



St Vincent de Paul Society
SA
good works

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The Elizabeth Fred's Van Christmas celebration always brings joy to guests



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WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Our Vision

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering a 'hand up' to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

Our Values

Commitment— loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values.

Compassion— welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgement.

Respect— service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions.

Integrity— promoting, maintaining and adhering to our mission, vision and values.

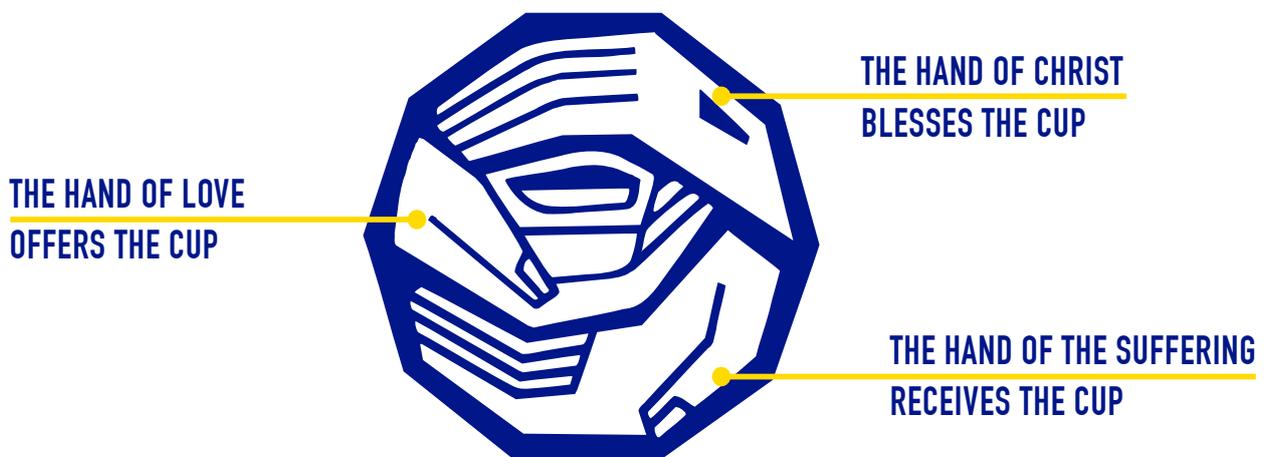
Empathy— establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception.

Advocacy— working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the causes of human injustice.

Courage— encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future.

Vinnies lends a hand

Providing a hand up to people when they need support is at the core of who we are. We extend a hand of unconditional friendship to the people we assist, so they can restore their hope, rebuild their lives and renew their faith. Our helping hands take many forms and we are privileged to have so many South Australians reach out to us every day.



St Vincent de Paul Society SA is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Names and images may have been changed to protect the identity of the people we assist.

WHAT WE DO

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a volunteer-based organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical support, advocacy and friendship to the most vulnerable within our community. Supported by dedicated staff, members and volunteers seek to alleviate the immediate requirements of people in need and also identify the causes that lead to spiritual, financial and social hardship; providing a voice for those experiencing disadvantage.

VINNIES ASSISTANCE VISITS - We are the only charity to run a home visit program in South Australia, through which volunteers provide compassionate support and material assistance including food, clothing, furniture, access to qualified Vinnies financial counsellors, and emergency funds. We also support people to remain connected to their communities by assisting with transport, visiting those experiencing ill health in hospital or in their home, and we bring joy to families at Christmas by distributing hampers and toys. This work is carried out by Society members who work together in groups known as Conferences.

CRISIS ACCOMMODATION SERVICES -The 20 room Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre and 47 bed Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre provide emergency accommodation, including for children and pets at the women's centre. These services include meals, laundry, access to other Vinnies services, government and agency services, and more.

FRED'S VAN MEAL SERVICES - Vinnies Fred's Van meal services operate from 10 sites across South Australia, providing hot nutritious meals together with social support. Eight of these operate indoors, meaning our guests dine with dignity and comfort. Blankets and scarves or beanies are given out in winter and food is often provided to take away. More than 40,000 meals are served each year in South Australia.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SERVICE - The Vinnies Migrant and Refugee Centre provides a range of material assistance and advocacy services for recent arrivals who are struggling to make ends meet, many of whom receive no government support.

MONEY MANAGEMENT EDUCATION - Trained volunteer counsellors provide guidance to individuals and families experiencing financial hardship, as well as education to help them gain knowledge and confidence in managing their personal finances.

DISASTER RELIEF - We are the South Australian government's preferred partner in the event of a major disaster, supporting communities impacted by disasters by managing donated goods and, in some cases, by raising funds or distributing funding on behalf of the government.

VINNIES YOUTH - Vinnies Youth comprises young people aged between 16-35 who share their talents and skills volunteering in services and programs across South Australia, including Fred's Van, home visits and Buddy Days.

VINNIES SHOPS - Vinnies is one of the largest recycling organisations in Australia and is staffed largely by volunteers. Sales from the 34 Vinnies shops across metropolitan and regional South Australia fund our services, and are a valuable resource for people on low incomes, providing quality clothing, household goods and furniture, often free of charge.

OVERSEAS PARTNERSHIPS - The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is in partnership with our neighbouring Societies in the Asia-Pacific region. Underpinning our partnership programs is a belief that people are at peace with themselves and their neighbours when they have the hope and faith that through their own efforts, they can live and grow in dignity.

STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CATHY BEATON

The 2019/20 year has been a year of change and adaptation with long term CEO David Wark resigning and leaving the Society in late 2019 and new CEO Louise Miller Frost commencing in March 2020. Additionally, we reacted to the plight of our companions firstly with the extended drought in rural areas and then devastating bushfires, to be followed up by COVID-19.

While drought and bushfires have been long-term parts of the Australian landscape, this past year was extreme and Vinnies was heavily involved in supporting the communities impacted. However, it has been COVID-19 that has been most influential this year. We have been fortunate to be in this state, in this country at this time, when so many others have suffered because of the deadly effects of the virus.

The COVID-19 pandemic dismantled the operating environment of the Society, highlighting our reliance on income from Vinnies Shops which we were required to close. We have been well supported by the Federal Government in the Society being eligible for JobKeeper payments, and without this support we would have struggled to survive.

However, in true Vinnies spirit we have adapted to the changed environment and still offered meaningful support even as assistance visits were conducted “virtually”.

