a Pathways to working in Retail and Tourism Program.

St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland will partner with registered training organisation Designer Life to give participants the opportunity to complete a Certificate II in Retail Operations, with additional skills sets in Tourism.

St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland's Far North Queensland Diocese's Executive Officer David Monaghan, said the program exemplifies Vinnies motto of giving people a hand-up, not a hand out.

"This program will allow us to support disadvantaged jobseekers, including people who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Cairns, to take advantage of the widening opportunities in these areas and to become assets to their future employers," he said.

"The certificate offers a range of units which strongly align with local industry needs and will provide multiple avenues for participants to enter the workforce.

"St Vincent de Paul Queensland is proud to partner with Designer Life and the State Government to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged jobseekers in our community."

In addition to accessing the Certificate II in Retail, participants will be able to undertake a responsible service of alcohol (RSA), first aid certificate and receive support and mentoring from the Society in job readiness skills and communication.

The program will include a field trip to a local tourism operation, and a week-long work experience placement with a local industry employer to embed the course training into real world observations and activities.

This training is proudly funded and supported by the Queensland Government through its Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

St Vincent de Paul's Far North Queensland Diocese, which includes Cairns, supported 14,607 Queenslanders in need in 2017.

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

For more information on the Pathways to working in Retail and Tourism in Cairns contact St Vincent de Paul Queensland's Community Education Coordinator Brooke Laidlaw on (07) 3010 1083.

ENDS.

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