



MEDIA RELEASE

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The best New Year's resolution is volunteering with Vinnies in 2020

New Year's resolutions - we all make them, not all of us stick to them.

Many of us decide to give back to our communities and one of the best ways to do just that is volunteering with the St Vincent de Paul Society (commonly known as Vinnies).

Whether it's volunteering in a shop, or as one of our Vincentians (Vinnies members) visiting with people in need, you can have a big impact in making your community a better place to live according to Vinnies Queensland Western Diocese President Peter Madden.

"No matter who you are or your skills and experience you will be welcomed at Vinnies and play a part in helping hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders every year," he said.

"Volunteering in our shops assists us to raise funds for our good works and also helps the environment, because all our goods are donated by a generous public, giving them a second life and stopping them from ending up in landfill.

"Our members visit in pairs with people who are struggling, providing practical and material support in their time of need, and speaking from experience, it is incredibly rewarding.

"It's such an amazing feeling being able to give back and really help people."

All volunteers receive training and support and can give as little or as many hours as they can spare each week.

"We are able to help people who are struggling in a range of ways, including assistance with food, clothing, bills and furniture," Mr Madden said.

"Often we can be the difference between someone going hungry that night, or continuing to sleep on the floor or even having the electricity disconnected.

"We are a trusted charity in times of disaster such as the ongoing drought, the floods in north Queensland, the current bushfire crisis, just as we are each and every day when people are in need of help.

"Once you see the impact you can have in giving someone a hand-up when they need it you know volunteering with us was one of the best decisions you've ever made.

"Our Vincentians couldn't help as many people as they do each year without the funds raised in our shops through the wonderful work of our shop volunteers, so no matter how you choose to get involved you're making a difference."

Volunteers are needed in warehouses as well as shops and all volunteers must undergo a police check, paid for by Vinnies prior to starting their roles.

Vinnies assisted 369,000 Queenslanders and distributed \$5.3 million in disaster assistance in the past financial year.

Vinnies Western Diocese helped more than 32,000 people in 2019, including more than 12,900 children under the age of 16 and 5631 single parents.

Vinnies Western Diocese includes Ipswich, Springfield, Boonah, Gatton, Ashgrove, Indooroopilly, Bardon, Corinda, Darra, Dorrington, Enoggera, Paddington, Esk, Lowood, Goodna, Grovely, Inala, Kedron, Kenmore, Mitchelton, Newmarket, Rosalie, Stafford, The Gap, Toowong and West Chermside.

For more information on volunteering with Vinnies call (07) 3716 1200 or our email western.office@svdpqld.org.au

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