



St Vincent de Paul Society  
SA  
*good works*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The St Vincent de Paul Society has its own unique language conventions to describe some aspects of how we operate and how we assist.

**Conference** - this term refers to a local group or chapter that operates within a specific geographical area. Conferences are made up of volunteers (known as members) who come together to carry out the mission of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

**Companion** - people who are assisted by the St Vincent de Paul Society are known as companions. This term was chosen to reflect the equal relationship between the person/service offering assistance and the person in receipt of assistance. Staff, volunteers and members walk 'alongside' companions on their journey.

**Member** - individuals who engage in activities such as assistance visits to determine needs, distribute material aid (such as food, clothing, or household items), offer financial assistance, and provide emotional support. The goal is to address the immediate needs of individuals and families and work towards longer-term solutions to alleviate poverty and disadvantage. Typically, members live their Catholic faith in action through the spirit of Christian charity, although non-Catholics are also welcome to become members if they are passionate about helping those in need in their local community.

# WHO WE ARE

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in Paris in 1833 by a 20-year old student named Frederic Ozanam.

The Society was established by like-minded individuals who wished to put their faith into action to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged people. In South Australia, the Society was first established in 1884. Since then, it has grown to comprise over 2,500 dedicated members and volunteers who assist more than 100,000 South Australians each year by providing a helping hand through food assistance, material aid, budget advice, shelter, advocacy, friendship, and support.

## Our Mission

The St Vincent de Paul 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 together to shape a more just and compassionate society.

## Our Vision

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering a 'hand up' to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

# OUR VALUES



### Commitment

Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values.



### Compassion

Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgment



### 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.

# WHAT WE DO

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a volunteer-based organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical support, advocacy and friendship to the most vulnerable within our community. Supported by dedicated staff, members and volunteers seek to alleviate the immediate requirements of people in need and also identify the causes that lead to spiritual, financial and social hardship; providing a voice for those experiencing disadvantage.

## **VINNIES ASSISTANCE VISITS**

We are the only charity to run a home visit program in South Australia, through which volunteers provide compassionate support and material assistance, including food, clothing, household goods, access to qualified Vinnies financial counsellors, and emergency funds. This work is carried out by Society members who work together in groups known as Conferences.

## **CRISIS ACCOMMODATION SERVICES**

The 20 room Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre and 40 bed Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre provide emergency accommodation, including for children and pets at the women's centre. These services include meals, laundry, access to other Vinnies services, government and agency services, and more.

## **FRED'S VAN MEAL SERVICES**

Vinnies Fred's Van meal services operate from 10 sites across South Australia, providing hot, nutritious meals together with social support. Eight of these operate indoors, providing greater opportunities for guests to connect with each other. Blankets and scarves or beanies are given out in winter and food is often provided to take away. On average, more than 40,000 meals are served each year in South Australia.

## **REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER SERVICE**

This service provides a range of material assistance and advocacy services for refugees and asylum seekers who are struggling to make ends meet, many of whom receive no government support. In addition, support to participate more fully in community life is available through English speaking lessons and employment programs.

## **VINNIES OPEN DOOR PROGRAM**

Provides a wrap-around service for people at serious risk of homelessness, with a dedicated liaison officer working with individuals to provide housing support and health/welfare referrals.

## **DISASTER RELIEF**

We are the South Australian Government's preferred partner in the event of a major disaster, supporting communities impacted by disasters by managing donated goods and, in some cases, by raising funds or distributing funding on behalf of the Government.

## **VINNIES YOUTH**

Vinnies Youth comprises young people aged between 16-35 who share their talents and skills volunteering in services and programs across South Australia, and advocating for relevant responses to poverty and disadvantage.

## **VINNIES SHOPS**

Vinnies is one of the largest recycling organisations in Australia and is primarily staffed by volunteers. Sales from the 34 Vinnies shops across metropolitan and regional South Australia fund our services and are a valuable resource for people on low incomes, providing quality clothing, household goods and furniture, often free of charge.

## **OVERSEAS PARTNERSHIPS**

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia partners with our neighbouring Societies in the Asia-Pacific region. Underpinning our partnership programs is a belief that people are at peace with themselves and their neighbours when they have the hope and faith that through their own efforts, they can live and grow in dignity.



# STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – BRADLEY HOCKING

2022/23 can be best characterised as 'building for the future'. In an environment which is constantly changing and throwing up new challenges and increased demand for assistance, it is crucial that The Society and its people are equipped to respond accordingly.

To this end, we started the year by updating our Strategic Plan, which was preceded by a reflective process known as 'See-Choose-Act'.

