



ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



St Vincent de Paul Society
(NT) Inc.
good works



OUR ORGANISATION

The St Vincent de Paul Society is an international, voluntary, Catholic organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing assistance to the poor.

Founded in France by a group of young men in 1833, the principal founder was Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Today the Society has more than 950,000 members in 150 countries. The first Australian Conference was established in Melbourne in 1854. The first Northern Territory Conference, St Mary's Conference Darwin, was launched in September 1949 and is still assisting Territorians today.

OUR VISION

The St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory is pursuing key areas of growth, service delivery and outreach to the most vulnerable. We have a growing, sustainable membership base and are an employer of choice with committed and enthusiastic staff. We are engaged in passionate advocacy and are making an impact for the poor.

OUR MISSION

The 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 by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

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.





We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to Elders past and present.

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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

FAY GURR

This report is a reflection on the activities of the Society in the year 2019/2020 for the members of the Society. The activities of the Society and its works for the poor are in line with the strategic direction of the Society, which is consulted with members, employees and volunteers so that the resources and energy of the Society are used in the service of the poor and for the growth of the Society.

The year detailed in this report begins in July 2019, as the Council set their strategic goals to take the Society forward for the next four years. This plan has been updated in February 2020 and will be communicated more broadly in the months ahead. The key goals for the Society are:

- Grow and improve housing options for the community. In particular registering as a social housing provider as a Tier 1, 2 or 3 level
- Provide, as a priority, housing for women who often find achieving stable accommodation difficult due to domestic violence, interruption to or no work history
- Re-energise with youth as our focus for the coming years. The Council looks to building, over time, youth activities and ensuring the role of youth in governance
- Continuing to grow the success and social impact of retail operations. Increasing the number of stores, providing remote and regional Vinnies retail options and supporting Conferences in reaching out to remote communities to improve the quality of life
- Membership of the Society is an essential priority for the continued growth of the services that directly relieve homelessness and poverty
- The Society in the Northern Territory is also an integral part of the national Society and as such I was proud to give voice at the National Council meetings to the concerns and the unique needs of the Territory. During the Council of Graeme West, the emphasis was on overseas leadership by Australia especially in the Oceania region. This covers our nearest neighbours like East Timor, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Kirabati, Tonga/

Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu – all countries who are working with extremely difficult political and financial challenges.

The current National Council aims are focused on building the strength of the Society in advocacy for the poor and in housing, membership and leadership opportunities for youth.

The NT Council, with whom I have had the privilege to work, has met big and unexpected challenges. The arrival of COVID-19 meant that our priorities and practices were reviewed to continue serving the poor and not ever let them down.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding and selfless work of the staff during the 'lockdown' time in March to late May when we continued to offer all services to our companions. Also I acknowledge the generosity and compassion of our members and Conferences as they kept up their 'visitations' through the use of technology. Companions were still 'served' with love and respect and their needs were at the heart of our response to the pandemic and continues now.

Our resources continued to rely on government funding for housing, emergency relief and the support of the aged. We have the confidence of both the Federal and Territory governments in the efficient and consistent way funds are used to improve the lives of the poor. Our retail area operated during the shutdown and continues to grow.

The work of the CEO, Fran Avon gave the Society greater scope in the marketing and fundraising area including organising the first 'virtual' CEO Sleepout for the Territory. Fran supported the members and volunteers and the Council in preparation of papers and leading the staff through the early stages of our response to the pandemic.

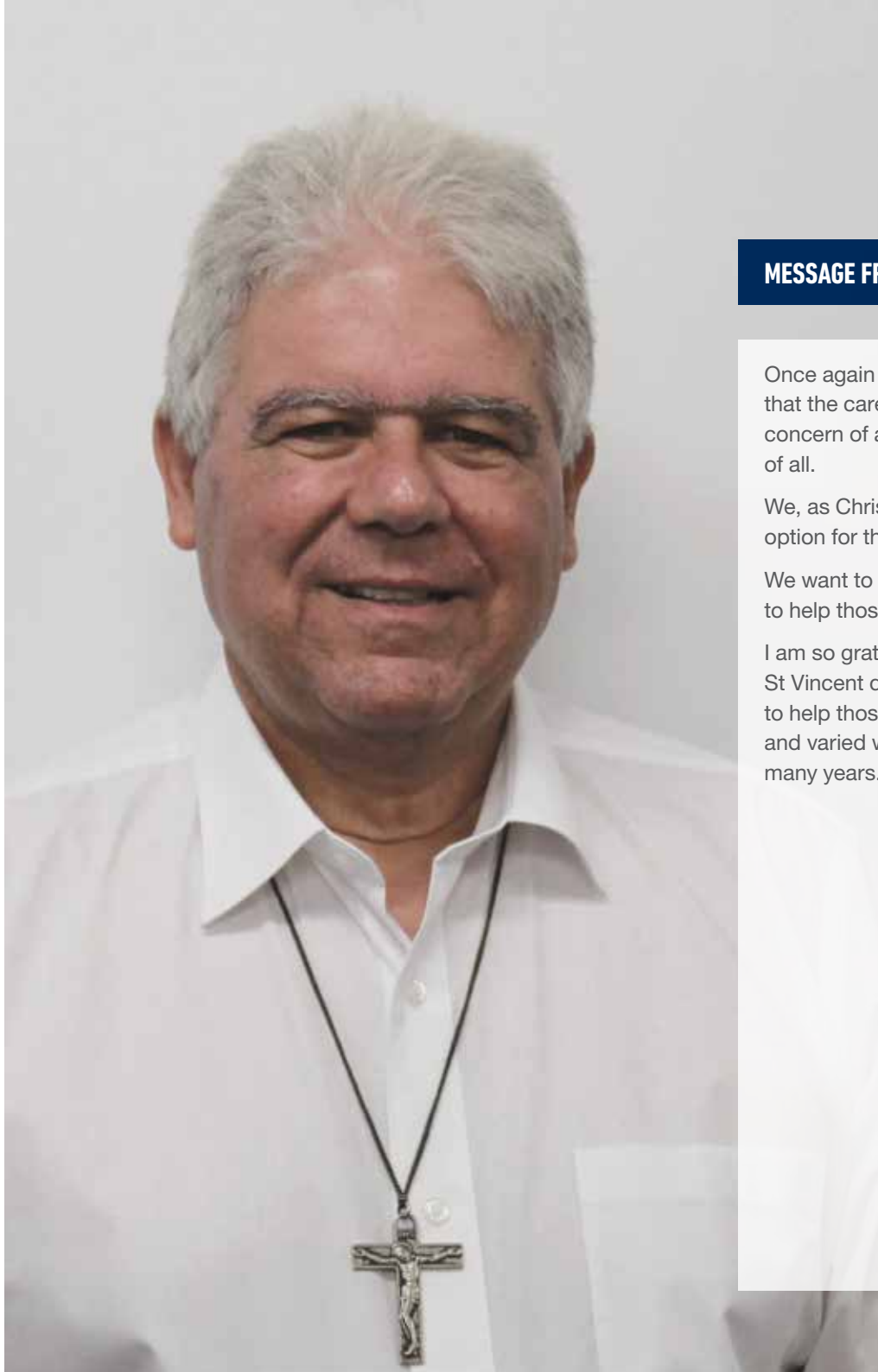
Thank you to the Council as your thoughtful, caring and compassionate support of me and of the Society has been a gift of generosity. Each year the Council and members pause to question what have we done for the poor. Our efforts in the last year have consistently been in developing future plans of growth; showing our support for

the growth of housing and support services; walking with the Catholic Church in social justice and service of the needs of the community; and in all our work we uphold the dignity of the individual to have hope and to experience compassion with justice.



President

St Vincent de Paul Society
Northern Territory



MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

BISHOP CHARLES GAUCI

Once again Pope Francis has reminded us that the care of the poor is not just the concern of a few Christians, but the concern of all.

We, as Christians, have a fundamental option for the poor.

We want to work with all people of good will to help those in need.

I am so grateful to the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who are available to help those in need in such a practical and varied way, and have done so for many years.

I want to state that you have my full support in what you do.

I am committed also to help foster the spread of your Society in the Northern Territory.

Be assured of my prayers.

**The Most Reverend
Charles Gauci
Bishop of Darwin**



MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

SISTER LUCY KERT

“The heart of Scripture (the Gospel) is ... a new creation, a new humankind, where the bonds of love define the interdependent goodness of life, where God is all in all.”
(Ilia Delio OSF)

What a year 2020 has turned out to be. It feels as if the whole world has been turned upside down and inside out by an inconspicuous virus – COVID-19. It can feel as if the whole order of nature has been shaken and we are faced on how to survive. We will be reminded of the effects of such turmoil and heartache for years to come!

