



## MEDIA RELEASE

*June 12, 2018*

### **Vinnies restoring hope this winter**

Vinnies Northern region has already assisted 18,566 Queenslanders so far in 2018.

Everyday people like \*Jenny, who turn to Vinnies in their time of need.

Jenny didn't know where to turn when she fled her home with her two children, she just knew she had to keep them safe - until a friend suggested she call Vinnies.

That call was a life saver. Vinnies Helpline staff were able to connect Jenny to a range of different services and provide her with emergency relief and accommodation so she didn't have to return to an unsafe home.

More than 92,000 people phoned Vinnies Helpline last year in search of assistance.

They called for a wide range of reasons, but all of them needed help and support.

State President John Forrest said Vinnies is unique in its ability to help people in crisis feel supported when they need it most.

"The dedicated staff and volunteers taking phone calls every day are the first port of call for the thousands of Queenslanders we help each and every day," he said.

"They are a vital cog in our ability to help the poor, the marginalised and the disadvantaged in our community.

"They do a fantastic job of connecting people to services in their area and working with our volunteer members to provide people with the right assistance.

"Our volunteer members are able to visit with people in their own homes or in the community to provide not just emergency support but one on one companionship.

"We were able to assist over 300,000 people in the last financial year, work which we could not have done without our volunteer members, and the people manning the phones who are united by their passion and dedication to helping people."

Had Jenny not rang Vinnies in that critical time, her children would have faced sleeping in the cold this winter. Instead, they can embrace a brighter future, safe, warm and free from harm.

To help Vinnies Queensland continue its life changing work helping people like Jenny this winter please make a tax deductible donation to the Vinnies Winter Appeal

[www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/winterappeal)

If you are experiencing domestic violence or in need of assistance please call Vinnies Brisbane helpline on 1800 846 643.

Vinnies Northern region encompasses the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, and towns including Hervey Bay, Kingaroy, Maryborough, Gympie, Childers, Bribie Island, Wondai and Yarraman and provided assistance to 48,711 people in the 2016-2017 financial year.

\*Names have been changed to protect the identities of the people we assist.

**Media contact: Joshua Paterson – 0408 675 567**