The 'See-Choose-Act' process involved us seeing today's reality through encounters with each other and with the people we assist - who we call companions, as we walk alongside them - to make choices about transformative action that will reduce injustices in our community. Those choices then lead to actions that aim to improve the lives of the most marginalised and disempowered in our community.

Our updated Strategic Plan therefore places renewed emphasis on examining what is at the root of poverty and disadvantage – both materially and spiritually – and seeking to take action to address these underlying causes.

To do this, we have drawn on the expertise of our large (mostly volunteer) workforce, as well as working with our colleagues across the sector and with Government to leverage each other's strengths. Particular topics of interest that we have focused on this past year include refugee and asylum seeker support and the provision of low-cost housing.

Both of these areas are gaining momentum thanks to the work of our Advocacy groups.

To highlight some of the critical issues that are entering our realm, we held two public forums: one on how people exiting the prison system can be supported in the community upon release so that they don't become another homeless statistic or return to prison. A second forum was held regarding how poverty affects young people, with some startling figures suggesting this is an area that requires a huge amount of investment. These forums were led by our Youth and Community Engagement team, with valuable input from the newly re-established Vinnies Youth Conference.

While we continue to advocate on important issues, the demand for services continues to climb at a really concerning rate. In some areas across the state, we are witnessing an increase in demand of up to 40%, with a driving factor in that increase being the amount of people who are contacting Vinnies for the first time. While we know there will likely always be a cohort of people who are vulnerable and who will need our help, the rise of people often referred to as the 'working poor' is significant. This group comprises individuals and families who are employed but who simply cannot make ends meet due to various cost-of-living pressures such as groceries, petrol, rent and mortgage payments, utility bills, insurance and so on.

With this growth in demand, it is more important than ever that we shore up our financial position

to ensure we can help as many people as possible. We are most grateful for the support we are shown by financial donors, corporate partners, schools, and community groups, plus our loyal Vinnies shoppers and material donors who put their faith in us to help those who need it most.

To finish, I acknowledge the excellent work of our Chief Executive Officer, Evelyn O'Loughlin, who joined Vinnies in September 2022. Evelyn is best known for having served as CEO at Volunteering SA&NT for 12 years, and her experience has been invaluable for our volunteer-led workforce.

Prior to Evelyn's commencement in the role, our CFO/General Manager Corporate Services Michelle Kemp acted admirably as CEO; for this she has my sincere thanks.

While the circumstances are ever-challenging, you can be assured that our committed staff and 2,500-strong volunteers and members are working relentlessly to make a difference.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – EVELYN O'LOUGHLIN

I am delighted to be writing my first Annual Report statement for the St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc, having commenced in the role of Chief Executive Officer in September 2022.

As the CEO of Volunteering SA&NT for more than 12 years, I was very well-acquainted with the work of this iconic organisation, and I was drawn to the role because of my deep desire to play an active role in creating opportunities for South Australians to thrive, especially those facing disadvantage.

I knew that Vinnies, with its enormous reach across the state and indeed the country and globally, was in a unique position to help shape a more just and compassionate society – in alignment with the organisation's mission - and I wanted to be a part of it.

Since commencing, I have been warmly welcomed by our people and the sector more broadly. It is heartening to see the commitment of so many working together to work on solutions to complex issues that create disadvantage in our community.

An essential part of my role, then, is to harness this commitment and affirm the belief in our workforce (staff, members and volunteers) that by working at our best each and every day, we can and do make a significant difference.

Along with this, I have enjoyed the opportunity to lead and oversee the operations and financial performance of the organisation to achieve our strategic objectives.

It has been an action-packed year, including a significant year of learning for me, and there have been many highlights:

- The extraordinary expertise, guidance and support that has been afforded to me and The Society by State Council, committees and working groups.
- Working with or alongside our staff, members and volunteers to serve our Companions in our Conferences, shops, Fred's Van services, our homelessness services and the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service.
- Participating in my first Vinnies CEO Sleepout, which was a very eye-opening and humbling experience. I was also pleased to be one of the top 10 fundraisers.
- Re-opening the Vinnies Kadina shop after an extended closure due to building issues and moving the Vinnies Maitland shop and Conference to bigger and brighter premises.
- Commencing the rollout of mental health awareness and wellbeing training for our workforce.
- A new assistance hub in Davoren Park to offer improved access to support and a different volunteering experience.
- Growth and leadership development outcomes in our youth conference.
- A lovely ceremony to mark the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre, and knowing that more than 5,000 women, children and pets have benefited from this service.
- Welcoming to the organisation new Executive team members in Carla Leversedge and Luke Gramola, who have quickly become valued members of the Vinnies family.
- A change of role for Jenny Papps, who joins the Executive team in an organisational support role, and expanded portfolio for Kristi Hermesen, who now leads our combined brand and people and culture teams.
- Unveiling a new website to make information about our services easier to find.
- Working with sector colleagues and Government to develop solutions to systemic issues and common challenges.
- Celebrating with staff, members and volunteers on the occasions of births, milestone birthdays, awards and service records. And being trusted to commiserate with them some of life's losses.

