



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Gold Coast Vinnies volunteers among 10,000 state-wide, celebrated for ‘making a world of difference’**

Almost 10,000 passionate volunteers are the backbone of Vinnies’ ability to help hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders each year and their dedication is being celebrated this year during National Volunteer Week (20-26 May).

Volunteers at the charity work in their 150 retail shops, their warehouses, support centres providing emergency assistance, housing and food support, and in education and housing programs among many others, giving a hand up to people in need.

Volunteer Robin Aarons, who volunteers his time at Vinnies Arundel shop and warehouse on the Gold Coast, said his time spent giving back through Vinnies is always a gratifying experience.

“I’d encourage others to volunteer at Vinnies because it’s an opportunity to give back to the community and assist those in need,” he said.

“If I can help one person in a day, personally it makes it all worthwhile. I love giving back to the community, it is really rewarding.”

“In our working life we gain many life skills, so when you retire it’s time to utilise those skills and the best way to do that is to volunteer your time at Vinnies.”

Fellow Arundel volunteer Robyn Collard said it is rewarding to know her volunteering work is helping Vinnies in its mission to help vulnerable people.

“The management and staff are great to work with and all volunteers are shown respect and appreciation of their time and efforts,” she said.

“Vinnies does a huge amount within the community and it’s rewarding to know that you are included in contributing to that as well.”

Vinnies, which celebrates 125 years of helping Queenslanders in 2019, is always on the lookout for more volunteers in its shops and programs and interested people can go to <http://gld.vinnies.org.au/join-us> for more information.

Vinnies has provided assistance to more than 4,180 people on the Gold Coast so far in 2019, 1,705 of those assisted were under the age of 16.

**ENDS.**

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