Most of us, at one time or another, have experienced being tossed around by unexpected and painful circumstances in our journey of life. Different emotions can challenge our hope, our faith and our love. It's how we respond to them that makes all the difference. As human beings we have the capacity to open ourselves to infinite possibilities

“in a perpetual reaching out towards the Absolute, in openness to God ... even in the most forlorn and mundane life.” As humans “one is forever on the road to God, whether one is clearly aware of the fact or not and whether one wants to be or not. To be human is to have potential for the infinite.” Our True Self is always before us! Underneath all our apparent differences, the greater reality is that we are all deeply interconnected. If each of us can orient our energies towards the common good, the possibility of ‘transformation’ over time can create a new entity, able to transcend what was previously divided or disconnected.

Exemplified by the Christ event of life, death, and resurrection, God continues to act in the world “through mutuality, forgiveness, nonviolence, compassion and peace, reconciling relationships through the building up of love in the universe” for a new creation.

As Vincentians in a turbulent world, the call is to step up to become ever more Christ-like, being the leaven in the dough. In engaging with the poor and exploring together with them a quality of life that is sustainable for them, we create a movement towards a new level of existence, an expanded awareness of community and a greater unity of consciousness that requires a change in mind and heart. It is a call “(to centre) one's life in the ultimacy of Being in love.” (Ilia Delio OSF, “Social Justice without Cosmic Theology is Blind”, The Omega Center, September 1, 2020).

Spiritual Advisor

St Vincent de Paul Society
Northern Territory

Our achievements as a Society were marked by our resilience. Throughout this reporting year our service to the poor grew and was more connected with programs supporting all who reach out for a hand up. We focused on improving the facilities including painting, repairs and refurbishment. We also gave our Centres of Charity, housing, and emergency relief outreach the “Vinnies look” as a mark of pride in the work we do and for our companions to know whenever they seek help Vinnies is there for them.

Our employees work with the greatest needs of our companions every day with patience, humility, good humour and grace. Their commitment to the values of the Society and willingness to be as one with the members gave us all hope and strength.

As the COVID-19 pandemic affected the most vulnerable, the Society responded with energy, creativity and endless generosity. We saw the faces of the poor change to include overseas students, families who had lost their jobs and homes, and visitors prevented from returning home and were alone in the Territory. Many found themselves in a situation they never thought

they would be in – hungry, scared, and without hope. Our services were a lifeline for them and for all of our companions.

The employees in our services across the Territory, the members and Council were our source of inspiration in tough times and in good. The Society was able to stay open to everyone and this was a lifeline to many in the community.

In 2017, the Society moved into aged care with the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) and it's an expansion of services that has proved invaluable to our ‘senior’ clients. Aged care is multi-faceted, because as people age the links in the chain of life may be broken. The loss of a driver's licence, health issues, death of a spouse or friends, financial pressures, diminished capacity in making spontaneous decisions, and reduced physical capabilities remove make their world become smaller and often, life becomes harder. We recognise spiritual poverty and are in a powerful place to do something about it.

A familiar, smiling face keeping the yard clean and tidy or removing the fear of falling while cleaning fans and high windows provides reassurance to older members of

the community. Sharing stories and checking in over a cold drink after hours of hot work mean our clients are not forgotten, their quality of life is improved, and some of their burdens are removed. In today's artificial world, the warmth and genuine care offered by our CHSP team is truly making a difference and allowing our senior clients to remain active in their homes.

Our Emergency Relief Services exist to support people experiencing financial crisis and we work with local community support services to address any underlying catalysts. Emergency relief has changed over the last twelve months from a purely volunteer based service to engaging a full-time coordinator, which has enabled the Society to provide this important service five days per week. Access to emergency relief was also geographically extended with the opening of the Casuarina office. The Palmerston and Stuart Park offices continued operating with assistance from volunteers with their daily opening hours extended.

Our companions who find that they are unable to meet their immediate needs now have somewhere to turn to for necessities

such as food and clothing as well as advice on where to seek further assistance. With this greater coordination, the Society is able to follow up with companions who may need more than an emergency response.

A new area of need emerged with students at Charles Darwin University unable to secure casual work during the pandemic. Along with others who were ineligible for government support, these companions needed significant financial assistance to meet basic needs. The Society was able to access significant donations from local businesses and this enabled us to respond more generously to companions in need.

In regards to our Centres of Charity, this financial year delivered some very good sales growth, but much needed capital expenditure reduced the operating surplus significantly.

A full solar power system was installed at the Tennant Creek store, which resulted in a decrease of monthly bills from over \$1200 to around \$100. This will increase the profitability of the shop. Our Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs stores also required significant air-conditioning works.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE 2019/2020

During the initial COVID-19 restrictions a lot of retailers closed but Vinnies remained open and available to support people who suddenly lost work and ran into financial difficulty. The stores had a 7% increase in trade compared to the same period last year. All employees and volunteers put in a huge effort and even though some restrictions were put in place we came through it well. Unfortunately the Coolalinga store had to be closed as many of our fantastic volunteers were in the 'at risk' group for COVID-19.

The continued hard work and dedication of the team reflects the type of people who choose to work with the Society to serve those in need. There is a strong sense of belonging and a keen sense of mateship. All people associated with retail operations know what their efforts go towards, which is helping the Society do their good works.

24,061

TERRITORIANS ASSISTED

HELPING HANDS

40%

increase
in volunteers

2%

increase
in employees



OUTCOMES

\$166,740

Centres of
Charity revenue

↑ 9%

revenue increase

\$2,871,255

in government
funding

\$243,767

Client
contributions

↑ 31%

contribution increase

ACTS OF SERVICE

10,345

Emergency relief services

Transport program



176

trips

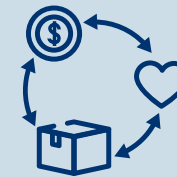
Home maintenance



2,991

services

A HAND UP



\$220,370

in emergency relief



\$67,754

in kind support

HELPING THE HOMELESS



10,080

showers provided



4,224

loads of washing



57,760

meals provided

ACCOMMODATION

47,786

↓ 20%

nights of accommodation provided

136

↑ 5%

total tenancies under management

WHO WE ARE

We are principally a volunteer based organisation with 52 members, 213 volunteers and 36 employees delivering emergency relief and other community services across Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Seventy years on from the establishment of the first Conference in Darwin, the Society continues to rise to the challenge of supporting those who are marginalised and disadvantaged. Through our devoted Conference members, our generous volunteers and our dedicated staff we continue to make a difference to the communities we serve.

At the core of our Society are our members known as Vincentians. They live out their faith and volunteer their time by joining together in a Conference. Conferences may be established within a Parish, town, suburb, school, workplace or social group. They provide expertise to the Society and support the delivery of special works and general works.

Today, in the Territory we have five Conferences:

- Holy Family Conference Darwin
- Holy Spirit Conference Darwin
- Mary MacKillop Conference Darwin
- St Mary's Conference Darwin
- St Paul's Conference Darwin.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is also blessed with devoted volunteers. Our volunteers are attracted to our ethos and mission. They contribute significantly to our capacity to serve those most in need.

Our skilled and dedicated employees provide the robust operational support to deliver on our commitment to the community and those who fund our community service activities. Our staff strive above and beyond inspired by our vision.

Ultimately, it is the wholehearted commitment to our companions, those we assist, that galvanises each of us to respond to a plea for help. Our companions, with their challenges, strength and resilience, inspire us daily to do more. They are our blessing.



PATRICK'S STORY

A MEMBER'S JOURNEY

It was a conversation with his friend and neighbour, a Vincentian, that led Patrick to finally follow through with a long held desire to do more and help people who were less fortunate by putting his faith into practice and becoming a member of the St Mary's Conference.

Patrick had known about Vinnies for a long time, mainly the shops but he was also aware that the Society provided other assistance to people doing it tough. Upon joining a Conference he says he found everyone to be welcoming.

"I was also impressed with the spiritual underpinning at meetings; a prayer and meditation."

Patrick joined a more experienced Conference member to visit a single mother raising two young children. She had experienced domestic violence and was left with very few possessions. He recalls she was also taking care of two children who lived next door and she was seeking a hand up in the form of some appliances, furniture, children's clothing, and some emergency relief to tide the family over.

"This was the first time that I had knowingly had a significant conversation with a Territorian in distress and I felt enriched by the experience of being able to help."

Patrick says this mother wasn't bitter or disillusioned about her life, which seemed to be tough. She just wanted to be able to look after her kids properly.

He encourages others to join the Society, noting that you not only help others but you also help yourself live life to the fullest.





FOLLOWING OUR FAITH

Our Conferences walk in the path of Jesus and work tirelessly throughout the year, devoting their hearts and hands to easing the burdens of the poor and disadvantaged.

While the faith of our members brings love, strength and hope to our communities, the challenges are ever present. A society with less compassion for the poor has placed increasing demand on our existing resources and membership, but Conference members and volunteers remain steadfast in continuing their good works.

While new members have joined this year, some long standing members of the Society passed away but their contribution and compassionate legacy lives on in the work of the Society for the poor. They each lived the Society's motto that 'No act of Charity is foreign' so that all those who seek comfort and care will know the work of the Society.

