

MEDIA RELEASE

Vinnies launches 2020 Christmas Appeal

17 November 2020

Claire Victory, National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year.

‘Job losses, business closures and reduced working hours have placed many communities under increased financial strain,’ Ms Victory said.

‘The Federal Government has reduced the Coronavirus supplement and it will drop again early next year, plunging many more people into poverty, and other supports such as the moratorium on evictions are also being lifted in some states.

‘Even without border closures and travel restrictions, many people in our community find Christmas to be a particularly lonely time of year due to social isolation.

‘Each year the Australian community provides generously to help Vinnies help people who have fallen on hard times to enjoy something of the Christmas season.

‘The pandemic has made it harder for Vinnies to meet the needs of the people we help due to social distancing restrictions and the need for the contactless delivery of food support.

‘Belts have tightened around the nation, and our committed volunteers have been prevented from helping because of COVID risks. During lockdown, many Vinnies shops across Australia had to close or reduce their operations, reducing our ability to generate funds to distribute to people in need.

‘This year’s campaign has been launched at the end of a year many would rather forget.

‘But with your help, we will be able to make this festive season that little bit brighter for people in our community who are doing it particularly tough,’ Ms Victory said.

You can donate to the 2020 Vinnies Christmas Appeal via vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal or by calling 13 18 12.

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

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