Vinnies has a dedicated and committed volunteer network, many of whom have been in the at risk cohort because of their age and health conditions, but they have maintained their enduring spirit and dedication to our companions during this time.

The staff of Vinnies have borne the brunt of many of the changes forced on us. They didn't take holidays because of bushfires; and then had job and income insecurity added to their own personal response to COVID-19. I wish to thank them under the leadership of Louise for their willingness to adapt and still have the Society perform strongly. Who would have thought that we could run a successful CEO Sleepout without bringing people together in the normal way, but it is testimony to the support within the community that so many wished to raise money to assist us.

As a result, we have finished a profoundly stressful and hectic year in a better financial position than we started.

As we move forward we have learnt many lessons, questioning how we do things while maintaining our underlying commitment to our companions, so that as we come out of the COVID-19 imposed restrictions we will be stronger and more resilient to face the challenges going forward.

I wish to record my appreciation of the outstanding group of people who have supported the Society through their membership of State Council, as a group of volunteers your continued support to Vinnies is an inspiration.

Many thanks for your ongoing support and commitment to the Society.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – LOUISE MILLER FROST

I am very pleased to be writing my inaugural entry for the St Vincent de Paul Society SA Annual Report. The scope of my report runs from March to end of June 2020 – a relatively truncated period, but nevertheless an action-packed one!

I was delighted to accept the Chief Executive Officer position with the Society, having worked in and around the sector and admiring the reach and impact of the organisation. Little did I know when I accepted the role that we were on the precipice of a global pandemic that would bring unforeseen challenges.

My first day was Tuesday 10 March, following the Adelaide Cup long weekend. While COVID-19 had been in the news and was starting to make its presence felt, to put it into context we had just hosted WOMAD, farewelled the Fringe, and the Melbourne Cricket Ground had played host to more than 87,000 spectators at the women's T20 Cricket Final. Within two weeks we had cause to close our whole network of Vinnies shops, stand down staff, and ask those who could work from home to do so.

We weren't alone of course, with just about every other organisation – be it small business or huge corporation

- having to put the same or similar measures in place to keep their people safe from COVID-19.

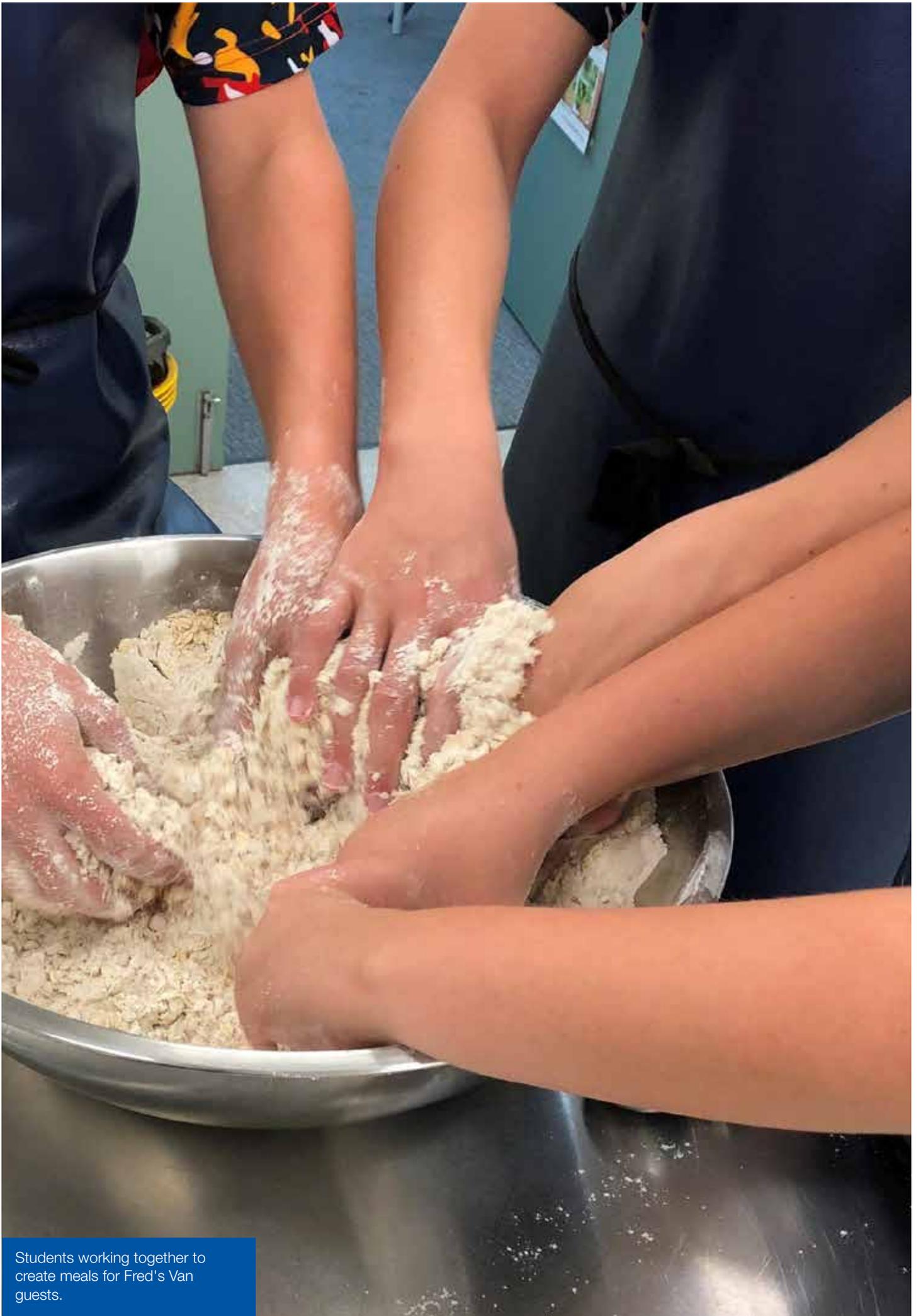
These were necessary actions, but certainly not how I imagined my first few weeks would unfold. At the risk of over-using the popular COVID-19 vernacular 'pivot', this is exactly what was required of myself and the organisation that simply had to find a way to keep going: not to put too fine a point on it, but people's lives really did depend on it.

And keep going we did, moving to COVID-safe ways of operating that included converting the Fred's Van meal services to a take-away model; enacting plans at the Men's and Women's Crisis Centres to keep guests and staff alike safe; and moving to phone or 'virtual' assistance for people we would ordinarily support via Vinnies Assistance Visits or through the Migrant and Refugee Centre. While I certainly couldn't have imagined moving into 'crisis management' mode so quickly in my tenure, as Cathy Beaton has referred to in her report, it certainly demonstrated the incredible commitment and passion that our members, volunteers and staff have for the organisation and the people we assist.