The members of the Society whom we farewelled this year all contributed at different times to grow housing at Bakhita. They also served on the Territory Council and as leaders in their own Conferences. Some were able to work and serve in more regional and remote communities and at all times gave without recognition and shared

their faith and skills. Their leadership of the Society and positive encouragement of others to join the Society and take up advocacy for the poor leaves a lifelong legacy of compassion, respect, empathy, courage, advocacy and faith which the Territory and the Society will benefit from into the future. We pay our respects to:

- Vincent Victory
- Br Ted Merritt
- Michael Green
- John Byrne
- Michael (Mick) Fox
- Michael Bowden.

May they rest in peace. We are grateful for the many years of generous service provided by all members who are no longer with the Society.





DAVID AND ANNETTE'S STORY

A VOLUNTEERING JOURNEY

The work of Vinnies would not be possible without selfless individuals like David and Annette.

This husband and wife team have spent the past two years volunteering in the Coolalinga and Palmerston Centres of Charity.

David, who is now retired, says he enjoys giving back and being an active member of the community.

“My mother volunteered in New South Wales with the Society for over four decades so I guess that has kept Vinnies top of mind for me as a way to help others.”

He notes that volunteering is a great way to make friends, learn new skills, and keep your marbles!

To anyone thinking of volunteering David's advice is:

“Just do it.”

CONFERENCE REPORTS

HOLY FAMILY CONFERENCE

The Conference continued weekly collection and delivery of unsold bread to Bakhita, Ozanam House and Palmerston Emergency Relief.

The members were also involved in the distribution of over 100 Christmas hampers this year. One of the most satisfying moments for members and volunteers is seeing the look of joy on the face of a companion when receiving a Christmas hamper. The relief is evident when they see they have a gift for their children and something special to eat, and with that little bit more they can have a very special day.

The Conference also continued its support during the pandemic through phone calls to companions and the delivery of vouchers into letterboxes to make sure those in need were not further impacted by the pandemic.

HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE

With COVID-19 upon us we faced some challenges helping our companions like delivering goods at the gate and sometimes even dropping it off at the front door. We have been able to help a number of companions with furniture and household goods, with the help of our new member Giselle, who has sourced goods from Facebook and other platforms.

The funds from the Piety Stall helps Assist a Student and this year we funded four students. Our Festival Mass was held on September 16 where we welcomed two new members.

One of our goals is to increase membership. We lost two members with the death of Mike Green and John Byrne. Their passing left a void in all our hearts. May their souls rest in peace. They will both be missed by the Society and the many people they helped over the years. We were fortunate to have a long-time volunteer who has joined as a member this year to enable our good works to continue.



CONFERENCE STATISTICS

Members: 7

Associate Members: 1

Volunteers: 13

Number of visitations: 20

Warehouse and retail assistance: 3

Phone calls: 60

CONFERENCE STATISTICS

Members: 6

Associate Members: 1

Volunteers: 5

Number of visitations: 157

Companions assisted: 188

ST PAUL'S CONFERENCE

The Conference held meetings via teleconference from March to June due to COVID-19 and made phone calls to companions whilst the restrictions were in place. A Conference planning day was held to review activities and plan for membership growth and future good works. The Conference held another successful fundraising movie night featuring "Yesterday". It was also twinned with a new Conference in Indonesia, St Albertus de Trapani.

50 years since the Conference was founded (25 September 1969) was marked with members attending a Saturday Vigil Mass followed by dinner. The Conference also offered Mass for deceased members and companions in November, the month of holy souls. We chose November 8, the anniversary of Charles O'Neill's death.

The parish supported the Society's various appeals during the year.

Thanks also to Conference supporters: St Paul's Catholic Parish community, St Paul's Catholic Primary School community, Italian Ladies Group and Ftinutz H20.

MARY MACKILLOP CONFERENCE

The Conference has been named for the first saint of Australia, Mary MacKillop. Her story is one of determination in the face of opposition from the establishment Catholic Church of the time. What the Church didn't recognise was that Mary wanted to do the work of God with the poor in whatever way was possible. She opened schools and homes for young people. Her example of seeing hope and faith in the young is carried forward by this Conference.

Members of the Territory's Mary MacKillop Conference met in a social setting to encourage conversation. Our focus has been on building the spirituality of the Conference which goes hand-in-hand with service to others in a practical way. Activities discussed have been initiating visits to the hospital to give company to those who are in hospital and a long way from home or who don't have family in Darwin. In the first half of 2020 this was not possible due to restrictions on visitors.

Another initiative is to work with those members of the Society who are already visiting the prison to offer to younger inmates some company and a link with the life outside of the prison which they may like to continue after their release. This is still in progress for 2021.

Many of our members have musical interests and plans had begun for future visits to Katherine to link with St Joseph's Parish and HS to have some activities for the youth there. This may be an activity which can be linked with another Conference and so will build relationships outside of Darwin.

As this report is written the Conference is in recess whilst a President is elected, and the Conference is active again. Whilst this process takes place members of Mary MacKillop Conference will participate in Christmas hampers and support work in other Conferences.

ST MARY'S CONFERENCE

Local support of the Parish and the Society happened with the morning teas, the Piety Stall and Conference visitation to companions. In July, some members gathered clothes and toys to visit Daly River community. We were warmly welcomed by Fr Peter and Kellie the School Principal and the members of the community who came to Mass. We gave out goods along with members of the Knights of Malta and these were well received.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions our plans to visit Timor Leste were put on hold but we hope that we may do this in 2021.

We are thankful for the support of Bishop Charles, Fr Ched and the Conference members and their families. The work for the poor doesn't stop but it helps to ease the burden of loneliness, homelessness and sometimes hunger. The Conference continues to pray for the poor that they will be lifted up and know that Vinnies is with them.



FROM DESPAIR TO JOY: CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Around 450 hampers were delivered across the Top End and Alice Springs. Gift tag activity generated over 1,000 gifts supported by local schools, Vinnies shops and Conferences.

Members and volunteers worked together to sort through food and toy donations to pack the hampers and deliver to companions.

OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS



FAY GURR, PRESIDENT

My favourite place:
Parliament House, Darwin

“In Darwin there are many beautiful places to view the magnificent harbour. Its colour and grandeur have inspired me since first visiting in 2009. I was drawn to the unique building of the Parliament. Its vaulted ceilings, artistic use of Territory timbers and the peace of the gardens is inspiring. The decision to move to Darwin meant leaving what I knew and setting forth in uncharted waters. I spent time looking at the harbour reflecting on how I came to be here and what I would do. The answer came through prayer and reflection. This beautiful place where ideas are shared

and the future of the Territory is decided, gave me strength and hope and this has not changed or diminished but means more to me each day.”

Elected to the role of President in 2016, Fay brings a depth of experience from many years in the education sector culminating in 17 years as a Principal. Working within a Catholic environment developed Fay’s leadership skills while taking her on a spiritual journey of service to the poor. Fay has degrees to Masters level in Educational Leadership and Administration, and qualifications in Theology and Religious Education.



JOCELYN CULL, VICE PRESIDENT

My favourite place: East Point, Darwin

“I find East Point is both calming and majestic. The combination of land, sea and sky is compelling. Watching the weather from across the horizon is a constant reminder to me of change, and the hope and opportunity that it can bring.”

Jocelyn has been a member of the Society for three years, having moved to the Territory in 2011. Her background in law and commerce have led to senior roles in government agencies. This extensive experience has provided her with insights into the societal challenges our institutions face, inspiring Jocelyn to support the Society to move forward, and grow in membership and impact across the Territory.





JUSTIN DEZYLVA, SECRETARY

My favourite place: Cafe De La Plage, Darwin

"I find meaning sitting at this beachside cafe on a Saturday morning, watching people of all walks of life enjoying the sunshine and friendly birds. Here I reflect on the blessings in this life and witness the presence of God all around me."

Appointed to Council in 2018, Justin brings business skills and an understanding and compassion for all people drawn from an extensive career in the energy sector working and travelling across 25 countries. "As a new Dad, I would like to see a sustainable future for my son, and those around him, which is why I am passionate about assisting the energy sector to transition to a renewable energy driven economy."



SISTER LUCY KERT, SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

My favourite place: The garden

"I enjoy spending time in my community's garden. My Hungarian surname means 'garden', inspiring me to nurture a beautiful 'garden' for the Lord. I hope that through my ministry and presence people will deepen their meaning of life and blossom with hope, gratitude and joy."

Sister Lucy continues to inspire, guide and support the Council and the Society so that its good works may flourish.



EMIL JOHN, TREASURER

Emil's commitment to the St Vincent De Paul Society started in Catholic school in India with many of his extended family members of the Society and close interactions with Vincentian priests over the years.