These past months have been some of the most gratifying of my career, made possible only by our people, our supporters and of course, the people we serve who are generous in their acceptance of support. It is not easy to ask for help when you are struggling, and it is our hope that every person who contacts The Society is better for the experience.



# KEY STATISTICS

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## Vinnies Assistance Visits

754 conference members

57,188 instances of assistance

22,283 visits

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## Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre

Accommodation provided to:

332 women

285 children

84 pets

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## Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre

Accommodation provided to:

398 men

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## Vinnies Open Door Program

Support provided to:

272 individuals

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## Fred's Van

10 locations

36,662 meals served

610 volunteers

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## Refugee & Asylum Seeker Service

2,750 instances of assistance

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## Vinnies Shops

34 shops

1,069 volunteers

# OUR SERVICES

## Vinnies Assistance Visits

At the core of our work are Vinnies Assistance Visits, the broad term given to the comprehensive support provided to individuals (known as companions) who reach out to us for help with essentials such as food, clothing, and managing bills, including rent, during challenging financial times. Although the initial contact often arises during moments of crisis, our aim is to extend ongoing and holistic support as appropriate.

This work is carried out by dedicated volunteer Vinnies members, integral parts of local networks referred to as conferences, who conduct visits at individuals' homes or designated meeting places in areas experiencing high demand. This approach ensures a personalised and empathetic engagement tailored to the specific needs of those seeking assistance.

Members, who come from diverse backgrounds, and life experiences, bring a great depth of understanding and compassion to their involvement in the Society. They meet regularly to share their experiences, reflect on their service, and monitor and discuss local needs.

In the metropolitan area, staff and volunteers at the Call Centre within our Support Office in Adelaide take phone calls from those requesting assistance, and pair them with conference members in their local area. In the first 6 months of 2023, more than 10,000 calls for assistance were taken.

In regional South Australia, support is usually obtained through the network of Vinnies shops where conference members also have a presence.

As with many volunteer-involving organisations, in some areas we have found it difficult to recruit new members, which is necessary as demand for assistance increases, and members retire.

Work is being done to address this issue, which involves examining different ways of conferences working to provide a more flexible volunteering experience while delivering a service which works for companions. We added a second support hub at Davoren Park, which is an area of high need, and have dedicated members offering assistance to people living in that community. We also welcomed the re-establishment of a Youth Conference.





# OUR SERVICES



## Refugee & Asylum Seeker Service

The Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service (VRASS) has continued to develop its community connections to best address the needs of asylum seekers at the grassroots level.

This volunteer-led, special works project at Kilburn provides targeted practical support to help those on temporary visas build their lives while in refugee limbo. Pop-up clinics held by VRASS regularly provide optometry, dental and legal assistance throughout the year.

In addition, many companions are without Medicare due to visa complications and delays in the renewal process. Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service volunteers have been working hard to streamline this process and arrange alternative medical support.

As well as emergency relief, English classes, advocacy, legal support to name a few, VRASS has been utilising the generous donations from the Vietnamese Boat People Monument Association received last year to build capacity around employment and training.

Asylum seekers have undertaken certificates in a variety of areas including aged care/Individual support, forklift driving, truck driving, beauty therapy, food safety, white card training, traffic management and more.

With support from volunteers in resume writing and employment mentoring, many have gone on to find work

A recent success story involves Roselyn and her 9-year-old daughter who arrived earlier this year with nowhere to live, no income and no community connections.

Through our strong community connections VRASS supplied secure housing, schooling for her daughter, emergency food relief and Vinnies shop vouchers; provided legal support for Roselyn's protection visa application and supported her through a Certificate III in Individual Support.

Roselyn began voluntary work at a not-for-profit aged care organisation and when a paid employment opportunity arose, VRASS volunteers assisted Roselyn to successfully apply for the role.

Roselyn now works 20 hours per week as a Lifestyle Coordinator, supporting aged care residents to participate in activities that enhance their wellbeing and quality of life.