As I am writing this, we are emerging from the tentacles of COVID-19 although we must remain ever vigilant, as we have seen in Victoria what can happen with a small lapse. There are some practices that will remain, and some mindsets that will help us move forward as we continue to recover from the financial hit that we took at the height of COVID-19, particularly during the shops' closure.

While there is much work to be done, particularly with the anticipated increase in need in the community, there is also much to be optimistic about. We have been at our worst and survived, and I am very much looking forward to settling into my role and working with members, volunteers, staff and supporters to see the organisation – and in turn the people we support – thrive.





Students working together to create meals for Fred's Van guests.

KEY STATISTICS

Vinnies Assistance Visits

810 conference members
52,959 people assisted
20,559 home visits
\$2.7 million in assistance provided

Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre

6,491 nights of shelter provided,
accommodating:
527 women
362 children
126 pets

Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre

14,560 nights of shelter provided,
accommodating:
490 men

Fred's Van

10 locations
42,081 meals served
653 volunteers

Migrant and Refugee Centre

5,110 people assisted
\$460,450 in assistance provided

Overseas Partnerships Program

195 students assisted to the value of
\$13,650
\$43,620 in assistance provided via
Twinning grants and gifts

Schools and Community Engagement

159 school, child care and kindergarten
presentations
36 barbecues at the Men's Crisis Centre
1,150 students played the
'Cost of Living' board game

Bushfire Relief

629 households assisted
\$2.05 million distributed

Drought Relief

1,927 applications for assistance approved
\$5.78 million distributed

Vinnies Shops

34 shops
1,195 volunteers

DISASTER RELIEF

Bushfire Relief

With bushfires burning across many parts of the state in December, we launched the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal to raise much needed funds for people whose properties were damaged or destroyed in the blaze.

Operating on skeleton staff over the Christmas period, it was a challenging period to manage donations, as well as set up the necessary processes to distribute funds equitably. We were overwhelmed by the community's generosity, with more than \$2 million raised via direct donations and through many creative endeavours including bake sales, lemonade stands, street parties and a range of other fundraising events.

We were privileged to assist 629 South Australian households, distributing more than \$2.05 million. We also assisted 260 families by providing Vinnies vouchers to the value of \$58,925.00.

Read more about our response in the bushfire report available at www.vinnies.org.au/BushfireReportSA

"Kindest thanks for personally contacting me in order to initiate my phone application for assistance from Vinnies as a result of the Cudlee Creek Bushfire. It is with grateful thanks and heartfelt appreciation that we acknowledge the funds that were recently deposited into our bank account. Thank you for being God's hands, feet, voice and heart to our family after the bushfire crisis which has offered us hope for the future. Blessings as you minister to so many through your generosity and compassion."

– Annette



DISASTER RELIEF

Drought Relief



Following on from our successful management of the distribution of funds under the Federal Government's Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI) in 2018/19, St Vincent de Paul Society in South Australia was again involved in the program in 2019/20.

While the initiative was managed under a centralised model by a dedicated drought relief team in Canberra, local connections were again pivotal to ensuring that farmers, farm workers or suppliers to the farm industry were aware of the assistance available, and were supported through the application process.

An additional seven Local Government Areas (LGAs) were included in the list of eligible drought-affected areas, taking the total number of LGAs managed by St Vincent de Paul Society in South Australia to 28.

During the 2019/20 financial year, more than 1,927 applications were processed, with a total of \$5.78 million being distributed

"Thanks to the Vinnies drought relief team for making the process to apply so easy, and for the fast turnaround. We've been able to get on top of a couple of bills that had really been worrying us. The breathing space being able to pay those bills has really helped. On top of the financial support, it's just nice to know that we're in people's thoughts and haven't been forgotten about."

– Emily

VINNIES ASSISTANCE VISITS

Improving Access

In last year's Annual Report it was advised that a working group had been established to reduce the number of missed calls, also known as 'turn-aways', in which demand for Vinnies Assistance Visits exceeds supply.

The eight-week Christmas/New Year period, during which many conferences close, was identified as being responsible for between 30 and 40% of yearly turn-aways.

An emergency relief team comprising members from various conferences who were available during that period was established, and they were able to extend support to companions requiring assistance.

There was a dramatic reduction in the number of turn-aways, dropping by almost 50%. This was an excellent outcome for companions, and a tangible example of work being done in accordance with one of our Strategic Plan objectives, to: 'Build Adaptable and Flexible Conferences'.

COVID-19 Response

Our work towards building adaptable and flexible conferences was somewhat fast-tracked in our response to COVID-19. With many conferences being forced to close for several weeks in accordance with stay at home directions and the vulnerability of some members, systems were quickly put in place to ensure that people in need were able to access assistance.

In many areas this occurred by way of phone support, delivery of food items in a contactless manner, or supply of supermarket vouchers. We also enlisted the help of students from Aquinas College who delivered food on Vinnies' behalf.

Conference members were quickly upskilled to embrace video conference calls in order to 'meet' safely, and work together to ensure that people who were reaching out to us for assistance were able to be accommodated despite the challenges.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Ways and Means

Elizabeth South continues to be the focus of the work undertaken by the Community Capacity Building project, which aims to 'Genuinely Address Poverty and Hardship' in line with the Society's Strategic Plan objective.

Under the guidance of Vinnies' Mario Trinidad, who is leading the project, local residents have formed a group named 'Elizabeth South Ways and Means', the purpose of which is to help create a safe, healthy, hopeful and proud community. It has been a struggle to attract and retain members, with health issues and economic stresses contributing factors. There is also a sense of hopelessness and defeatism for many in this community, which is very de-motivating.

Despite this, a core group have had some successes in partnering with the Elizabeth South Community Centre, connecting with the Elizabeth South Primary School Governing Council, and assisting the school with its sports day. They are also forging links with the City of Playford, the Anti-Poverty Network, Kurna Plains School and Anglicare, acknowledging that more can be achieved when working with others.