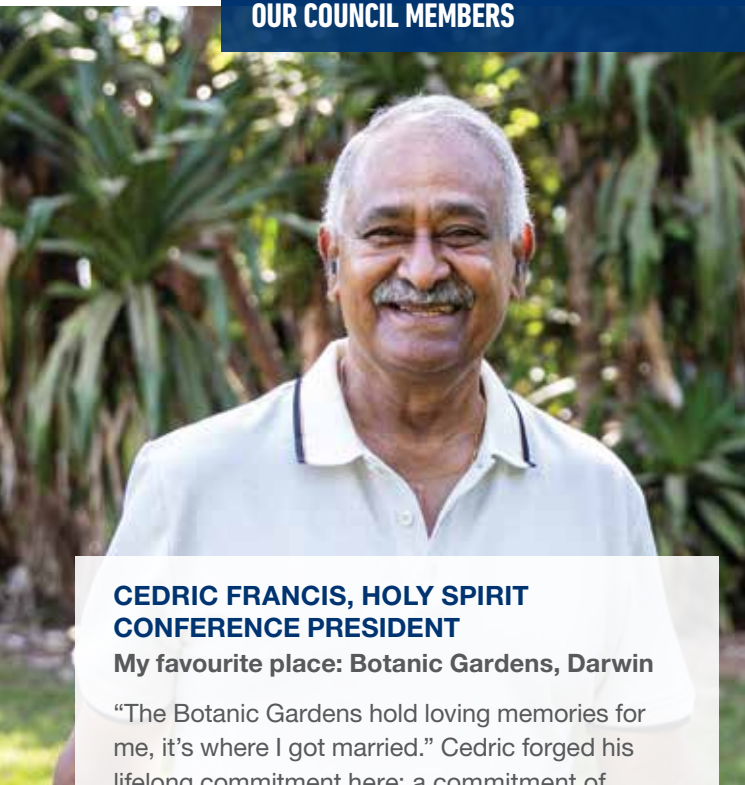
Emil was appointed to the Council as Treasurer in 2019. He holds an MBA from Liverpool UK and has been in the banking industry for over 10 years across SA and the NT.

He has lived in the Middle East, India and the UK and now, along with his wife and two children, he calls Australia home.

Emil loves spending time with his kids and is very proud of his multicultural heritage.



OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS



CEDRIC FRANCIS, HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

My favourite place: Botanic Gardens, Darwin

“The Botanic Gardens hold loving memories for me, it’s where I got married.” Cedric forged his lifelong commitment here; a commitment of respect, compassion and love.

“This place reminds me of a very special day in my life and of God’s commitment and compassionate love for us all. We see His hand in all our good works as we go about assisting those in need”. Cedric joined the Society on retirement in 2014. Appointed to Council in 2015, Cedric offers his experience drawn from a career in management, and his commitment to Christian love, to the work of the Council and the Society.



DAMIAN LEGG, ST PAUL'S CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

My favourite place: Central Cafe, Nightcliff

“I enjoy going to this nearby café. It’s a place where I relax and feel connection.” Damian’s commitment to the Society first began as a youth member.

Having served on the previous Territory Council as Vice President Centres of Charity, from 2013, Damian has continued as a member of the current Council from 2016. He draws experience from a long career in the Public Service.



GRAEME FINCH, ST MARY'S CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

My favourite place: I love the wild places in the Territory like the Red Lily Billabong in Kakadu and Cape Hotham with good fishing and views of the Vernon and Tiwi islands.

Wild places are good for the soul, the peace and quiet provides nourishment in the modern world and resets your priorities in life.

Hailing originally from South Africa, Graeme has seen poverty on four continents and recognises that the good works of the Society can make a real difference to the poor. With decades of experience in construction and development, Graeme has much to offer to support the Society in its good works to help the poor.



KAY FITZPATRICK, HOLY FAMILY CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

My favourite place: My house and garden

“My home, especially my garden, is where I like to go to relax, listen to the birds, and be surrounded by family.”

Kay has been a Darwin resident for the past 15 years after relocating with her family from country Victoria. “My four children and husband were spread over five different states, so we decided to move to the NT to be together and make the most of the opportunities and relaxed lifestyle in this beautiful place”.

Kay became a member of the Society in the late 1990s and is grateful to have met some dedicated members, whom she now calls friends and who are always willing to make a difference to the companions who come their way.



KATHRYN PETTERSEN, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

My favourite place: Anywhere in nature

“I simply love going out bush, swimming in water holes, watching the sun set, seeing the stars, and exploring the flora and fauna. It’s so peaceful, so refreshing.”

Kathryn’s first experience with the Society was many years ago, however she officially joined the Mary MacKillop Youth Conference in 2016 and was President for three years. In 2019, Kathryn re-joined the National Youth Team where she has represented the NT as Youth Representative. Kathryn is the Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator and is also a qualified High School Teacher. These skills, combined with her passion for social justice works within schools, has seen her develop the Mini Vinnies program across the Territory.

HELPING THE HOMELESS

Shelter, or a place to call home, is a fundamental human need, and yet so many in our community continue to experience homelessness or live with the constant anxiety of being at risk of homelessness.

The issues that lead to homelessness are complex. Relationship breakdown, loss of employment, drugs and alcohol, domestic violence, and complex mental and physical disability can all result in a moment of crisis and a lifetime of hardship. Everyday our people assist those disadvantaged to meet these challenges; connect with others and build confidence and hope for the future.

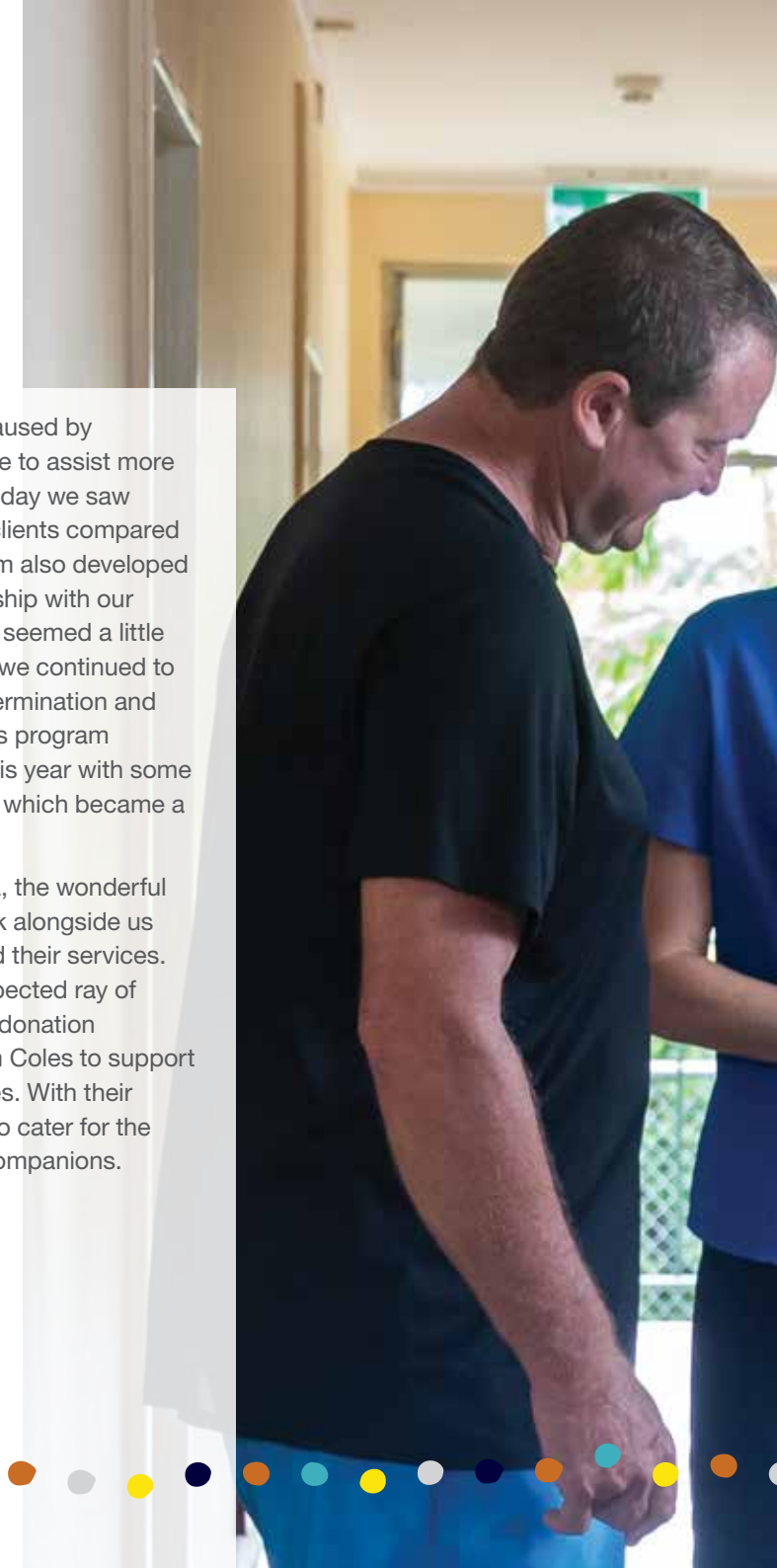
A PLACE OF DIGNITY

Well known locally, Ozanam House provides hope and dignity to those who are homeless or rough sleeping. Companions can enjoy a hot shower, a good meal, take a nap or have their laundry done. They also have access to support services to address their needs through case management, referrals to mental health, accommodation, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, financial counselling and similar support services.

