

Schools Newsletter

Term 2 2024
Canberra / Goulburn



2024 Winter Appeal

Page 2

Mini Vinnies Event

Page 3

Referrals for Young Carers

Page 4

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



2024 Winter Appeal

This year, we are focusing on the issue of the working homeless. The lack of affordable housing and increased demand for rental properties in Australia means that even those working can't afford a roof over their heads. As a result, more and more Australians are being forced into homelessness – 'the working homeless'.

The percentage of affordable rentals for a person on minimum wage has dropped to below 1% for the first time in Australia. Additionally, the Australian Bureau found that of the 122,494 Australians experiencing homelessness in 2021, 36% were in the labour force with 12% working full time and 12% working part time. Not only is this problematic in itself, but people who are experiencing homelessness are also much more likely to be exposed to violence and victimisation, eventually fall into long-term unemployment and develop a chronic illness.

Meeting basic needs such as food, water and a place to sleep can be the most important daily priority for people experiencing homelessness.

Your school's support of the Vinnies Winter Appeal will allow our specialist homelessness services, Members and Volunteers on the frontline, to support people who are already, or at risk of experiencing homelessness, by providing access to practical and emotional supports.



Mini Vinnies Event

In Term 2 we will be having another Mini Vinnies Event for primary school students who are Mini Vinnies leaders for their school. We are aware that there were many schools that were unable to participate in Term 1 – so we will be running the same event again.

The theme is Harmony. This will be a good opportunity for students to learn, connect with other schools and discover what others are doing to give a Hand Up to people in the community.

Your school can bring up to 5 students. We recommend upper primary students.

We ask that at least one teacher per-school is present. We have scheduled this as an after-school event as we know that sourcing relief teachers or other staff to cover classes can be difficult.

Date: Friday 17 May 2024

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

If you would like to attend, we ask that you register your attendance by emailing schools.cg@vinnies.org.au by Wednesday 8 May 2024.



Referrals for Young Carers

We provide services for young carers in the Canberra region, through our St Nick's program. Young carers are young people that care for a family member who may be affected by disability or illness (including terminal illnesses); as such they may have duties that are typically expected of adults, such as cooking, laundry, providing manual aid, parenting siblings and more.

The St Nicks program provides respite through monthly weekend activities and school holiday activities. This program allows young carers to experience childhood and connect with others in a similar situation.

Referral Criteria:

Age: 9-17

Canberra resident (or willingness to travel to Canberra to attend activities or camps)

Must have caring responsibilities that impacts their ability to engage in the community

If you would like to refer a young person please send an email to:
youth.cg@vinnies.org.au



Contact

To make a booking or for any enquiries please contact:

schools.cg@vinnies.org.au

If you have any enquiries relating to student volunteering opportunities please contact Travis Ngatuere:

Travis.Ngatuere@vinnies.org.au

For any teacher or adult related volunteer enquiries please contact:

volunteer.cg@vinnies.org.au

For more resources visit our website:

<https://www.vinnies.org.au/act-surrounds/get-involved/schools-engagement-act-surrounds/teacher-resources>



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.