# OUR SERVICES

## Fred's Van Meal Service

The Fred's Van meal service - named for The Society's founder Frederic Ozanam - goes beyond simply providing meals and offers comfort and warmth through nutritious meals for individuals experiencing disadvantage, homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.

With operations spanning eight locations in Adelaide and two regionally in Port Lincoln and Port Pirie, this emergency service is made possible by the dedication of over 600 volunteers. In the 2022/23 period, these committed volunteers served an incredible almost 40,000 meals.

The Gawler Fred's Van service reached a significant milestone this year, celebrating 25 years of serving their community with unwavering commitment.

Vinnies Fred's Van is a crucial support system for some of the most vulnerable individuals in the community, dealing with issues such as poverty, homelessness, social isolation, or unemployment. Beyond offering hot meals, blankets, scarves and beanies, and social connections to those living on the streets, the service extends its reach to people who may not be homeless but are struggling to make ends meet.

The increasing attendance of families with children throughout the year reflects the growing challenge of putting a nutritious meal on the table.

Our volunteers play a pivotal role, making a substantial difference not only through the meals they provide but also through their compassionate and respectful assistance. Fred's Van volunteers, like the people they serve, come from all walks of life. What unites them is their shared desire to provide respite from the harsh realities of poverty and homelessness, if just for one night.

Collaboration is at the heart of our approach, and we value partnerships with other agencies. Prioritising partnerships with food rescue agencies like OzHarvest and SecondBite allows us to not only provide hot cooked evening meals but also distribute take-home produce. This approach not only benefits diners but also contributes to reducing landfill and supporting the environment.

We extend our gratitude to the generous supporters of Fred's Van, who play a crucial role in making our services possible.



# OUR SERVICES

## Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre

2022 marked five years of operation for the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre, which opened on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which is marked around the world on November 25. This opening date was no coincidence, as the majority of women seeking refuge at the Centre are fleeing domestic violence.

Since that day, we have welcomed approximately 5,000 women, children, and companion animals through the doors. Positioned in a hidden location in Adelaide's northern suburbs to ensure the safety of guests, the Centre provides emergency accommodation to women, their children and companion animals. The women and children who arrive at the Centre - sometimes in the middle of the night with nothing but the clothes on their backs - are very likely to have experienced trauma, mental health issues and have complex needs.

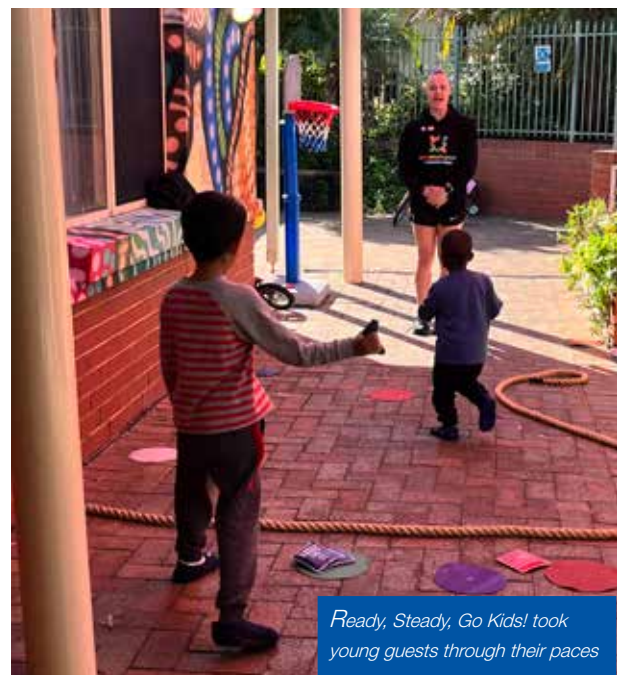
Given this complexity, along with providing nourishing meals, clothing, shoes, toiletries, vouchers, and toys for the children, staff and volunteers provide emotional support, a listening ear, and a shoulder to lean on. Because of this holistic service, the Centre's various service partners feel confident that when they refer guests to the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre their clients will be supported, looked after, and will feel safe until they are ready to move on and into more permanent accommodation.

When the Centre first opened, the intention was to provide short-term accommodation of around two to three weeks. More recently, many guests are staying two to three months due to the immense pressures on the rental housing market in South Australia. The demographic of guests has also changed, with a rise in the number of women over 50 coming out of long-term abusive relationships, and who have little to no income or savings.

We have also noticed an increase in the number of women from refugee and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds accessing the service, along with an increase in the number of guests who are experiencing complex trauma; and more rough sleepers presenting for assistance.