Clinics such as Casuarina Community Health and Danila Dilba attend the centre weekly to assist companions on site. Above all, Ozanam House is a safe place and a compassionate community embracing all who visit; providing nourishment for body and soul. During COVID-19 restrictions, the service delivery model was altered to accommodate the necessary requirements to protect the health and safety of companions and employees. Sadly companions were not permitted on site so meals and beverages were offered as takeaway only but this worked very well with everyone adapting well to social distancing while waiting. Restrictions also prevented us from offering a nap time for a period. Laundry and shower facilities also had to be suspended, however Environmental Health requested we reinstate shower facilities with an altered process. Companions were permitted one at a time with a sanitising regime between uses. Gradually, as the government loosened restrictions, we were able to return bit by bit to ordinary services.

Despite the changes caused by COVID-19, we were able to assist more people. On an average day we saw between 100 and 150 clients compared to 70 last year. The team also developed an even closer relationship with our companions. Everyone seemed a little more appreciative and we continued to strive to foster self-determination and empowerment. The arts program continued to take off this year with some beautiful work created, which became a great source of pride.

Apart from Danila Dilba, the wonderful organisations who work alongside us were forced to suspend their services. But there was an unexpected ray of hope with a mammoth donation gratefully received from Coles to support indigenous communities. With their support we were able to cater for the increased number of companions.





TRANSITIONING FROM HOMELESSNESS

Since 1984, we have worked to assist vulnerable people transition from homelessness to permanent housing. With government funding, we assist to secure accommodation and provide the necessary supports and life skills to sustain a tenancy. The Bakhita Centre, a Society owned property in Darwin with 35 beds, provides transitional housing and case management for single men. In addition to accommodation, our case management team develop plans with tenants, providing linkages to appropriate services, training and engagement opportunities. All make a positive impact on tenant wellbeing.

Some tenants have trained and secured 'tickets' in Test and Tag, and Forklift Operation, and gained their Driver's licence and Heavy Rig licence. Chefs to Go are engaged in a weekly program, teaching tenants to cook affordable meals. Tenants are supported to attend medical appointments and encouraged to engage in social outings organised by our team.

WRAP AROUND SERVICES IN KATHERINE

The Society owned property, Ormonde House, has provided supported accommodation for over 40 years. Today it is one of three accommodation services and the only wrap around service in Katherine. Ormonde House assists single men with accommodation and case management to develop life skills and links to support services. Through communal living, tenants develop confidence that so many of us can take for granted in skills such as cooking, cleaning, communication and appropriate social behaviour. All are skills important to sustaining a tenancy. Our team on the ground are developing strong links with local agencies such as Anglicare, Catholic Care, The Hub and Venndale Transitional and After Care to deliver wrap around services.

COMMUNITY HOUSING

In Darwin, Park Lodge provides 20 tenancies for single men offering medium term or transitional housing. To be eligible for this accommodation tenants must be on the Territory Housing priority list. With individual bedrooms and communal living areas, the tenants gain experience in sustaining a tenancy while they work to secure permanent housing.

NEW PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

Under an innovative program, 'Same House Different Landlord,' St Vincent de Paul Society leases four Darwin properties from Territory Housing to support women and families who are homeless as a result of domestic violence. We provide tenancy support for the first six months, assisting the family to manage the home and learn household skills including budgeting, financial management, cooking and cleaning. Upon demonstrating the ability to maintain the tenancy, the house is provided to the family on a long-term basis and they manage the home without the support of our tenancy team. Once a property is handed over, St Vincent de Paul Society secures another property and the cycle begins again with another family.

SUPPORTING OUR REGIONS

This year the St Vincent de Paul Society was awarded the management of government owned housing in Katherine. The Bernhard Centre, a one and two-bedroom unit complex, provides 39 tenancies for singles, couples and families. We have a dedicated Centre Manager who has undertaken education programs with tenants, supporting them to understand their rights and responsibilities, and provided opportunities for engagement among families. Engagement with tenants and building local police support is helping to create a safer and more resilient community at the property. There is now a marked decrease in anti-social behaviour and the tenants are developing increasing respect and support for each other. Tenants feel safer and neighbouring businesses are reporting increased patronage as a result of the improvements. At the Bernhard Centre we have supported our tenants with greater knowledge of tenancy law and rights and as a result, tenants have felt more confident to seek out private rentals. Two families have successfully moved into the private rental market this year. A Community Hall onsite at the Bernhard Centre provides

a facility for tenant engagement where external groups such as Centrelink can provide talks for tenants on how to manage finance and other relevant topics.

NEW ACCOMMODATION

In line with the Strategic Plan we continued to focus on improving our service delivery this year.

The Society established housing for single women, which will enable five women who are in need to receive a helping hand.

Housing is a human right and having safe homes provides our companions with a sense of self and somewhere to belong. This is transformative and reinstates that sense of purpose many people take for granted and is crucial in overcoming the cycle of homelessness.





THE CEO SLEEPOUT GOES ONLINE

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout looked a little different in 2020 with the restrictions placed on in person events due to COVID-19. Not all was lost, if anything, so much was gained, when the Sleepout took to the web for an online live stream across the nation.

27 PARTICIPANTS
\$49,855 RAISED







RACHAEL'S STORY

A COMPANION'S JOURNEY

Life so far has been full of challenges for Rachael. After overcoming addiction and successfully exiting rehabilitation, she is ready to be reunited with her three children.

“I had just come out of rehab after a decade addicted to drugs and in relationships where I experienced domestic violence. When I received government housing all I had was a pillow, sheet, and a blanket, that’s it.”

Rachael’s children are currently in foster care and she is working towards reunification, which has been made possible thanks, in part, to Emergency Relief support from Vinnies.

“Razaul from Vinnies came around and arranged everything I needed. A queen size bed, table and chairs, fridge, and washing machine. They were amazing, they moved everything in. Because of that I get to have my kids. It was life changing for me.”

Knowing she has the support of Vinnies when she needs it is a source of comfort and helps Rachael feel comfortable that she can provide for her children.

ASSISTING THE AGEING

Our good works continued during 2019/2020 with aged and vulnerable Territorians supported through the government funding of the Commonwealth Home Support Program.

COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM (CHSP)

The CHSP provides funding for garden maintenance and transportation support services to assist frail, older people aged 65 years and over (50 years+ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) and who have functional limitations (including cognitive), to remain living independently at home and in their community.

The program's services are delivered on a short-term, episodic or ongoing basis, with a strong focus on activities that support independence and social connectedness whilst considering the individual's goals, preferences and choices. The Society offers support on both an ongoing and episodic basis.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

As the name suggests, the cutting of grass and general yard maintenance is the primary focus of this aspect of the CHSP. The majority of companions we work with require garden maintenance on a monthly basis during the dry season and fortnightly

during the wet season. Services include:

- Garden rubbish removal
- Lawn mowing
- Hedge trimming
- Weeding and general tidying.

The program is also able to offer occasional support for the cleaning of ceiling fans and high louvers as well as the removal or adjustment of potential hazards in the yard that may pose a risk to the safety of the companion receiving services.

General handyman services may also be provided as follows:

- Changing faulty light bulbs
- Ceiling fan and window cleaning
- Smoke alarm battery replacement
- Gutter cleaning.

The CHSP aimed to provide 7,048 hours of garden maintenance services to approximately 365 companions this financial year. This is delivered by two Society garden maintenance teams and one external contractor.

TRANSPORTATION

The CHSP is also funded to provide transportation to help people maintain their independence, attend medical or other

appointments, and remain socially connected with their family and friends.

Support for transportation is provided in the form of \$20 taxi vouchers, with the maximum being ten vouchers per week. This provides an opportunity for five trips to and from home weekly for each companion being supported through the program.

We provided an average of 75 taxi vouchers weekly to 20 companions in line with program's annual target of 4,200 vouchers.





DENNIS' STORY

A COMPANION'S JOURNEY

Keeping a garden at its best is a big job for anyone, but particularly for the more senior members of our community.

In early 2020, Dennis mentioned to his Occupational Therapist that he could use some help with gardening at his home. Within days, a team of two from the Society were on his doorstep ready to tackle the garden maintenance.

“Every three to four weeks they come and help, clearing palm fronds, tidying bushes, and cutting back plants growing from the neighbours’ yards. They do a great job and even take the rubbish with them!”

Dennis appreciates the extra help and can’t believe how excellent, helpful, and professional the assistance has been.

“Nothing is too much trouble for them and it’s great that I don’t have to spend so much time in the garden to keep it tidy.”



