



MEDIA RELEASE

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Vinnies calls for support in Annerley

Vinnies volunteer members in Annerley helped 1,188 people doing it tough last year – and they're calling on more people to join them to help people in need in 2019.

Volunteer members in Annerley assist those in need in a range of ways including emergency assistance with food and clothing and supporting disadvantaged families and people on the verge of homelessness. Annerley volunteer members also organise and distribute Christmas hampers to local families in need at the end of the year.

Vinnies Queensland Annerley President Frank Ford said volunteer members make a significant difference in the lives of people doing it tough in Annerley.

"We deal a lot with housing because there are a lot of people in this area living in very expensive accommodation where it costs around three quarters of their income to live there so they're really struggling," he said.

"People want to live close to the hospitals and there are a lot of boarding houses around here so we provide support to them as well.

"When you become a volunteer you help people who are struggling in this area.

"It's really nice to feel like you're making a difference in other people's lives.

"We've got young volunteer members that bring a lot of enthusiasm and some that are in their 80s, we learn a lot from them."

Annerley volunteer member Janet Murray said she finds her volunteer work helping people in need highly rewarding.

"I love volunteering, I think there are a lot of inequalities in society and I just think I would want someone to help me if I was in that position," she said.

"We help a refugee mother who is widowed and has two young sons, she was trying to find a job to support them but she was struggling so we have been supporting her.

"We gave her sons things like soccer balls for some recreational activity and we support her and help her out with food and just being an ear to listen to her troubles.

"Everyone I know who volunteers says it's such an amazing feeling being able to give back and really help people."

Annerley is a part of Vinnies' Brisbane region which assisted more than 42,400 people in 2018, of those assisted 15,850 were children under the age of 16.

ENDS.

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