To meet the changing profile of guests, we have developed strong working relationships with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and mental health services and we have further developed our positive working relationship with Women's Safety Services SA, SA Housing Authority (SAHA), and the homelessness sector.

The Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre is partly-government funded, however to provide the full suite of support that will likely result in improved outcomes for guests the Centre relies on donations from schools and sporting clubs, food rescue organisations such as Foodbank and OzHarvest, St Vincent de Paul Society donors and community-minded businesses. We thank our generous supporters for their assistance.



*Ready, Steady, Go Kids! took young guests through their paces*



# OUR SERVICES

## Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre

The Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre (VMCC), in the Adelaide CBD, continues to provide crucial accommodation for men experiencing homelessness. An occupancy rate consistently exceeding 90 percent highlights the sustained demand for such a vital service. As with the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre, the lack of affordable housing is resulting in longer stays here too.

At the Centre, we focus on supporting men to break the cycle of homelessness and reduce the need for repeat crisis accommodation.

A team of support workers and case workers provides guests with information and support dedicated to securing long-term accommodation. This includes the Vinnies Open Door Program liaison officers who are working more closely with guests, acting as a connector between them and other agencies to address the myriad issues that are contributing to their homelessness.

The Centre is pleased to receive donated goods, including food, from a number of supportive businesses and community groups. These extras augment the breakfast and evening meal provided at the Centre.

Volunteers from Hair Aid provide free haircuts from time-to-time, which is always appreciated. It is one of the things that most of us take for granted, but can make a significant difference to how someone feels about themselves, especially during what can be a time of extreme stress.

Students from a number of schools have cooked barbecues at the Centre this year, providing a delicious meal and important social connections for guests, while learning about the causes and impacts of homelessness through face to face contact. These are important conversations, and go a long way towards debunking many of the preconceived ideas people have about how people become homeless.

Works are underway to improve the amenity of the Centre, to ensure that it is a place of welcome.







## Vinnies Open Door Program

Launched in mid-2022, the Vinnies Open Door program aims to provide a wrap-around service for people at serious risk of homelessness. These are people with few or no support networks who may be exiting the corrections system, those being discharged from hospital after a long stay, and guests of the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre.

With the well-documented ongoing cost-of-living crisis, coupled with a shortage of affordable housing and crisis accommodation, it is more important than ever that people who have a roof over their heads are supported to maintain it for the long term, and those who are experiencing homelessness have someone advocating for them to access secure accommodation.

To this end, a distinctive feature of the Vinnies Open Door program involves dedicated liaison workers who walk alongside those requiring support, acting as an interface between them and other agencies. This minimises the need for individuals to engage with multiple services and deal with many different people during a time of significant emotional stress.

Providing wrap-around housing support and health/welfare referrals through a formal program to Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre (VMCC) guests, together the Vinnies Open Door program and VMCC are taking a best-practice approach to emergency accommodation provision. By assisting guests with the means to address barriers to stable housing, the Vinnies Open Door Program aims to prevent recurring homelessness and repeat tenancies at the emergency accommodation service.

During 2022/23, the Vinnies Open Door program supported approximately 272 people, with a range of supports including:

- Immediate referrals to Local Homelessness Alliances for housing support.
- Liaising on companions' behalf with South Australian Housing Authority to be placed/prioritised on the public housing list.

- Referrals to transitional and medium-term housing providers.
- Contributing to 34% of VMCC companions who accessed Vinnies Open Door being housed in medium and long-term housing.
- Referring companions to health, mental health and welfare services.
- Responding to emergency crisis situations through engagement with emergency services, domestic violence services and mental health services.
- Assisting companions during release from incarceration by assisting with housing, health and welfare referrals. Companions being released from prison were visited in prisons and often transported directly to housing.

Throughout the year the program also hosted several students on community service placements. Through their involvement they gained exposure to various facets of the homelessness sector, and several have gone on to secure employment with the program itself or with other agencies. Through the Brokerage component of the program, companions have been assisted with household furniture, mobile phones, setting up utilities and cleaning up houses and yards to prevent eviction. Moving forward, companions will also receive MetroCards to enable transport to job interviews, housing inspections and visits to family.

As the program matures and refines its approach, we anticipate continuing to build rapport with sector stakeholders, liaising with all VMCC companions, and implementing group and individual programs to meet companions' needs or address barriers preventing them from achieving long-term housing and wellbeing. A strong focus will be ensuring that together, the Vinnies Open Door Program and the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre provide best practice supports and advocacy for all companions well into the future.