One of the members participated in an ABC Program called 'Australia Talks', a televised roundtable discussion of Australians' attitudes, behaviours and experiences. There she was able to share with a national audience the challenges that she and many others face trying to survive on government payments. While COVID-19 halted the group's ability to meet face to face, they resumed via video conference calls, and plans are in place to hold monthly information sessions on themes identified by the community; to sponsor podcast training in order to give people a voice; to advocate for an increase to JobSeeker (formerly Newstart) payments; and to run a weekly drop-in session at the community centre for locals who would like to participate in an activity together, or simply enjoy each other's company.

Travelling with Companions Workshops

Community Capacity Building workshops were held in nine regions across South Australia that were attended by 181 people, predominately conference members but also comprising volunteers and staff.

The purpose of the workshop was to give participants:

- A better understanding of the situation of the people Vinnies assists (our companions).
- An opportunity to deepen their appreciation of our Mission and Vision.
- Tools to expand their skills in order to engage more effectively with our companions.

Formal and anecdotal feedback indicated that the workshops were well received, with the spiritual dimension rating highly.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CENTRE

COVID-19 Response

The Vinnies Migrant and Refugee Centre continued to play an important role in supporting humanitarian refugees, people seeking asylum, and other migrants and refugees in need.

People from 35 countries were represented, with the highest proportion from Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bhutan and Nepal.

While COVID-19 forced the centre itself to close in March 30, existing Vinnies Asylum Seeker companions continued to receive support in the form of a monthly living allowance, rent payments, assistance with utility bills and provision of food vouchers. Monthly follow-up telephone calls to these companions also occurred.

A COVID-19 'Courtesy Call Service' was implemented to support other asylum seeker companions with the purpose of enquiring about their wellbeing; to update their current visa status, income and address; and to determine if any urgent material support including food was required.

Two hundred companions were contacted and assistance provided to those found not to be receiving any type of government support, or who were experiencing severe hardship.

New Partnerships

In April, a new chapter of 'Circle of Friends' was formed by Vinnies Migrant and Refugee Centre volunteers Henrietta and Kevin, and coordinator Mary Ireland. Circle of Friends Australia consists of local community groups which support refugees and asylum seekers. This particular group was formed to help the Vinnies Migrant and Refugee Centre to assist asylum seekers and those with no income, or who were unable to receive assistance due to a predicted shortfall of funds due to the impact of COVID-19 and budgetary pressures as a result of lost fundraising opportunities.

New collaborations were forged with Red Cross other Non-Government Agencies and other Circle of Friends groups, and collaboration continued with the Asylum Seeker Community Network to address the needs of people affected by changes to the Status Resolution Support Service program. Under the changes, many people seeking asylum have lost financial support and access to critical services, putting them at risk of poverty and homelessness.

Towards the end of the financial year, plans to relocate the Migrant and Refugee Centre from Hindmarsh to Kilburn were well advanced. The new location provides greater scope to expand the services on offer, with English classes and a broader community connections program planned.

More than a bed for the night

The Vinnies Men's and Women's Crisis Centres continue to fulfil important roles, with occupancy averaging over 90% each night and accommodation provided to more than 1,300 men, women and children over the past year.

At the women's centre, 126 pets were also housed, an important service as women – particularly those leaving a domestic violence situation – tell us that being forced to leave a pet behind can be a barrier to them fleeing an unsafe situation. Pets make the centre feel more home-like and can be a source of comfort for guests at a time of high stress.

The women's centre has again benefited from generous community support from individuals, schools and businesses. Students from St Patrick's Technical College, who previously upgraded the pet enclosure to make it more comfortable during extremes of weather, designed and built giant games and a timber outdoor dining setting to enhance the outside amenities. Other schools and many businesses contributed to both the Men's and Women's Centres by way of donating practical items such as long-life foods, toiletries, clothing and other essentials.

Guests at the women's centre were treated to a day of pampering when VET students from Mount Carmel College came to put into practice some of the techniques they have been learning during their studies. The trainees curled, braided and styled hair, plus applied makeup and nail polish in an environment of fun and laughter. Many of the women have come to the centre after very traumatic experiences, and we are pleased to partner with schools and other groups to offer them a safe haven in which they feel cared for.

At the men's centre, we farewelled long-serving manager Thomas Ryan, and welcomed Tim Best to the position of Operations Manager. Tim's most recent role was at Hutt St Centre and he is well connected to the

broader homelessness sector, enhancing the collaborations that the men's centre enjoys with other agencies.

At the centre there has been a focus on improving the amenity, with designs underway for murals to brighten the walls. A verandah has been erected in the courtyard, making the space more usable in inclement weather, and it has proved a popular meeting place for centre guests where they can participate in a game of pool or air hockey, or simply gather to have a chat with other guests.

Pleasingly, the rate at which guests are returning to the centre has dropped, and is now below the statewide sector-average for services of this type. This achievement is testament to the hard-working staff and volunteers who work with other agencies including community housing organisations to develop clear pathways for guests transitioning from the centre.



OVERSEAS PARTNERSHIPS

The Society in South Australia supports our Asia-Pacific counterparts through its overseas partnership programs. The Twinning program provided financial support for 130 conferences across India, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines and provided twinning grants and gifts totalling \$43,620.

State Council has continued to support the administration of the Kanjirappally Central Council in India and the Udon Thani Diocesan Council in Thailand.

The Assist a Student program has helped children and young adults receive an education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. This helps fight poverty by enabling individuals to support themselves, their families and their communities in the future.

The program sponsored 195 students across our neighbours including Thailand, India, Kiribati, Sri Lanka and Philippines. Many students who have been helped in the past now contribute to the program.

2020 has proved to be a particularly challenging year for our twinned countries with the additional pressures of working in a COVID-19 environment with often minimal government assistance. It is pleasing to see that many South Australian conferences are providing additional support for their neighbours in need.



Building Capacity

Money Management Education and Financial Counselling services are provided by trained volunteers and help people gain confidence in managing their personal finances. Guidance is provided to individuals and families experiencing adverse social circumstances, financial difficulties or hardship, with the long term aim of helping them to build their own capacity to avert financial crisis and reduce stress in the future.

The service provides vital support, tools and knowledge for managing a variety of financial situations such as difficulty with utility payments, rental arrears, loan defaults, and repossessions.

We have continued the service during COVID-19, moving from face to face to phone support. The client base changed somewhat with the introduction of the Coronavirus Supplement for people receiving JobSeeker payments.

However, as the economic impacts of COVID-19 are realised, we expect to see an upturn in the number of people reaching out to Vinnies for assistance. In order to prepare for this anticipated influx, we have been developing resources to upskill conference members so that they can help people navigate what supports are available to help them take control of their finances.

