



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Vinnies receives \$1 million flood appeal donation**

Lives will be changed in North Queensland with a significant and generous donation given to St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland's Vinnies North Queensland Flood Appeal.

Mining company South32 have stood behind the people of Townsville and surrounds with the donation to the charity who can 'deliver aid quickly and directly' to affected people.

"On behalf of the people of North Queensland – a sincere thankyou to South32," said Matthew Nunan, St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland Vice-President and Chair of the Society's Disaster Assistance Committee.

"So many lives will be changed with this significant and generous donation.

"Vinnies was formed in 1894 after the Great Brisbane Flood to help with the devastation facing the community - and we're still here supporting Queenslanders facing disasters - flood, fire or drought.

"The difference this donation will make to Vinnies in their work to help people's short and long-term recovery is immeasurable.

"We were there on day one with blankets for evacuation centres, there now to feed, clothe and re-house those still reeling before the floodwaters recede, and we will still be there in the weeks and months to come as people return to homes, face the devastation they find and try to restore their lives to some normality.

"This disaster is not over. We are expecting calls for help to escalate as our volunteers and staff go to people's homes and support their immediate and medium-term needs, meet with people in our support centres and Vinnies shops, and walk with them as they recover from the enormous physical, mental and emotional toil taken.

"The long term recovery will be the next biggest challenge. People already doing it tough financially or without other means of support will be hardest hit."

St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland CEO Peter Maher said the Society, named a Queensland Great institution in 2018, was proud to be chosen by South32 to distribute the vital donation funds.

"This donation is recognition of our ability to deliver aid quickly which we are able to do due to our extensive membership and volunteer base across all areas of Queensland," said Mr Maher.

“We are an organisation run by volunteers and it’s these volunteers on the ground right now helping the people of Townsville and surrounds as we have for the last 125 years.

“During the Brisbane floods and Cyclone Yasi in 2011 we distributed more than \$31 million in flood relief to Queensland communities and this is because Vinnies is the trusted charity people turn to during disasters.

“Every dollar raised through this disaster appeal will go directly to people affected by this terrible event.”

**ENDS.**

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Caption: Vinnies Queensland CEO Peter Maher, Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Anthony Lynham MP, Rob Jackson South32 Cannington mine Vice President of Operations, and Vinnies Queensland Vice-President and Chair of the Society’s Disaster Assistance Committee Matt Nunan at today’s announcement.



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