# YOUTH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At the age of 20, Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, observed the conditions of those in need and took action, laying the foundation for a global movement spanning over 140 countries. His example illustrated that age is no barrier to making a significant impact, emphasising the power of an individual to effect change.

The Vinnies Youth & Community Engagement program draws inspiration from these origins, striving to empower young people by instilling the understanding that their actions have the potential to make a meaningful difference, both in their lives and the lives of others. This initiative directs its efforts towards the youth of South Australia, fostering collaborations with childcare centres, schools, universities, and the broader St Vincent de Paul Society network.

Our mission is to empower young individuals to take meaningful action, and we have witnessed the active engagement of hundreds of young people with The Society. They are eager to understand our efforts to address various justice and poverty issues prevalent in the community.

Our collaboration with young people, especially within school settings, serves as a gateway for them to make tangible contributions to our mission.

Initiatives such as fundraising events, donation drives, supporting Fred's Van with food supplies, and collecting toys for distribution during Christmas provide practical avenues for young individuals to grasp the challenges faced by others.

The support from young people in schools, particularly those who actively participate in Sleepouts, has been outstanding once again. These events not only offer valuable insights into the experience of homelessness, even if just for one night, but they also serve as crucial fundraising endeavours that sustain our impactful work. 25 school Sleepouts were held over the past year, with an incredible \$59,224 raised. Additional school fundraisers and community group Sleepout events raised almost \$10,000.

Along with young people engaging with Vinnies via educational settings, we have also re-established a Vinnies Youth Conference. Members of the Youth Conference have been supporting the Adelaide Conference in outreach work while learning from more experienced members, as well as taking a leading role in organising a public forum that explored the impacts of poverty on young people.





# VINNIES SHOPS

Vinnies proudly holds its position as one of Australia's leading recycling organisations, thanks to the dedication of our 1,000+ shop volunteers. With a presence in both metropolitan and regional South Australia, our 34 Vinnies shops serve as a crucial resource for individuals with limited financial means, offering a range of quality clothing, household goods, and furniture, often provided free of charge.

Along with providing affordable options for those who need it, our shops boast quality items for sale, providing a unique shopping experience for customers. These sales contribute to our mission of supporting those in need, and it is a testament to the community's generosity that they not only donate their pre-loved goods but also actively participate in sustaining our efforts by shopping at Vinnies.

It has been a year of change, with new leadership that has sought to streamline many of our processes to ensure that the shops are operating as efficiently as possible. Managing a network of shops that relies on an unpredictable flow of stock is actually quite complicated, so any productivity improvements can have a significant impact on output.

Through manual sorting processes, we work very hard to give donated items a second life, and work closely with Charitable Recycling Australia, a not-for-profit organisation that represents the collective interests of charitable reuse and recycling enterprises through advocacy, capacity-building and education. With them, we advocate for a circular economy in which goods are used for a longer period of time and kept out of landfill.

After a long hiatus in trading due to a building issue, our Kadina shop re-opened and has been well-supported by the local community. We also re-located the Maitland shop to bigger, brighter premises and trading there has also been strong. Staff and volunteers are to be commended for their efforts in transforming these two shops.

Throughout the year, we held several themed sales to clear some lines of stock, attract a new cohort of shoppers, and to reward our regulars. We are looking forward to implementing improvements to the amenities of our shops and our offering, to ensure our customers enjoy an exceptional shopping experience.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

**St Vincent de Paul Society was founded on one individual's idea to take action to make life better for people in Paris who were living in poverty. However, Frederic Ozanam quickly got his friends involved, with the knowledge that to have a real and lasting impact, he couldn't act alone.**

**Centuries later, meaningful partnerships are more important than ever, and we are very grateful for the support we receive from the community, whether it be from individual supporters, parishes, schools, businesses and community groups.**

## Fundraising

In communities throughout South Australia, countless individuals have received the invaluable support of a 'hand up.' On behalf of those who have benefited from this assistance, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the extensive network of supporters who generously contributed over \$3.2 million to The Society this year.

Without the support of these dedicated individuals, groups, schools, workplaces, and businesses, the impactful work we have accomplished over the past year would have been impossible. Their support takes various forms, including regular monthly donations, leaving gifts in their wills, organising community fundraising events, responding to appeals, and participating in workplace giving.

Even during economically challenging times, our steadfast individual supporters, parishes, schools, and businesses rose to the occasion, responding with immense generosity to our Autumn, Winter, Spring and Christmas appeals.

A new fundraising initiative, 'Gift A Night' was successfully implemented to attract a new cohort of donors. The campaign was run completely online via Facebook and called for donors to make a donation of a certain value that would be used to 'gift a night' of accommodation to someone experiencing homelessness. We were delighted with the response.

