

**MEDIA RELEASE****14 May 2020**

## **Join Sally Capp, Chrissie Swan & others and #TakeStock over a bowl of delicious soup this weekend**

During the cold winter months, there are few things as heartening as sharing a bowl of steaming soup with people you care about, and this is certainly true of one of Melbourne's most enduring services – **our Vinnies Soup Vans**.

**To help keep our volunteers delivering** food to people in need during the coronavirus crisis, we are **asking Victorians to join us this Sunday 17 May in making a pot of their own favourite soup at home** to raise awareness and funds for this much-needed service.

Join the likes of **Melbourne Mayor Sally Capp, radio and TV personality Chrissie Swan** and Fitzroy chef Maria Kabal as they chop, drop and stir their ingredients into a delicious pot of goodness. While they share the results along with everyone else on social media, we hope to raise awareness about the essential work of our Vinnies Soup Vans.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given us all cause to reflect on the nature of our world, our interconnectedness and on what we may be able to change as we emerge into a new future. Please help Vinnies to promote what we hope we will be an engaging activity and an opportunity for Victorians to **reflect on how we can change food poverty and homelessness for the better, especially as we head into our coldest months**.

### **On Sunday 17 May, we are asking Victorians to:**

- Cook soup in their homes.
- Share a video or picture of their soup and tag **@VinniesVictoria** and hashtag **#TakeStock**.
- Support the work of Vinnies Soup Vans by making a donation at **<https://bit.ly/TakeStockwithVinnies>** if they can.

**Vinnies Victoria's Soup Van Manager Sarah Cromie, says:** "I will be cooking soup on Sunday because, in these challenging times, I have taken stock of the importance of having a nutritious, fulfilling meal and understand that for many in our community this is not attainable.

**"I would love people to participate, to #TakeStock,** and discuss in their households what it would be like for the many Victorians who will not have a warm meal on Sunday night and, understand that food insecurity is a major issue in Australia for many individuals and families."

Vinnies Soup Van service is run almost exclusively by volunteers and has delivered meals, friendship and support to people experiencing poverty, social isolation and homelessness for 40 years.

To adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has swapped its regular nine runs for four hubs in Fitzroy, Footscray, Dandenong and Traralgon to service the surrounding areas. Each week they deliver around 810 hampers (5 days' worth of meals) and 1,200 individual meals. **A donation of \$45 will buy a hamper of food, while a \$9 donation will fund one meal.** We appreciate any donation people are able to make at this tough time.

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**Sarah Cromie is available interviews, please contact Communication Manager Jen Vuk on 0418 863 719.**