Success Story

Sandra and Steve turned to Vinnies for help earlier this year, after struggling with mounting debt due to trying to pay off Sandra's parents' funerals, Steve requiring life-saving heart surgery and being unable to work, and the costs of his medication. Sandra is the full time carer for one of their three children, who is living with multiple disabilities.

Recently needing to replace their refrigerator and washing machine, Sandra and Steve got replacement items through a rental company. In the long run, this would cost them about three times more than if they purchased the items outright. Easier said than done when you are on a limited income.

When Sandra and Steve contacted Vinnies, they were initially assisted to pay an outstanding electricity bill. They were then put in touch with Angela, a volunteer Financial Counsellor at Vinnies who was able to offer advice and assistance to help them get their financial situation back on track.

In Sandra and Steve's case, Angela assisted them to successfully apply for a grant to cover the cost of the new appliances, and they were then able to terminate the rental agreement which will save them thousands. Angela was also able to help them apply for government utility and medical concessions available to them, both of which have resulted in significant savings.

Most importantly, she was able to provide a listening ear, and able to help them to build their own capacity to avert financial crisis and reduce stress in the future.

Within just five weeks, Sandra and Steve were debt free, thanks to the compassion and expert knowledge of a Vinnies volunteer.

More Than A Meal

The Fred's Van meal service provides comfort and a warm, nutritious meal for people experiencing disadvantage or homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness. Operating from eight sites across Adelaide and two regionally in Port Lincoln and Port Pirie, the service is delivered by just one paid staff member, and more than 600 committed volunteers who come from all walks of life.

In October 2019 we relocated one of the CBD services that has traditionally been held in Hemmings Park, Gawler Place, to the dining room at the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre on Whitmore Square. Feedback regarding this change has been positive, with guests enjoying the comfort of indoor dining and the opportunity to socialise with other diners.

Fred's Van has had a sharp focus on food rescue over the past year, with dedicated teams collecting food from SecondBite and OzHarvest, two not for profit organisations that are committed to reducing waste by redistributing food to individuals and organisations such as Vinnies.

The food is of high quality and makes a significant difference to the Fred's Van budget, enabling more people to access nutritious food in a supportive environment. As Vinnies is one of Australia's largest recycling organisations via our shops, sourcing produce that would otherwise go to landfill complements our commitment to sustainability.

Fred's Van is grateful to the many generous supporters who provide quality produce, including Concubine Restaurant, the National Wine Centre, Fasta Pasta and many more. Without their ongoing support, we would be unable to provide the (on average) 40,000 meals that we serve each year.

COVID-19 Response

There is no doubt that we have all been affected by COVID-19 in some way. There have been stories of great hardship such as being separated from loved ones, businesses closing either temporarily or permanently, loss of employment, and even loss of life. Many of the restrictions that were necessarily implemented to stop the spread meant that we all had to change the way we lived, worked and socialised.

Early on in the pandemic, these restrictions meant that we unfortunately had to suspend some of our Fred's Van services, largely due to a lack of venue availability due to community centres closing during COVID-19.

Volunteers who continued to offer their time at the services that were able to remain open quickly adapted to meet the requirements, and take-away containers became sought after as seated dining became untenable.

The rhythm that accessing Fred's Van offers people is not to be underestimated, and it was important that we were able to maintain a constant service where possible. For many people who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, a friendly Fred's Van volunteer may be the only person they converse with each day. On a more practical note, some of the cheaper meal alternatives such as pasta and pasta sauce simply were not available as others were bulk buying.

A gap in service on Saturday night at Gawler Place when another provider withdrew saw Fred's Van volunteers step in, and this service has now become a permanent fixture on the timetable.

By the end of June, almost all services had resumed, albeit with modifications to ensure volunteers and guests alike were safe.

VINNIES YOUTH

Vinnies Youth comprises volunteers aged between 16-35 who share their talents and skills volunteering in services and programs across South Australia, including fundraising, Fred's Van, Vinnies Assistance Visits and Buddy Days.

In the Buddy Day program, Youth members engage and buddy up with children aged 6-14 years, as role models and mentors. Children involved are often facing disadvantage, isolation or hardship in their lives and the Society's youth leaders provide activities and excursions tailored to provide a safe, fun and rewarding learning experience.

The focus for this year was building life skills. Buddy Days were centred around everyday skills including cooking, orientation, gardening and problem solving, where children have the opportunity to challenge their thinking by working together and sharing in experiences and outcomes they may not get to experience within their current circumstances. The program looks to expand its reach of children through a collaborative approach with conferences.

2019/20 saw further collaboration with the University of South Australia Community Engagement Program and Aquinas College. These partnerships continue to strengthen to provide young people with a variety of volunteering opportunities.

Youth members were represented in the Emerging Young Leaders Program, a nationally funded project for young Vincentians to build leadership skills and experience.

The program ran over an 18-month period and included formal development such as Governance, reporting, change management and finance. The program also included elements of values-based leadership, drawing on the values of the Society. Participants were able to gain an in depth understanding of the structure of the Society, including National and International structures and committees, providing an opportunity for participants to see themselves as a member of the broader Society, and how their leadership can have greater impacts beyond our local community.



SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Frederic Ozanam, the Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, was just 20 years old when he saw people in need and established what has become a worldwide movement in more than 140 countries.

Frederic demonstrated that age is not a barrier to action, and just one person can make a difference. Based on these beginnings, the Society recognises that there is power in helping young people understand that their actions, big or small, can make a valuable difference in other people's lives. To this end, we have developed strong relationships with schools in South Australia and, more recently, are working more closely with childcare centres and universities.

Young people are often strong believers of equality and are keen to bring new ideas to social problems. Coupled with a strong social justice focus in the majority of educational settings that has a very active 'doing' element, our partnerships with childcare centres, schools and universities in South Australia have proved mutually beneficial. Through presentations that are uniquely tailored to the audience, students gain valuable insights into inequality, disadvantage and homelessness, and are then able to put their faith or social conscience into action by supporting the work we do.

Some of the ways in which students are able to contribute include the donation of long life food products, toiletries, blankets, clothing, and toys that are distributed at Christmas time to children who may otherwise not receive a gift. A number of schools also regularly cook for Fred's Van, learning practical skills in the kitchen while providing a nutritious meal for people doing it tough.

Beyond donations of practical items, we have been the beneficiaries of fundraising activities such as Dressed by Vinnies day and Sleepouts that have resulted in the receipt of much needed funds.