VINNIES, MORE THAN A STORE

Our Centres of Charity are a vibrant and visible presence in the Northern Territory with ten centres and a warehouse across Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

For a companion our centres can be a place to meet a need, whether for clothing, connection, household items, or on a more serious note, emergency relief. For our community, they are often a treasure trove of amazing bargains, vintage wear, a special costume for book week or sometimes a designer label – you just never know what you may find in a Vinnies centre. To our operations they underpin our capacity to deliver services, with the annual turnover exceeding \$2 million for the first time.

In the Northern Territory our centres provide a footprint across vast distances and many communities. Keeping our centres and warehouse open would simply not be possible

without a team of passionate and committed volunteers and members. The Fannie Bay and Coolalinga centres are managed entirely by volunteers.

CONSOLIDATING OUR FOOTPRINT

The focus of this year was one of consolidation rather than growth into new areas. The Tennant Creek store was fitted out with solar panels to alleviate the \$12,000+ per annum in power bills. This became effective January 2020 with the first power bill dropping from \$1,320 (Jan 2019) to \$150 (Jan 2020) and similar drops in the following months. This is in line with the 24 month payback back figure of the install costs.

The warehouse has trialed 'open' weekend days. This proved to be very successful with nearly \$20,000 raised over two weekends prior to the end of the financial year.

A BETTER EXPERIENCE

The relocation of the Knuckey Street store to The GPO Building in Cavanagh Street, Darwin took six months longer than originally planned. This was due to lease changes and the timeframes for getting these changes approved by all parties. As the latest Centre of Charity for the Society, there were new presentation concepts trialled with success. It has a look that sits well in the CBD environment, catering to young customers looking for party clothes and a large variety of homewares for those who have just moved to Darwin.

WORKING TOGETHER

Behind the scenes we have collaborated to respond to the different needs of each community, identifying centres that have greater demand for a particular type of stock and distributing our stock accordingly. For example, in our

Darwin centre we have a lot of tourists and young travellers and party clothes appear to be in high demand, in Coolalinga there is a higher demand for general and practical working clothes such as long-sleeved shirts and work boots. In Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine where the weather can sometimes be a little cooler, we swap out winter clothing. The increased collaboration is enabled by monthly managers' meetings that are possible due to our very capable and dependable volunteers.

HELPING COMMUNITIES

Through the Community Benefit Fund grant scheme we were allocated a mini van for Alice Springs, which will help facilitate access to remote, surrounding communities. This will enable those who cannot get into town to access affordable items. As well as

improving turnover, this service will also benefit the community.

COPING WITH COVID-19

The decision to remain open during the initial stages of the pandemic proved wise as others closed their retail outlets. Not only were figures higher than for the same period last year, but they remained strong indicating that our customer base increased. The overall turnover for the stores from March to June 2020 increased 8.3% against the same period last financial year.

The Coolalinga store was the only store to close during the period due to a lack of volunteers. Many of our valued volunteers were in the 'at risk' category so understandably chose to reduce their in-person contact. The cessation of government facilitated work programs during the pandemic also prevented many volunteers from attending various sites. Some of

these programs were the Department of Corrections ban on external work for prisoners, which affected Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Community corrections and work for the dole programs were also put on hold. The most affected area was the warehouse. This reduction in workforce also put a significant burden on the retail team as there was also a drop in volunteers but they are to be commended for pulling together and assisting each other.

NEW WAYS OF WORKING

Towards the end of 2019, some new initiatives were implemented related to pricing and stock turnover. This resulted in an increase in the average spend per transaction from \$11.87 to \$13.20.

AN EMPLOYEE'S JOURNEY

BIANCA'S STORY

Bianca is the Warehouse Manager after holding other roles for the past 6 years with Vinnies. She describes this role as the best job in the world noting the quote about loving your job means never having to work a day of your life.

"I have found my forever job".

Part of what Bianca enjoys about her work is meeting new volunteers on a regular basis and says this brings her joy.

She deeply appreciates her volunteers as well as the process of getting to know them, building their confidence, and training them. Bianca finds it very rewarding to watch people grow and witnessing people connecting with others and becoming friends.

"Atmosphere is everything, I tell people I have one rule, and that's to 'enjoy your cup of tea.' Which means have fun, make friends, sing and dance in the shops and above all laugh."

Bianca loves travelling and this job gives her that opportunity. She enjoys travelling to other centres for deliveries or other jobs.

"I have been around to witness many significant changes over the years within the Society and we have grown as a team on many levels, that too is very rewarding."

Bianca had been on a very different career path to become a Territory police officer when two months prior to graduation she sustained a back injury that prevented her from becoming a Constable.

In 2015, after having her second child, she saw the Society advertise for a Manager in their Malak shop. She applied and was successful. Since then she has not looked back, celebrating six years of service in 2020. She had to take a year off during her service to undertake chemotherapy, have a mastectomy and undergo radiation she now has the all clear now and describes life as amazing.

"I look forward to many more years of service."



MARY-JANE'S STORY

Mary-Jane is the Centre Coordinator of Ormonde House and the Bernard Street units. It is a role she has held for almost a year and it has been a great learning experience getting to know the companions these centres support.

With a background in the humanities, Mary-Jane relocated 8 years ago to Darwin from Melbourne to fulfil her dream of working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. What she found upon arriving was a sense of belonging to a beautiful land, landscape, and its peoples.

“Having worked with women for much of my career this role has certainly changed the way I work. I’ve had to learn new ways of working and supporting male residents. But most importantly they have taught me so much in such a short time, and for that I am forever grateful.”

Mary-Jane can play the Djemba and uses that skill to facilitate drumming-circles at the hostel. It creates opportunities for residents to express themselves in a safe and therapeutic space as a group.

Since becoming Centre Coordinator, Mary-Jane has identified a service gap for men experiencing domestic and family violence. She has worked in this space for many years but it is the first time she has supported males experiencing domestic violence.

“It has taught me a lot in the way we approach and work with males in their experiences. I am grateful to have this opportunity in what it has also taught me. There is a lot of work to be done in this area and I am fortunate to be part of raising awareness.”

Mary-Jane says she feels blessed to be a part of someone's life journey, whether it be through their recovery or reconnecting with



family. She says it is heartwarming to see the people you work with grow and move towards their life goals.

In describing her new home of Katherine, Mary-Jane explains it is a unique blend of vast cultures.

“Katherine is certainly a spiritual place to live and has given me that sense of home and that lasting feeling of belonging. It is that natural

beauty and its strong, proud people that attracts me.”





OUR PEOPLE

Our people are a gift of grace. The care and service they provide to the poor in our community is both humbling and inspiring.

Principally a volunteer organisation, the Society is uniquely placed to deeply understand and advocate for the needs of the marginalised, while delivering on the ground support that makes a difference. We could not deliver our good works and achieve outcomes without our valued members, volunteers and employees.

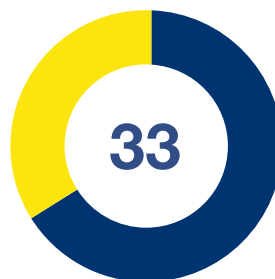
OUR MEMBERS

Ask a member why they give of their time and their first response will likely be “it is the work of Jesus Christ and that is what we are here to do”. We have 52 members operating through five Conferences.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

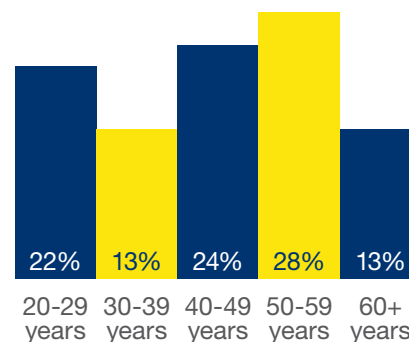
The important work of volunteers means that the Society can use its resources directly to serve the poor. In Australia, St Vincent de Paul Society has the largest volunteer base of any charity. Nationally there are 60,000 volunteers performing the work which, if paid, would mean that the Society couldn't reach those in need.


NUMBER OF STAFF



Female – 67%
Male – 33%

STAFF AGE RANGE





In the Northern Territory we have increased our numbers of volunteers to approximately 300 people who give their time when they can to support the poor. We have a more diverse volunteer base than other states. We have younger men and women who give their time at Ozanam House serving meals; men and women working in the warehouse so we have stock to keep the stores looking great; new arrivals to Darwin from overseas including university students giving their time and making new friends with our other volunteers.

As part of the internship program of Charles Darwin University there have been more than a dozen students, often post-graduates, who can have up to 400 hours of volunteer work to complete. This contribution can be part of the office team working on projects that help our organisation or placed in Ozanam House as students complete degrees in Community Support or Social Work. They bring their new ideas and theoretical knowledge and we give them 'real life' experience.

We have made more of an effort to encourage volunteering with us in the reporting year and we are seeing the benefit.

