



**February 26, 2018**

**Solar power for Vinnies Housing Mackay**

Soon to be installed solar power systems at Vinnies Housing's transitional housing complex in Mackay are set to save thousands of dollars.

Vinnies Housing was successful in securing \$10,660 (inclusive of GST) in funding, as part of the third round of the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Programme.

The funding will help fund the installation of solar power at Ray Egan Place – a 22 unit transitional housing complex in Mackay which in partnership with the Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works provides residents the opportunity to address personal barriers before moving into their own accommodation.

Currently residents of Ray Egan Place pay a small service fee for electricity with Vinnies Housing funding the difference, making the solar a vital acquisition for the charity.

St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland Rockhampton Diocese Executive Officer Stuart Roche said once completed, the installation will allow the charity to redirect savings back into housing services within the local area.

"The project will deliver social benefits to our community by reducing Vinnies Housing's electricity costs and our carbon foot print, allowing resources to be used elsewhere in improving our housing services and support within the community," he said.

"We estimate the system will reduce expenditure by more than \$5000 a year, those savings we can put straight back into helping people in need of housing in the Mackay region.

"St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland provides a hand-up to people in need in a variety of ways from emergency relief, housing and homelessness programs, mental health and youth programs, disaster relief and much more."

Vinnies Housing in partnership with the Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works has made a co-contribution towards the installation of the solar power as the Stronger Communities Programme is a matched funding initiative.

Vinnies Housing celebrated 10 years of helping people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Mackay in 2017.

The Mackay region is part of St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland's Rockhampton Diocese which provided support to 32,275 Queenslanders in 2017.

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



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**ENDS**

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