



# Schools Newsletter

Term 3 2023

Canberra / Goulburn



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## Thank You!

We extend our gratitude to all of those who have donated to Vinnies and helped people in their community this year. If you would like to donate towards the Vinnies Winter Appeal, please contact our team, the appeal goes from May – August each year. Thank you also to all the teachers that met with a Vinnies Representative last term to provide feedback and help shape our services. We look forward to working more with you all.



# Manager Updates

Yuma!

My name is Travis Ngatuere – Manager, Youth and Young Adults Team – St Vincent de Paul Canberra / Goulburn.

I am very fortunate to be in the position I am in working alongside some of the sharpest minds and most passionate souls in our community. Our team are absolutely committed to improving outcomes, providing opportunities and building the capacity of Young People in our region.

You've all had the pleasure of working with our amazing Youth Liaison Officers, Teah and Sharkie, but the scope of our work with Young People does not end with the 3 o'clock school bell. There are many opportunities available through Vinnies' Good Works and I wish to tell you more about those programs and how they benefit our community.

## **Migrant and Refugee Programs.**

### **School-based tutoring support:**

Delivered in both Primary and Secondary Schools, our Migrant and Refugee Program aims to support students from Migrant and Refugee backgrounds with tutoring and educational support.

### **Donut Stress Homework Club:**

In partnership with Libraries ACT, our wonderful volunteers are readily available to offer ongoing support for Secondary school-aged students with their homework and assignments. Held every Saturday during term from 1:30PM at Gungahlin Library.

## **Respite Programs: St Joes 6 – 15. St Nicks Young Carers 9 – 17.**

Our respite programs offer opportunities for social inclusion and fun through monthly activities and our school holiday camps. Offered at zero cost to families, our vibrant community of volunteers create a safe-space of belonging through connection and joy. Whether you're introverted, extroverted, creative or active, there is something in our programs for everyone.

## **Vinnies on Campus:**

If you know of or are a secondary school aged student thinking about uni and are passionate about Social Justice issues impacting our community, come join our team of like-minded tertiary-based volunteers who are committed to creating the change that they wish to see in the world. Sustainability, homelessness, advocacy. Vinnies on Campus are an inspired group of Volunteer members who put their words into action by helping those experiencing ongoing social, financial and psychological difficulties in their lives.

## **Volunteering with Vinnies Youth.**

### **Did you know?**

Secondary School aged students can earn their Cert II – Active Volunteering qualification through our various programs and services.

Vinnies also works with schools to provide unique one-off opportunities for volunteering in and out of school.

**Retail Stores:** 14 years and over

**Migrant & Refugee and Respite Programs:** 17 years and over

If you wish to learn more about this or any of our other services please email

[Travis.Ngatuere@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Travis.Ngatuere@vinnies.org.au)



# Workshop Updates

## Homelessness Workshops

### **A Home (Years K-2)**

Students will learn about what Vinnies does to help people experiencing homelessness and what students can do to help.

### **Fighting the Cold (Years 3-4)**

For this session students will explore Primary and Secondary Homelessness and the challenges of having no shelter.

### **Breaking the Stigma (Years 5-6)**

Students will learn about the three types of homelessness and be challenged to bust myths regarding homelessness.

## Social Justice Workshops

### **Introduction to Vinnies (Years K-2)**

Students will learn about how the St Vincent de Paul Society was established and what Vinnies does today.

### **Social Justice Superheros (Years 3-4)**

Students will learn about poverty, our Emergency Assistance service and other services that Vinnies provides.

### **Challenging Social Injustice (Years 5-6)**

Students will explore what Social Justice is and the challenges of poverty.

# Workshop Updates

## School Sleepouts

### Primary School Sleepout

A Vinnies School Engagement Officer can attend your school sleepout to teach students about homelessness and facilitate some homelessness-based activities.

### Secondary School Sleepout

A Vinnies School Engagement Officer can attend your school sleepout to teach students about homelessness and facilitate some homelessness-based activities.

We are also piloting student-led sleepouts with the support of Vinnies staff.

## Wellbeing Workshops

### The DARE Program (Years 3-6)

Aims to reduce incidences and severity of mental illness through exploring preventative factors such as personal values, character strengths, emotional literacy and healthy relationships; we also encourage help seeking and self-care. Suitable for Years 3-6.

### What We Feed Ourselves (Year 9-10)

This program aims to reduce incidences of chronic disease and harm. Suitable for Year 9-10.

To read more about our school workshops, please see our [School Workshops](#) document.



# Secondary School Conferences 2024

In 2024 we are looking at making changes to Secondary School Conference involvement with Vinnies based on the feedback received by Secondary Schools across the Canberra / Goulburn region.

Currently we would like to provide a space for Social Justice Leaders from each school to meet, share what they are doing to help the community and inspire each other; as well as build relationships and further develop their leadership skills.

Watch this space as we will keep you updated with any developments.



# CEO Sleepout

Our major fundraising event was held last week at the National Museum Australia following months of preparation and brought together the Vinnies team in an immersive experience for participants. Over 100 people slept out at the Museum, along with others in satellite events participating virtually, including our first event on the far south coast in Merimbula which also beat their target.

With a target of \$800,000 for the campaign, on the night the tally was about \$780,000 raised, but by Monday morning an incredible \$823,000 was the total to date. Funds raised will be used to support our frontline homelessness services.

During a cold and wet evening, participants heard some compelling case studies including one involving the Street to Home and Night Patrol successfully assisting a companion into her own flat after many years of trauma and sleeping rough, whilst the St. Nick's young carers program was also showcased. Participants also had the opportunity to meet a range of our programs and services on arrival to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of our work and the Museum proved to be an ideal venue for the experience. These insights enable those who take part, of which about half were doing it for the first time, to understand better the complexity of our work, the challenges we face serving our companions and how the funds raised are put to good use helping those in need.

**Phillip Jones**

Director of Marketing, Fundraising & Communication

# CEO Sleepout

We would like to acknowledge the effort of all the schools that have participated in their own sleepout as well as some of our top fundraisers from the CEO Sleepout within the school space; these include David Austin from Good Shepherd Primary School and Catherine Rey from St John Paul II College.

On the night of the CEO Sleepout, the School Engagement Team had the honour of attending the Merici Sleepout, where many passionate students and teachers banded together to help those experiencing homelessness; this also included their Principal, Anna Masters.







## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Ros Parisi, Steve Moxey and Nikita Nair for the use of their photos in this newsletter.

## Get Involved

If you have any inquiries relating to student volunteering opportunities please contact Travis Ngatuere via email: [Travis.Ngatuere@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Travis.Ngatuere@vinnies.org.au)

For any teacher or adult related volunteer enquiries please contact:  
[volunteer.cg@vinnies.org.au](mailto:volunteer.cg@vinnies.org.au)

## Notice

Vinnies just launched a Vinnies Canberra Instagram account!  
Follow us at [vinniescanberraregion](https://www.instagram.com/vinniescanberraregion)

## Contact

To make a booking or for any enquiries please contact:  
[schools.cg@vinnies.org.au](mailto:schools.cg@vinnies.org.au)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the Traditional Custodians of this land, with deep respect. May Elders, past, present and emerging, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, hope, faith, and reconciliation.