OUR EMPLOYEES

Our employees provide operational support to ensure the Society functions viably and sustainably as we move forward with the

implementation of the Business Plan. Our small and capable team worked diligently to deliver improvements across all areas of activity. Uniforms were introduced during the year to raise professionalism and provide a consistent and visible presence of the Society in our communities.

During the year, staff in the Secretariat grew to include an Operations Manager who oversees the programs linked with government funding, which is vital to our ongoing work. There was more support for administration with an Executive Administration role and a re-alignment of roles so that the work of fundraising and marketing could be supported. A designated staff member ensured the members and volunteers had a point of contact and someone to keep communication flowing to these two important groups.

STRENGTHENED OPERATIONS

Our strengths are in Housing and Emergency Relief, which continued to grow and flourish this year. The facilities of Ozanam House were upgraded with new equipment in the kitchen, improved shower and laundry facilities, and the buildings were painted with new signage.

In housing, the team worked to provide accommodation for women at the Bakhita site in Coconut Grove. This has been a long

held expectation of the Council as the need for safe and affordable housing is desperately needed for women who are in the vulnerable position of being homeless. The former Secretariat Building was converted to house 5 residents and another building was modified to accommodate women. It is the first time the Society has been in a position, with some Northern Territory Government funding, to provide this much needed resource.

Our shops all had a face-lift with painting, signage and floor coverings being added. This has lifted our look to be comparable to a 'mainstream' retail outlet. These physical changes have meant that our staff are also feeling proud of the achievements and we are helping more people.

STRENGTHENING OUR PEOPLE

We continue our commitment to develop and grow our people, providing more opportunities to connect, share knowledge and leverage experience. With the vast distances between our centres this is challenging, however, the provision of training has been appreciated by all attendees.

In 2020, Sharepoint was introduced for the storage of all files in a central and easily accessible form. All staff have been working with this system and in the coming year our files and records will be archived for

reference and staff will be able to rely on a record system that supports their work.

KEEPING SAFE

We have commenced a review of our policies this year and are in the process of developing an online induction program for all members, volunteers and staff. This robust and trackable process will ensure all are better informed, feel safer and are more supported in the workplace.

Ongoing training in WH&S practices continues with all staff. This is a high priority of the Society to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers and members. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the work of the Society continued with our stores open and we provided our companions in housing and Ozanam House with high quality service, reassurance that we would keep them safe and that Vinnies would be a helping hand – always. Our staff adopted the highest level of hygiene and safety, which continues to be practised to keep everyone healthy and safe.

OUR GOVERNANCE

The full name of the Northern Territory Society is “St Vincent de Paul Society (NT) Inc”. Our Australian Business Number (ABN) is 11 300 386 527 and we are incorporated under the NT Associations Act 2015. The Society is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and holds the appropriate Deductible Gift Recipient endorsement.

As a Public Benevolent Institution, we are endorsed to access the following charity tax concessions:

- Income tax exemption from 1 July 2000 under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997
- GST Concessions from 1 July 2005 under Division 176 of A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999
- FBT Exemption from 1 July 2005 under section 123C of the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986.

Our insurance is held through Catholic Church Insurance.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The Society has three categories of membership, Conference members, Associate members and volunteer members. There are established procedures for registration as a member, and any person registered as a Conference or

Associate member has voting rights in relation to the Society.

OUR CONFERENCES

Our five Territory Conferences report bi-monthly to the Territory Council and meet on a regular basis. All bank accounts relating to the Conferences are managed by their respective Treasurer and report to Council. Conference Presidents are elected for a term not exceeding four years, and the President appoints all other office bearers in their Conference. All Conference member and volunteer positions are unpaid.

THE TERRITORY COUNCIL

The Council is ultimately responsible for the oversight and review of the management, administration, and overall governance of the Society in the Northern Territory. Council responsibilities include:

- Meeting the Society’s objectives and reporting against the Strategic Plan
- Protecting members’ interests
- Upholding the values of the St Vincent de Paul Society and adhering to high moral standards and ethical behaviour
- Authorising policies and overseeing the strategic direction of the Society
- Establishing management goals and monitoring their achievement

- Approving major capital expenditure, major financial commitments and the annual budget
- Approving the annual report and financial statements
- Ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- Monitoring the risk management strategy
- Providing a linkage between subsidiary Councils and Conferences to the National Council.

The composition of the Territory Council is determined using the following principles:

- The President of each Conference is a member of the Territory Council
- The Territory President is elected by the Territory Council for a period not exceeding four years
- The Territory President has the right to appoint Society Conference members to the Council including Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, a Youth Representative, and a Spiritual Advisor.

The Territory Council meets at least once every quarter and is currently composed of ten members and a non-voting ex-officio member, being the Spiritual Advisor. The Territory Council President is the Society’s representative on the National Council of

the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia. The Territory Council delegates management of the Society's resources to the Executive team under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, to deliver the strategic direction and goals determined by Council. A financial audit is conducted by an independent auditor chosen through a select tender process.

INVESTING IN OUR COUNCIL

During the reporting period, our President, Fay Gurr, completed training with the Australian Institute of Company Directors. The CEO attended an AICD Governance for NFP Organisations and the Council members participated in cultural awareness training and a membership development workshop.

CHANGING FACES

Kathryn Pettersen accepted the Youth Representative role and Kay Fitzpatrick joined as President of Holy Family Conference. Justina Fernandez took the role of President of Mary MacKillop Youth Conference and John Tobin joined the Finance Committee.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND OCHRE CARD

The Society is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children. All staff, volunteers, and members of the Society complete a current "Working with Children" check through SafeNT.

WORK, HEALTH AND SAFETY VISION

The Society is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of its employees, volunteers, and the community by increasing awareness of workplace safety; providing a safe place and safe systems of work and eliminating or reducing hazards that could result in injury or ill health.

NOTIFIABLE INCIDENTS

There were no notifiable incidents to NT WorkSafe during the 2019-20 financial year.

Council Member	Meetings entitled to attend	Meetings attended
Fay Gurr	9	9
Jocelyn Cull	9	6
Justin Dezylva	9	9
Justina Fernandez	9	6
Graeme Finch	4	2
Kay Fitzpatrick	9	7
Cedric Francis	9	8
Emil John	9	7
Sr Lucy Kert	4	7
Damian Legg	2	9
Kathryn Pettersen	9	8

Other committees

Finance Committee	Reviews monthly financial reports, budget and end of year statements. Reviews policies and procedures relating to finance. Provides advice on financial implications of any significant decisions or investments. Issues are reported to the Territory Council.
Membership Committee	Supports implementation of 2019-2022 Strategic plan. The committee developed an operational plan and implemented it during 2020.
Governance Committee	Supports the Council in review of policy and recommends to Council training opportunities to improve knowledge as well as understanding of governance.



TREASURER'S REPORT

EMIL JOHN

The financial year ending 2020 was very tumultuous period for the Society, both from a financial and operational perspective.

Macroeconomic trends affecting Darwin and the Territory as well as the impact of the pandemic in the later half of the year lends us a different optic to view the past year compared to the previous years.

The Society has finished the year declaring a net deficit of \$227,321 compared to a surplus of \$229,478 for the previous financial year. A more robust approach to managing surpluses from government funded programs to avoid future clawbacks for underspend as well as provisioning for repayment of some newly identified commitments has resulted in the Society having to declare a deficit for this year.

While we have seen a substantial increase in expenses last year, revenue from both our community services and retail operations has both increased year on year especially with retailers in general facing very inhospitable economic conditions for a major portion of the year.

However a comprehensive review of spending policies and financial metrics as well as a streamlining of operational costs by an external

consultant was recently completed and identified and yielded opportunities to achieve a much stronger surplus position for next year.

The total equity position of the Society currently stands at \$17.54 million compared to \$13.38 million for the prior year. This is primarily due to an accounting change (AASB1058) which means that capital grants received in prior years where asset works have been completed, have now been reclassified as prior period revenue and are reported in Accumulated Funds.

The last year yielded us, as the Society, with an opportunity to review and strengthen policies, procedures and controls to ensure we move into the future a more resilient, prepared and robust organisation.

