



MEDIA RELEASE

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JobKeeper changes welcome

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council CEO Toby oConnor has welcomed amendments to the Federal Government's JobKeeper Payment program in relation to charities and government grants, announced late yesterday.

Speaking shortly after the announcement, Mr oConnor said the Government has listened to the concerns of the major charities about the assessment of eligibility for the JobKeeper Payment for many charities.

Under the new arrangements the eligibility of charities to access JobKeeper will not be adversely affected where they are delivering significant services funded by government.

'The St Vincent de Paul Society is one of many charities in Australia which has received government funding to help ameliorate the impact of the drought, bushfires and COVID-19.

'The Government's announcement addresses any unintended consequence of the JobKeeper assistance package which would have required charities to include government grants which are distributed to Australians in need.

'The changes announced yesterday will go a long way to ensuring the viability of fragile charitable work in these difficult times and is good news for the Society's (voluntary) members who deliver the assistance to people and communities in need,' Mr oConnor said.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 conferences located in individual parishes across the country.

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