The Cost of Living board game continues to be used as an important learning tool, helping participants gain insights into how difficult it is to meet living expenses while on a limited income.

We feel very privileged to be so well supported by childcare centres, schools and universities, and look forward to continuing to work together to make a difference in the lives of people we support.

Children at Northgate/Greenwith Early Learning and Kindergarten are proud as punch with their pyjama donations.





Children attending childcare centres demonstrate that you're never too young to help someone in need, by donating items to our Christmas Appeal drive.

*"Giving is not just about making a donation.
It is about making a difference."*

- Kathy Calvin,
Former President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation

Rostrevor College Students get behind the barbecue at the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre, providing breakfast and company for guests of the centre.



Vinnies CEO Sleepout

Our flagship fundraising event, the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, was due to be held at the newly renovated Memorial Drive Tennis Centre on June 18. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded and restrictions regarding mass gatherings were introduced, we wondered for a time whether the event would go ahead at all.

On March 18 we conducted a media launch at the proposed venue with past participants who had agreed to act as Ambassadors. At that time we were determined, along with our interstate counterparts, that the event would proceed in some format – we just didn't know how.

With many thanks to our New South Wales colleagues, a national livestreamed event was produced, with participants having the option to conduct their own 'virtual' sleepout by sleeping on their couch, in their backyard or in their car – three common locations where people experiencing homelessness might sleep. This also provided the opportunity for other household members to get involved, amplifying the impact of the event.

An area of concern at the height of COVID-19 was the perception that many participants would not be able to actively fundraise amid an uncertain economic climate.

This was countered by the option to donate goods or time instead of raising funds, and for these donations to be measured in social currency. Ultimately the social currency was only utilised by a small number of participants, however it did offer a safety net for those unsure about their capacity to fundraise in the initial stages.

The livestreamed event was a huge success, both in terms of engagement and funds raised, with more than \$682,000 raised in South Australia, and \$5.8 million nationally.

BankSA CEO/Westpac State General Manager SA/NT/WA Nick Reade took out highest fundraiser honours nationally for the fifth time in a row, raising an incredible \$229,518. We are in awe of the support from Nick and BankSA, whose contribution to Vinnies via the CEO Sleepout has now surpassed \$1 million.

We are also very grateful for the contribution of participants who really got behind the event, involving their networks and committing to the experience of being homeless, even if just for one night.

While many enjoyed the uniqueness of the livestreamed event, we look forward to welcoming participants back to a true 'in person' community event, restrictions permitting, on June 17 2021.

Highest national and state fundraiser, Nick Reade, accepts his trophies from Cathy Beaton, State President St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc



Principal Sleepout

After 10 successful CEO and hundreds of School Sleepouts, in November 2019 we held the inaugural Principal Sleepout at Mercedes College, Springfield.

Having developed such strong relationships with schools in South Australia, we thought the natural next step was to more deeply involve school leaders who, in leading by example, would inspire their students to take action. The evening would provide a unique opportunity for the school leaders to experience what hundreds of South Australians do on any given night. Participants were also encouraged to fundraise for Vinnies, by asking their networks to sponsor them sleeping out.

Trying to find an appropriate time in a very busy school calendar was a challenge, and after consultation we confirmed a date in November. Ideally, a Sleepout would be held in the winter months so that participants could experience the harshness of sleeping rough in cold and wet weather, however this wasn't to be. It was an unseasonably cool night for November, made cooler by winds swirling around the college oval, where 20 school leaders were to bunker down for the night with just a piece of cardboard and sleeping bag for comfort.

The night commenced with an overview of how Vinnies supports people in the community, followed by a short video depicting volunteers in action. School leaders heard more about the work Vinnies does in schools, and then break-out sessions were held, with the participants divided into three groups to discuss challenges and opportunities faced by Vinnies, and how schools could assist.

Fred's Van served an evening meal of sausages and soup, the same meal that was served to Fred's Van guests earlier that night. A short awards ceremony followed, during which Liz Keough from All Saints Catholic Primary School was announced highest fundraiser.

The total amount raised was more than \$42,000 to support Vinnies homelessness services - an incredible effort by all involved.

The following morning a light breakfast was on offer, but most participants were keen to get home and into a warm shower. It had been a long, cold and noisy night.

We received some really meaningful feedback, with sentiments we hope leaders were able to take back to students. We look forward to welcoming a new group of school leaders in 2021.



"I have a much greater insight and awareness of the complex and daunting issues faced - both by those who are homeless and/or living in poverty, and by the broader community in responding to the ever present need."

"Humbled to be able to experience what others have to do daily."

"I am sore! It is an uncomfortable experience and we were in a safe environment. It makes you really stop and think how terrifying it must be for those who are left with no other choice."

Appeals

We are grateful to the thousands of people and organisations across South Australia who provide the Society with the funds we need to support the most disadvantaged and marginalised people in our community. We are indebted to those who see the value in the work we do and continue to support us, even during uncertain economic times.

Our Christmas Appeal was themed around helping a family to celebrate Christmas by putting food on the table. A meal at Christmas is something that most of us take for granted, but a recent survey of 400 disadvantaged Australian families found that more than 80% are unable to buy healthy, nourishing food for their loved ones. In these families, one in six parents go without food for an entire day because they just don't have enough money. Can you imagine how this must make people feel at Christmas, knowing they won't be able to celebrate with a special meal?

Thankfully, our supporters answered the call and donations brought joy to hundreds of families.

Planning was well underway for the Winter Appeal when COVID-19 struck, forcing a re-think about our approach, as it was becoming obvious that there was going to be a significant economic impact as a result of the restrictions and forced business closures. We moved to a COVID-19 Winter Appeal, asking those who were in a position to help others to donate.

Once again, our supporters didn't let us down and we were amazed by the generosity on display.

Many thanks to those who continue to put their faith in the Society to support people in need, and special thanks to conference members whose tireless work within parishes makes an enormous impact on our fundraising revenue.



Working Together

Vinnies is one of the largest recycling organisations in Australia and is more remarkable for being staffed largely by volunteers. The network of Vinnies shops across metropolitan and regional South Australia are a valuable resource for people on low incomes, providing them with quality clothing, household goods and furniture, often free of charge.

Vinnies shops are also a place that people in need can come, secure in the knowledge that they will be treated with dignity and respect. They are also a great place for the discerning shopper with an eye for quality, with many shops selling designer clothing for a fraction of the cost of new.

Each Vinnies shop is a unique shopping destination on its own, with a treasure trove of unpredictable surprises. It's what attracts shoppers back time and time again, as they never know exactly what they will find.

