

MEDIA RELEASE

28 October 2020

VINNIES SHOPS SAYS, 'WELCOME BACK MELBOURNE!'

... but please be patient while we get our metro retail outlets running at full speed again. **Vinnies' 56 shops in metropolitan Melbourne will re-open on a rolling basis from today, Wednesday 28 October**, following the government's easing of lockdown restrictions.

Vinnies Shops are predominately volunteer-run and some are more resourced with enough volunteers to immediately reopen than others. While we are delighted with the news, the Victorian Vinnies Shops teams ask all our wonderful customers and donors for their patience while the shops gradually reopen safely this week and into next.

Today, **we will have 34 metro Vinnies Shops open, including Kilsyth, Glenroy, Campbellfield, Brunswick and Ascot Vale**. The remaining shops will open during the coming days. **The list of shops that are open will be updated daily on the Vinnies Victoria website [HERE](#)**. We ask that customers please **check this page before phoning or travelling to their local shop** and we appreciate their understanding while they wait for their nearest shop to resume trading.

We have COVID-safe systems in place that include hand sanitiser, sneeze screens at our service counters and socially distanced floor stickers at each of our Vinnies Shops to ensure everyone's safety. As per the Victorian Government directive, all people entering shops over age 12 are required to wear masks (unless they have a [lawful reason](#) not to).

- **Donations**

We thank customers for holding on to their donations during lockdown. Once open, individual shops will be accepting donations that are hand-delivered to Vinnies workers inside the shops.

Donations will need to be quarantined. In some cases, we may need to temporarily suspend accepting donations at certain shops as we are anticipating a high response from donors and our volunteers will need time to sort through donations safely. We know that our community understands the demands placed on our volunteers and we assure our donors that their much appreciated donations will be accepted as soon as possible.

Vinnies Victoria receives minimal government funding, so we rely on revenue from our beloved Vinnies Shops – and the generosity of our supporters – to run our welfare services for people most in need in our communities.

- **Hours**

Our shops will be open from **10.00am Monday to Saturday** to welcome our customers and donations following early morning cleaning. They will generally **close at 5.00pm**. Sunday trading may take longer to be re-instated in many shops.

- **Volunteers**

We are looking to welcome more volunteers to work in our shops. Please visit the [volunteering page on our website](#), call 1300 736 933 or email volunteer@svdp-vic.org.au.

Vinnies Victoria Retail General Manager **Jeff Antcliff says: "We are so excited to open our doors again and welcome back our loyal and much-loved customers. We have missed each and every one!"**

“We are as keen as they are to get all our metro shops back to full speed as soon as possible, but it will take a little time after what has been an incredibly challenging year for our staff and amazing ‘vollies’.

“We will be doing all we can to make the transition to full trading as smooth as possible and ask customers for their support while we do. **Vinnies Victoria Shops says, Welcome back Melbourne!**”

For more information or to arrange an interview with Jeff Antcliff, please get in touch on the contacts below.

- ENDS -

Visit www.vinnies.org.au/shops for more information about Vinnies Shops. Share your finds online and hashtag #FoundItAtVinnies.

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ABOUT THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

The St Vincent de Paul Society and its wide network of members and volunteers provide practical frontline support, advocacy and friendship for the most vulnerable members of our community. Key services include home visitation; Vinnies Shops; youth programs; soup vans; assistance for asylum seekers and refugees; compeer programs for people experiencing mental illness; education and tutoring; and professional accommodation and health services through VincentCare. The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia has more than 60,000 members and volunteers. Internationally, the Society operates in 149 countries and has over 950,000 members. To find out more visit www.vinnies.org.au.