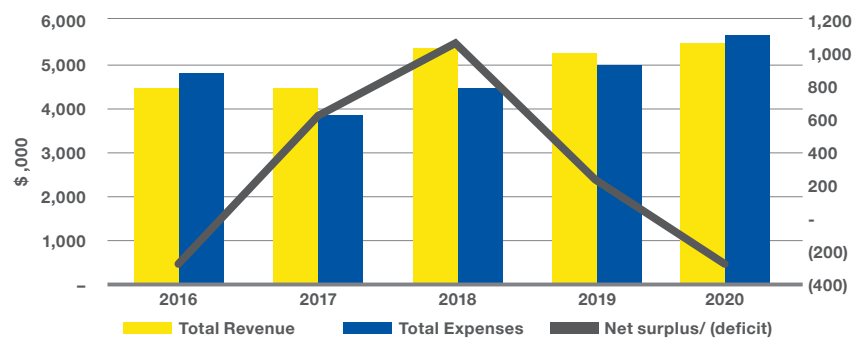


Treasurer

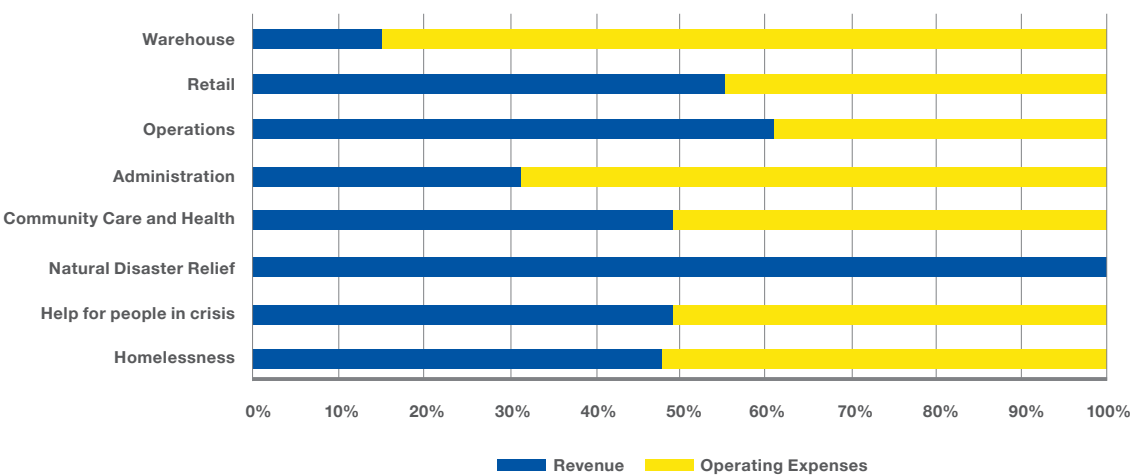
St Vincent de Paul Society
Northern Territory



Performance Trend



Revenue vs Expenses



SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020			2019		
	\$			\$		
	Revenue	Operating Expenses	Net surplus / (deficit)	Revenue	Operating Expenses	Net surplus / (deficit)
Community Services						
Homelessness	2,584,495	2,825,564	(241,069)	2,284,926	1,732,095	552,831
Help for People in Crisis	410,539	422,925	(12,386)	58,533	407,434	(348,901)
Natural Disaster Relief	700	-	700	-	-	-
Migrants, Refugees & Overseas	-	2,600	(2,600)	1,120	5,830	(4,710)
Youth	-	-	-	-	1,035	(1,035)
Community Care & Health	966,645	1,000,698	(34,053)	706,542	684,974	21,568
	3,962,379	4,251,787	(289,408)	3,051,121	2,831,368	219,753
Supporting Services						
Administration	101,872	221,542	(119,670)	6,082	12,192	(6,110)
Operations	310,593	197,504	113,089	266,126	402,860	(136,734)
Retail	2,004,879	1,617,355	387,524	1,886,277	1,429,765	456,512
Warehouse	67,020	385,876	(318,856)	44,935	348,878	(303,943)
	2,484,364	2,422,277	62,087	2,203,420	2,193,695	9,725
	6,446,743	6,674,064	(227,321)	5,254,541	5,025,063	229,478
Total Surplus			(227,321)			229,478

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Total Surplus brought forward	(227,321)	229,478
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(227,321)	229,478

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,505,916	3,564,375
Trade and other receivables	82,511	16,828
Inventories	-	-
Other assets	206	15,810
Total current assets	2,588,633	3,597,013
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	17,481,658	17,934,684
Right of Use Asset	518,610	-
Total non-current assets	18,000,268	17,934,684
Total assets	20,588,901	21,531,697
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	276,436	329,821
Borrowings	192,915	181,310
Provisions	184,861	163,898
Grants in Advance	413,882	2,163,935
Lease Liabilities	103,369	-
Total current liabilities	1,171,463	2,838,964
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	1,376,148	1,568,038
Provisions	73,718	62,002
Grants in advance	-	3,679,607
Lease Liabilities	422,299	-
Total non-current liabilities	1,872,165	5,309,647
Total liabilities	3,043,628	8,148,611
Net assets/(liabilities)	17,545,273	13,383,086
Equity		
Reserves	3,307,508	3,307,508
Accumulated funds	14,237,765	10,075,578
Total equity	17,545,273	13,383,086

Detailed financial statements with accompanying notes are available from our website.

HOW YOU HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

OUR LOYAL DONORS

We are indebted to the generous financial assistance provided by our loyal donors. This support assists the many activities undertaken by the Society. Donations can be directed to a specific special work or general works.

GIFTS OR BEQUESTS IN WILLS

We are grateful to the gifts bequeathed to our Society. Such legacies live on through the assistance provided.

DONATIONS OF GOODS

Our Centres of Charity, or Vinnies centres, revenue to support the poor and disadvantaged. We thank all the individuals and organisations that have donated their excess goods throughout the year.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Individuals in the workplace, or a group of employees, can donate a regular amount from their salary each pay period. This donation is deducted from employee salaries by their payroll department and forwarded to the Society.

OUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

As a membership led organisation, members and volunteers are our lifeblood. We thank those who have contributed their time and talents to the Society over the last year.

OUR CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

We thank those organisations that collaborated with our Conferences and the Society during the year, whether through volunteering, financial assistance or donations in kind.

THANK YOU TO OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS

For the care of the poor, the service of others and the dedication to the poor, the Society says a heartfelt thank you to:

- Members who join the Society to give to the poor in the service of Jesus Christ. They work with families finding furniture and food for them when they have none. The members work on committees and the Council giving hundreds of hours and taking on the responsibility of governance so that we can continue to grow
- Volunteers who see the need and put their energy into helping others. The volunteers bring joy and happiness to those they serve and we would not be able to function without this generosity
- Volunteer Photographer Michael Collins who has given his expertise and time, so our photos look wonderful
- Donors and those who give to our Christmas Appeal without your generous spirit giving without expecting anything but to see the good works for the poor continue.

PARISHES

We acknowledge the support of Parishes and the Catholic Diocese of Darwin, Bishop Charles Gauci Emeritus, Bishop Eugene Hurley and our Spiritual Advisor, Sister Lucy Kert.

- Christian Brothers
- Holy Family
- Holy Spirit
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
- Our Lady Help of Christians
- St Francis of Assisi
- St Joseph's
- St Mary's Star of the Sea
- St Paul's
- St Peter's.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

- Department of Jobs and Small Business
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Health.

TERRITORY GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

- Department of Housing and Community Development.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

- Above Capricorn Technologies
- Catholic Church Insurance
- Kevin King Pty Ltd
- McArthur Insurance
- Randazzo Properties.

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

- Asian United
- Barkley Work Camp
- Charles Darwin University
- Coles
- Darwin Caravan and Camping Show
- Defence Force
- Greyhound
- Share the Dignity
- Ward Keller.

SCHOOL SUPPORTERS

- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Alice Springs
- St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School
- Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School
- St Paul's Catholic Primary School
- Holy Spirit Primary School

- O'Loughlin College
- Mary MacKillop College
- St John's College
- Stuart Park Primary School.

For all of the kindness, care, love and generosity the Society is given, we offer our thanks.

OUR STORY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Vincent de Paul
born in France

1581

1833

St Vincent de Paul Society
founded by Frederic Ozanam
in Paris



First Australian
Conference
founded
in Victoria

1854

First Conference
founded in
Northern
Territory, St Mary
Star of the Sea
Darwin

1949

Charity Centre
opens at
Stuart Park

1967

First regional
centre
established,
Alice Springs

1968



Ozanam House
day centre
established
in Darwin

1974

Second
regional centre
established,
Tennant Creek

1975



Third regional
centre
established,
Katherine

1983



Ted Collins Village. Housing for families established in Darwin.



New office established in Casuarina. Centre opens in Winnellie.

1984	1987	1854	2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
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Vinnies opens in Palmerston

Charity Centre opens in Coolalinga and Fannie Bay

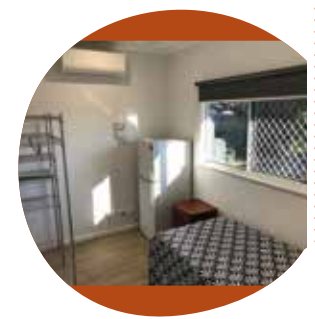
Bakhita Centre established in Darwin. Housing for single men

Ormonde House. First regional housing established in Katherine

Centre opens in Darwin

Centre opens in Casuarina

Additional housing opens at Bakhita Centre to accommodate women who are at risk





St Vincent de Paul Society
(NT) Inc. *good works*

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Casuarina Northern Territory 0810

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Responsibility for this document rests with the St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory. ABN: 11 300 386 527 Auditor: BDO Audit Pty Ltd

St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory respects the privacy and dignity of all people. For more information on our Privacy Policy please refer to our website.