While we value the unique nature of each Vinnies shop and acknowledge this uniqueness is one of our strengths, the reality is that we are operating in a competitive retail environment. As such, it is important to provide customers with a more predictable experience in terms of customer service, merchandising and pricing.

To achieve this, we introduced the concept of Zone Managers who are each responsible for a number of Vinnies shops within a defined geographical area. Having oversight of a cluster of shops provides a 'bigger picture' view, more consistency, the ability to share stock more easily and respond to changing trends.

The Zone Managers also collaborate regularly with their counterparts in other zones to take a 'whole network' approach to improving sales performance, so that income is maximised and we are able to assist more people in need. An example of this collaboration is sales events across all shops, which are easier to promote.

COVID Response

As COVID-19 really took hold in late March, we made the difficult decision to close our network of Vinnies shops across South Australia. We had earlier asked volunteers in the high risk group of developing complications from COVID-19 to step back from their public facing roles and so it was a combination of factors including volunteer unavailability, declining foot traffic and to role model the importance of staying at home that led us to close the doors.

It was an easy decision on the surface, but it had very large ramifications for the organisation, not the least of which was the immediate loss of income that helps us to fund services. Moreover, despite knowing it was in the best interests of volunteers for them to stay at home, we were also very aware that for many volunteers, their role with Vinnies provides them with an important sense of contribution, belonging and social connection. Our paid staff also had to step down, and although the organisation's eligibility for the JobKeeper supplement softened the blow somewhat, it was a very difficult time for all.

While the shops were closed, we opened a 'donation station' at the Hawthorn shop so that we could accept donations. It was obvious that due to COVID-19 people had a bit more time on their hands and were cleaning out their cupboards. The donation station was well received and we gratefully took carriage of quality donations in readiness for re-opening.

As restrictions began to ease we developed a rolling roadmap to re-open the shops and approximately half of the shops had opened by June 30. We were overwhelmed by the interest and public support - it was nice to know we were missed - but more importantly we were able to welcome back staff, volunteers and customers.

OUR SUPPORTERS

St Vincent de Paul Society was founded on one individual's idea to take action to make life better for people in Paris who were living in poverty. However, Frederic Ozanam quickly got his friends involved, with the knowledge that to have a real and lasting impact, he couldn't act alone.

Centuries later, meaningful partnerships are more important than ever, and we are very grateful for the support we receive from the community, whether it be from individual supporters, parishes, schools or businesses. We would like to take this opportunity to recognise the formal partnerships we have with some key corporate organisations that are vital to Vinnies being able to continue supporting our most vulnerable.

BankSA

Seven years participating in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout has seen BankSA CEO/Westpac State General Manager SA/NT/WA Nick Reade raise more than \$1 million for Vinnies homelessness services.

But Nick himself admits that this incredible achievement is only the result of his team finding creative ways to raise funds towards his CEO Sleepout tally. From fashion parades to bake sales, quiz nights and casual days - the teams at BankSA and Westpac have done it all.

COVID-19 restrictions meant that the traditional BankSA Community Sleepout which is instrumental in raising funds couldn't go ahead in its usual format. Such is their commitment, staff participated in a virtual sleepout from home, involving family members in the proceedings which took place online.

With a particular interest in guests of the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre, staff make regular contributions including school supplies, underwear, pyjamas, movie tickets, food for the pets accommodated at the centre, and more.



LaDonna Hygiene

The team at LaDonna Hygiene continue with their very much valued practical support, providing hygiene services at no charge to the Men's and Women's Centres, a number of Vinnies shops and other Vinnies services. LaDonna are also actively educating their workforce and clients on the realities of those facing homelessness and disadvantage.



OUR SUPPORTERS

IGA

IGA retailers play an important part in their local communities, giving back wherever possible. Despite many IGA retailers themselves facing the effects of drought, the stores rallied together across the country to organise a major fundraiser, donating proceeds to Vinnies and Drought Angels to distribute to people in need. Shoppers purchased a \$2 IGA Drought Appeal gift token from participating stores to raise the funds.

IGA has also been a strong supporter of Vinnies in the past by providing goods for Christmas hampers which were distributed to people in need so that they could have a more joyful and dignified Christmas.



Scrap Hotline

We welcomed a new initiative from Recyclers SA/Scrap Hotline who added to their support of Vinnies by launching 'Tinnies for Vinnies'.

In addition to providing Vinnies-branded donation banks at 14 of their depots to support the collection of clothing, shoes, accessories and blankets, 65 depots now provide the option for customers to drop some or all of their refundable cans and bottles into specially marked Vinnies bins.

The depots then donate the cash equivalent of those containers to Vinnies, enabling us to keep supporting the more than 100,000 South Australians who turn to us for help each year.



FINANCIALS

Summary Statement of Financial Position

	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	4,205,664	3,337,053
Trade and other receivables	700,301	175,318
Available for Sale Financial Assets	-	-
Inventories	88,347	87,546
Other current assets	316,646	390,465
Property Held for Sale	0	18,536
Total Current Assets	5,310,958	4,008,918
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$	\$
Financial Assets	1,378,710	1,684,139
Property, plant and equipment	18,156,142	12,174,725
Total Non Current Assets	19,534,852	13,858,864
Total Assets	24,845,810	17,867,782
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$	\$
Trade and other payables	1,941,275	914,642
Provisions	876,934	933,137
Other current liabilities	65,657	36,182
Lease Liability - Current	1,264,011	-
Borrowings	2,180,000	2,179,561
Total Current Liabilities	6,327,877	4,063,521
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$	\$
Provisions	133,558	119,487
Lease Liability - Non Current	5,046,776	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	5,180,334	119,487
Total Liabilities	11,508,212	4,183,009
Net Assets	13,337,598	13,684,773
EQUITY	\$	\$
Reserves	353,877	398,907
Accumulated Funds	12,983,721	13,285,867
Total Equity	13,337,598	13,684,773

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other - Comprehensive Income

