



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Vinnies invites community to celebrate 125 years**

Vinnies is 125 years young in Queensland this year and its Toowoomba region is celebrating the milestone by inviting the public into its Goondiwindi shop for morning tea and cake on 3 July.

Fifteen Vinnies locations including Toowoomba (Madonna House and Newtown), Charleville, Chinchilla, Dalby, Warwick, Inglewood, Killarney, Miles, Oakey, Pittsworth, Roma, Stanthorpe, St George and Goondiwindi will mark the occasion from 10am,

Vinnies Toowoomba region Retail Operations Manager Whitney Clift said the event would be a great chance for locals to find out more about the role Vinnies shops plays in their communities.

“This will be a great chance for the community to celebrate this anniversary with us and maybe find a few bargains while they’re there,” she said.

“More than 10,000 people throughout our region have been helped so far this year, almost half of those were children, we couldn’t do that without our shops.

“Profits from our Vinnies shops go directly to supporting the vulnerable Queenslanders where the shops are located in a range of different areas.

“Without our shops and the amazing volunteers who help run them, we would struggle to provide services such as financial support, disaster relief, food hampers, aged and disability care, youth work and much more to people in need.”

Ms Clift said Vinnies shops are always on the lookout for community minded people to volunteer some of their time.

“Without our wonderful volunteers the shops simply can’t stay open, that’s why we value our volunteers so much because they are vital to us being able to continue our good work in the community,” she said.

“Volunteers gain new skills, meet new people and are able to give back to their community in a real and tangible way.”

The first Vinnies Conference (group of volunteer members helping others) was established when church-goers at St Brigid’s Church in Brisbane’s Red Hill gathered on 18 February 1894 to respond to the needs of people still recovering from the great flood that inundated Brisbane in 1893.

Through 125 years of helping people in need, Vinnies has grown to 270 locations and 147 Vinnies shops in towns and cities across Queensland.

**ENDS.**

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