

**MEDIA RELEASE****12 July 2021**

## Vinnies Shops call for winter clothes donations

After a particularly busy lead up to winter, regional Victoria's Vinnies Shops are calling for more donations of warm winter clothing. We welcome donations from regional Victorians yet to clear out their wardrobe of good-quality jackets, overcoats, jumpers, scarves and trousers, which will go on to serve their local communities.

The reasons for the call-out to regional areas are threefold:

- due to the coronavirus lockdowns in place last winter, people generally did not buy as much new seasonal clothing as normal, which has had a knock-on effect to donations a year later;
- Vinnies Victoria keeps stock transportation to a minimum to keep costs and emissions low to save money and maintain our sustainability standards, so we prefer to source donations close to where they are needed as much as possible;
- regional areas generally experience lower temperatures than our metropolitan centres, so the demand for warmer clothes has been higher in these areas.

Jeff Antcliff, Vinnies Victoria's Executive General Manager of Commercial Services, says: "We know that our local communities love to help each other out, so we hope that our regional friends can find the time to go through their wardrobes and bring any cosy winter clothes they are no longer using into their nearest Vinnies Shop during opening hours.

"We always encourage people to give their donations directly to one of our volunteers at the counter so we can say 'Thank you'.

"Our regional Vinnies Shops kept the flag flying for us through nearly all of last year when our metropolitan shops had to close and we want to be well-stocked with good-quality warm winter clothes this year for our loyal customers in those areas.

"Vinnies Victoria handles an extraordinary amount of second-hand clothes. In Victoria, we serve around 80,000 people a week in our shops. This year we will sell more than 6 million items of clothing and save a further 3.5 million kilos of textiles from landfill. Our hard-working shop volunteers are tireless in their efforts to keep our shops looking bright and attractive, and sales this year have been better than ever since recovering from the pandemic lockdowns.

"We rely wholeheartedly on the generosity of the thoughtful Victorians who want to see their quality pre-loved goods go on to live new lives with other people, preventing unnecessary landfill and helping us to provide good-quality, low-cost clothes and household items to people in need.

"All profits of Vinnies Shops go back into their local communities to fund our welfare services that help people experiencing homelessness or who are struggling to put food on their tables or pay their rent, utility and medical bills. Every cent spent in a Vinnies Shop supports our good works for people in need."

*For any further inquiries about this story or to arrange an interview with Jeff Antcliff or a spokesperson in your region, please contact our media office via the details below.*

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St Vincent de Paul Society  
VICTORIA  
*good works*

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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; education and tutoring; and professional accommodation and health services through VincentCare. The St Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria has more than 13,000 members and volunteers, and more than 60,000 across Australia. Internationally, the Society operates in 149 countries and more than 950,000 members. To find out more visit [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au).*