	2020	2019
REVENUE	\$	\$
Sales	7,140,843	8,562,537
Government Funding	3,670,404	4,226,845
Donations	4,450,830	2,312,438
Bequests	369,369	312,546
Companion Contributions - Accommodation	1,242,656	1,308,060
Interest	37,367	49,241
Dividends and Distributions Received	103,789	84,084
Other	182,524	987,019
Profit on Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	90,249	437,777
	17,288,031	18,280,549
EXPENSES	\$	\$
Administration	368,003	466,534
Assistance	4,933,197	4,653,365
Companion/Resident Services	114,813	110,786
Depreciation and Amortisation	1,824,701	472,219
Interest Paid	259,846	88,354
Fundraising Expenses	142,803	258,448
Motor Vehicle Expenses	154,532	250,098
Personnel	6,559,626	6,990,563
Professional Fees	134,923	133,433
Loss and Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	39,063	3,962
Property Expenses	1,307,789	2,486,897
Purchases for Sales	233,861	232,430
Repairs and Maintenance	72,987	88,591
Telecommunications	137,172	157,808
Travel and Accommodation	39,344	53,259
Waste Disposal	186,826	197,199
Youth Projects	-	9,784
Other	1,081,643	1,328,987
	17,591,129	17,982,716
OPERATING SURPLUS	(303,098)	297,833
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Fair value gains on financial assets	(44,077)	91,691
Total Other Comprehensive Income	(44,077)	91,691
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	(347,175)	389,523

FINANCIALS

Statement of Cash Flows

	2020	2019
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$	\$
Receipts from customers	7,391,267	10,393,093
Government funding	3,670,404	4,226,845
Donations, bequests and sundry income	5,002,724	3,597,953
Interest received	37,367	49,241
Interest paid	(56,223)	(88,354)
Interest (AASB16)	(203,623)	-
Dividends received	103,789	84,084
Payments to suppliers and employees	(14,002,423)	(17,884,155)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,943,282	467,061
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	\$	\$
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	107,909	635,664
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(369,732)	(431,048)
Proceeds from Sale of Financial Assets	647,461	601,815
Payments for Financial Assets	(326,108)	(537,391)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	59,530	269,040
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Reduction of Lease Liability	(1,134,201)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(1,134,201)	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash	868,611	736,101
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	3,337,053	2,600,952
Cash at the end of the financial year	4,205,664	3,337,053

NOTE 1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please note the following in relation to the summary financial statements of St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2020

- The summary financial statements are derived from, and consistent with, the audited financial report for the year ended 30 June 2020 prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012; and
- The full audited financial report of St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2020 can be provided upon request or downloaded from the ACNC website (www.acnc.gov.au)



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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SA) INC.

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in equity and summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial report of St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 1 October 2020.

The Responsible Entities' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in the summary.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

BDO Audit (SA) Pty Ltd

G K Edwards
Director

Adelaide, 1 October 2020

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GOVERNANCE

As at 30 June 2020

Members In Office

State President	Cathy Beaton
Vice President	Sandro Canale
Vice President	Bradley Hocking
Vice President	Damien Lloyd
Vice President	Moira Lugg
Treasurer	Vacant
Spiritual Advisor	Sr Meredith Evans rsm
Youth Representative	Laura Beres

Regional Presidents

Central District	Geraldine Hawkes
Eastern	Maxwell Ormsby
Eyre Region	Alicia Griffiths
Fleurieu	Christine Jones
Hills Murray	Vacant
Northern	Vacant
Riverland/Yorke	Margaret Kayser
South East	Anné Halman
Southern	Andrew Tamassy
Western	Adrian Paech

Ex Officio

Chief Executive Officer

Louise Miller Frost

Minute Secretary

Jenny Papps

Committees

Centres Advisory Committee

Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee

Regional Presidents Advisory Group

Vinnies Homeless and Housing Committee

Work Health and Safety Committee

Special Works Committees

Migrant and Refugee Committee

Money Management Educators and Financial Counsellors

Overseas Partnership Committee

Vinnies Youth

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Aberfoyle Park	Greenacres	Ottoway
Adelaide/St Francis	Hectorville	Para Hills
Barmera	Henley Beach	Payneham
Berri	Hindmarsh	Port Adelaide
Blackwood	Kadina/Wallaroo/Moonta	Port Augusta
Bordertown	Kingswood	Port Lincoln
Brighton	Lefevre	Port Pirie
Clearview	Lockleys	Prospect/Kilburn
Colonel Light Gardens	Maitland/CYP	Renmark
Coober Pedy	Millicent	Salisbury
Croydon	Modbury	Seacombe Gardens
Dernancourt	Morphett Vale	St Marys
Dulwich	Mount Barker/Strathalbyn	Stirling
Edwardstown/Plympton	Mount Gambier/St Pauls	Tea Tree Gully
Elizabeth North	Mount Gambier Women's	Thebarton
Elizabeth West	Murray Bridge	Tranmere
Gawler	Naracoorte	Victor Harbor
Glen Osmond/Parkside	Newton	Whyalla/OLHC
Glenelg	Noarlunga	Willunga
Goodwood	Norwood	

SHOP LOCATIONS

Adelaide	Naracoorte
Barmera	Norwood
Brighton	Parkside
Campbelltown	Port Adelaide
Christies Beach (closed June 2020)	Port Augusta
Cooper Pedy	Port Lincoln
Croydon	Port Pirie
Elizabeth	Prospect
Gawler	Royal Park
Hawthorn	Salisbury
Kadina	Semaphore
Kidman Park	St Marys (closed June 2020)
Maitland	Tailem Bend
Millicent	Taperoo
Morphett Vale	Valley View
Mount Barker	Whyalla
Mount Gambier	Whyalla Westland
Murray Bridge	Victor Harbor

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The St Vincent de Paul Society relies on the generous support of individuals, community groups, schools and businesses who are committed to building a more just and compassionate society.

To support our mission

Make a financial donation

Credit card donations can be made by visiting our website or calling the donation hotline. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Leave a gift in your Will

The Society is able to assist thousands of people because of the generosity of those who have remembered us in their Will. For more information or an information booklet, speak to our Bequest Officer.

Volunteer your time

If you would like to make a direct impact on the lives of people in need, you can become a member of a conference or volunteer your time to assist people in your community through any Vinnies services or shops.

Donate goods

Donations of quality clothing, furniture and household goods can be made at any Vinnies Shop, or phone 8112 8777.

Involve your school

Get your school involved to support their local community and learn about issues affecting the community such as poverty, homelessness and social justice.

Host a fundraising event

From BBQs to bake sales and everything in between, you can get creative and fundraise your own way for Vinnies. Fundraising is a great way to get your friends, family and community together to have fun and make a difference for people trying to get back on their feet.

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Adelaide, SA 5000

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Fax: (08) 8112 8799
svdp@svdpsa.org.au

Donations 13 18 12
or www.vinnies.org.au

ABN 73 591 401 592