The spirit of giving extended into the festive season, with individuals, businesses and community groups organising collections of children's Christmas gifts and assembling food hampers for distribution to those facing disadvantage during what should be a joyful time.

We are very grateful for the generosity of our supporters, for it is only through their contribution and belief in our mission that the South Australian community benefits.





# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Vinnies CEO Sleepout

The 2023 Vinnies CEO Sleepout took place on 22 June - the longest night of the year - on centre court at The Drive (formerly known as Memorial Drive).

It is a location that holds a lot of nostalgia, whether as a venue for top-flight tennis or as home to many popular musical acts that have played there over the years. Participants in this year's Sleepout created new memories, sleeping out on centre court to raise almost \$700,000 for Vinnies' homelessness services.

With a roof canopy spanning the centre court area, participating business and community leaders could have been forgiven for thinking they were in for a relatively comfortable night. However, the wet and windy conditions ensured the experience was anything but comfortable, with rainfall encroaching on the designated sleeping area. It didn't quite reach the heights (or depths!) of 2021 at the Lot Fourteen event, during which 44mm of rain was recorded, but there was enough misty rain to make participants yearn for their warm beds.

And that is, of course, the point of the exercise. Along with raising much-needed funds, the Vinnies CEO Sleepout seeks to evoke a sense of what it is like to sleep rough, even if for only one night. No one is under any illusions that the experience replicates what it means to experience homelessness, but it does provide a springboard for influential people to take action on this growing – yet solvable – issue.

Our MC for the evening was Katrina Webb, Paralympian and leadership strategist, who came 'Dressed by Vinnies' to showcase the quality of clothing found at Vinnies shops to an audience who might not ordinarily shop there.

During the evening, we heard from Vinnies staff and volunteers working at the coalface of homelessness services, who relayed to the engaged audience some of the challenges faced by the people we serve, how Vinnies is making a difference, and how valuable their fundraising efforts are.

The highest fundraiser honours went to Sullivan Consulting Managing Director Andrew Sullivan, who raised an impressive \$30,490. Andrew has participated in the Sleepout six times and is an event ambassador and Fred's Van volunteer, so his contribution is felt across the organisation. St Vincent de Paul Society CEO Evelyn O'Loughlin, participating in her first Sleepout, came in at number eight on the leaderboard, having raised \$17,451. All participants acknowledged that it had been a tough year for fundraising, given the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and multiple interest rate rises.

Every donation allows us to make a real difference in the lives of more than 100,000 people across South Australia. We are extremely grateful to the unwavering support our Vinnies CEO Sleepout enjoys, and sincerely thank all participants, sponsors and donors.







Participants queue for their Fred's Van meal

# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Corporate and Community Partners

### IGA

IGA retailers play an important part in their local communities, giving back wherever possible with various campaigns designed to raise funds and awareness about some of the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, or those who have been impacted by natural disaster.

IGA has also been a strong supporter of Vinnies by providing goods for Christmas hampers which are distributed to people in need so that they could have a more joyful and dignified Christmas. Each Christmas they raise funds by encouraging shoppers to purchase a \$2 token or selected 'community chest' products, the proceeds of which go to Vinnies.



### Scrap Hotline

Recyclers SA/Scrap Hotline continued their generous support of Vinnies in a variety of ways, including the 'Tinnies for Vinnies' initiative, in which selected depots allow for customers to drop some or all of their refundable cans and bottles into specially marked Vinnies bins. The depots then donate the cash equivalent of those containers to Vinnies. We are also grateful to have Vinnies-branded donation banks at depots to support the collection of clothing, shoes, accessories and blankets

A new initiative, 'Direct Collect', sees bins delivered to Adelaide homes and businesses. The service picks up the bins when they are full of recyclable containers, and customers can elect to have the refund deposited into Vinnies' bank account.



## OUR SUPPORTERS

### Mitre 10

The Mighty Helpful team at Mitre 10 came through with in-kind funds to help us complete the playground area at the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre. It now boasts a canopy to ensure the children staying at the centre can play in any weather conditions.



### Grill'd Healthy Burgers

Grill'd Healthy Burgers are a burger joint with a difference – their Relish membership offers bonuses to customers, but importantly their '8 and Donate' program means that customers can give back. After eight visits, Relish Members are given the choice to donate a meal to our Fred's Van service.

The Grill'd 'Local Matters' initiative offers customers the opportunity to vote for a cause to their heart.



### MRASA Toy Run

For more than 40 years, the Motorcycle Riders' Association SA (MRASA) has organised the iconic Toy Run event which brings excited spectators out to see around thousands of motorcycle riders ride from Victoria Park to Callington with their cargo of toys and Christmas cheer. Toys are collected by the Society to be given to children who may otherwise miss out.



### Amazon

Amazon came on board to help us support families with back-to-school costs, through the distribution of gift cards via our Conference network. We are also working with Amazon on other initiatives to provide additional support to South Australians.







As at 30 June 2023

## Members In Office

State President	Bradley Hocking
Vice President	Sandro Canale
Vice President	Alice Clark
Vice President	Geraldine Hawkes
Treasurer	Des Quirk
Spiritual Advisor	Mario Trinidad
Youth Representative	Hannah Yates

## Regional Presidents

Central District	Vacant
Eastern	Maxwell Ormsby
Eyre	Alicia Griffiths
Fleurieu	Kevin Liston
Hills Murray	Tom Neilson
Northern	Neil Dwiar
Riverland/Yorke	John Fewster
South East	Vacant
Southern	Mary Camilleri
Western	John Sullivan

As at 30 June 2023

## Ex Officio

Chief Executive Officer

Evelyn O'Loughlin

Minute Secretary

Jenny Papps

## Committees

Commercial Advisory Committee

Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee

Regional Presidents Advisory Group

Work Health and Safety Committee

Low-Cost Housing Advocacy Group

Social Needs Analysis Advocacy Committee

Vinnies Refugee & Asylum Seeker Committee

## Working Groups

Spirituality Working Group

Fleurieu Region Initiative

Reconciliation Working Group

# CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Aberfoyle Park	Goodwood	Noarlunga
Adelaide/St Francis	Greenacres/Walkerville	Norwood
Barmera	Hallett Cove	Ottoway
Berri/Renmark	Hectorville/Tranmere	Payneham
Blackwood	Henley Beach	Port Adelaide
Bordertown	Hindmarsh	Port Augusta
Brighton	Kadina/Wallaroo/Moonta	Port Lincoln
Central Youth	Kingswood	Port Pirie
Clearview	Lefevre	Prospect/Kilburn
Colonel Light Gardens	Lockleys	Salisbury
Cooper Pedy	Maitland/CYP	Seacombe Gardens
Croydon	Millicent	St Marys
Dernancourt	Modbury	Stirling
Dulwich	Morphett Vale	Tea Tree Gully
Edwardstown/Plympton	Mount Barker/Strathalbyn	Thebarton
Elizabeth North	Mount Gambier/St Pauls	Victor Harbor
Elizabeth West	Mount Gambier Women's	Whyalla/OLHC
Gawler	Murray Bridge	Willunga
Glen Osmond/Parkside	Naracoorte	
Glenelg	Newton	

# SHOP LOCATIONS

Adelaide	Millicent	Prospect
Barmera	Morphett Vale	Royal Park
Brighton	Mount Barker	Salisbury
Campbelltown	Mount Gambier	Semaphore
Cooper Pedy	Murray Bridge	Tailem Bend
Croydon	Naracoorte	Taperoo
Elizabeth	Norwood	Valley View
Gawler	Parkside	Victor Harbor
Hawthorn	Port Adelaide	Whyalla
Kadina	Port Augusta	Whyalla Westland
Kidman Park	Port Lincoln	
Maitland	Port Pirie	

## HOW TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

### Make a financial donation

Credit card donations can be made by visiting our website or calling the donation hotline on 13 18 12. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

### Leave a gift in your Will

The Society is able to assist thousands of people because of the generosity of those who have remembered us in their Will. For more information or an information booklet, speak to our Bequest Officer.

### Volunteer your time

If you would like to make a direct impact on the lives of people in need, you can become a member of a conference or volunteer your time to assist people in your community through any Vinnies services or shops.

### Donate goods

Donations of quality clothing, small furniture items and household goods can be made at any Vinnies Shop.

### Involve your school

Get your school involved to support their local community and learn about issues affecting the community such as poverty, homelessness and social justice.

### Host a fundraising event

From BBQs to bake sales and everything in between, you can get creative and fundraise your own way for Vinnies. Fundraising is a great way to get your friends, family and community together to have fun and make a difference for people trying to get back on their feet.



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) relies on the generous support of individuals, community groups, schools and businesses who are committed to building a more just and compassionate society.

## To support our mission

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Fax: (08) 8112 8799  
[svdp@svdpsa.org.au](mailto:svdp@svdpsa.org.au)

Donations 13 18 12  
or [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

ABN 73 591 401 592