

good works

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020



St Vincent de Paul Society
TASMANIA

good works

Our STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Core focus for 2018-2021

Financial Sustainability

Maintain independence and focus on future growth.

Membership, Volunteers and Staff

Increase and broaden our membership and volunteers and support engagement. Support and develop our staff.

Services and Programs

Support people who are experiencing social disadvantage with the aim to improve their situation.

Governance

A strategically focused State Council.

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 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 ASPIRATION

An Australia transformed by compassion and built on justice.

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

Contents

4	State President's Report
6	CEO's Report
8	Spiritual Adviser's Reflection
9	Our History

Our Good Works

10	Financial, Material & Homelessness Support
13	Community Programs
18	Accommodation Support
20	Vinnies Youth
26	Our Special Works
28	Vinnies Shops
31	Our Supporters & Partners
32	Our Fundraising
34	Our People
38	Our State Council
39	Our Structure
40	Our Governance
43	Glossary
44	Our Financial Report
48	Incorporated Special Works

Privacy Statement: The St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania respects the privacy and dignity of the people it assists, our members, volunteers and employees and as a result names of people featured in this report may have been changed and pictorial models used.

State President's REPORT



*Start by doing what's necessary;
then do what's possible, and suddenly
you are doing the impossible.*

Francis of Assisi

It is with a sense of gratitude and thanks that I provide my message for the past year. It is fair to say that the year has been one of the most challenging and in some sense fulfilling years for many of us involved with the Society. I believe the quote above from St Francis of Assisi best describes our response to a year we will all remember for some time. The challenges we have faced would have been difficult to resolve without the tireless work of staff, members, and volunteers and I would like to express my admiration and thanks for the work they undertake for the Society and those we serve.

Our Special Works – Bethlehem House, Tastex Knitwear, St Vincent Industries, and Vincent Industries continue to provide support to those in need with a particular focus on men experiencing homelessness and employment opportunities for men and women who would not normally obtain employment in the wider community. I also acknowledge the work of staff and volunteers at Marillac House who provide a

'home away from home' to patients and their families travelling from rural and remote parts of Tasmania, to attend much needed medical treatment and specialist care in Launceston. I would like to thank all the staff, committee members, and volunteers who work tirelessly to assist and enhance the lives of those they serve.

The key work of the Society continues to be the support of people who call on our emergency relief services. While the COVID - 19 pandemic has altered the way we assist people – no longer doing home visits, but doing phone interviews and 'drive and drop' assistance, we have reassured the community that we remain alongside them not only in spirit but with caring, practical, and ongoing assistance. In the pages following my message, you will read about the various projects and initiatives we have all worked on and the successes we have achieved and celebrated.

COVID – 19 has forced us from both an operational and Conference member activity perspective to embrace change to ensure we deliver on our Vision and Mission. One of the pleasing opportunities that members have embraced is the use of technology. Whilst there was initially some hesitation from a few this flexible method of meeting is one that I hope members have found worthwhile and may consider adopting in a post-pandemic world.

One of the many operational changes we have actively sought and embraced is that of partnerships with like-minded agencies, charities, and other not-for-profit service providers. Partnerships enable the Society to leverage and learn from these organisations which in turn enables us to truly provide a hand up to our companions.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our donors and financial supporters. We could not do what we do without your continuing help and support. We rely on your generosity to enable us to reach out to our companions. It is heartwarming to personally witness the many donations some small and not so small from those in the community who can least afford to do so.

On the National Council front, the two significant pieces of work that have direct relevance for the Society in Tasmania is the National Council Strategic Plan and the National Redress Scheme. The agreed strategic goals articulated in the Strategic Plan are spirituality and membership, governance and leadership, advocacy, working together, and sustainability. State and Territory Councils when reviewing their strategic plans have been actively encouraged to adopt similar goals to that of the National Council.

It was pleasing to witness the establishment of a new conference on King Island known as Star of the Sea. The new conference comprises seven members and all members are actively involved in supporting their community. COVID – 19 has, understandably, placed a strain on several members who have made the difficult decision to step back from active involvement for health and well-being concerns. All other States and Territories have also experienced a drop away in membership numbers and the matter is a significant challenge the Society, which will need to be addressed in the near future.

The Society's advisory committees provide great support to me and State Council. I would like to thank the members of our Finance & Risk Management, Governance, and Overseas Partnership & Development Committees for their work and guidance.

I would also like to thank our State Council members and advisors for undertaking and assisting in the governance of our Society in Tasmania. They met six times during the year but were also called on at other occasions for out-of-session meetings to guide the Society in many ways.

Mark D Gaetani

Chief Executive Officer's REPORT



There is no doubt the events of 2020 have been profound and have triggered changes that will stay with us forever. Expressions such as 'new normal' and 'social distancing' have entered our daily lives and we don't know when, or if, they will ever go away.

As difficult and uncertain this year has been, it has been a year of significant achievements in continuing to deliver the key elements of the State Council 2018/21 Strategic Plan.

Between July and September, we opened six new shops in Launceston, Upper Burnie, Burnie City, New Norfolk, Kingston and Deloraine and relocated the Ulverstone shop to a newer, brighter building. We worked closely with our staff and volunteers to freshen up the look of our existing shops and to improve the presentation, without removing what people love about Vinnies stores.

At the end of August 2019, we completed the transfer of the Mt St Vincent Nursing Home and Therapy Centre to the new provider, Respect Aged Care, also based in Ulverstone.

A great emphasis this year has been placed on health and safety. The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) delivered training to our staff and volunteers, across the State, in the area of preventing bullying and harassment as well as appropriate communication in the workplace. It is something that we will continue focusing on, to ensure a culture of mutual respect and safety is engendered in all our workplaces.

We have completed a full inspection of all our

worksites and addressed issues identified, regarding processes and procedures as well as, significant items of maintenance. We have developed our induction manual and commenced on-line and face to face WHS training. We were very grateful to receive great support and guidance on our safety journey, from David Chambers, The Safety Process. Work Health and Safety will remain our priority and be part of our continuous improvement process.

The tremendous amount of work we have dedicated to our safety in the workplace has resulted in a significant reduction of our workers compensation claims from \$171K in 2017/18 to 101K in 2018/19 and to less than \$5K in 2019/20. This represents a 97% reduction in claims in three years. We should be very proud and celebrate this achievement.

Like everyone else across the country and the whole world, St Vincent de Paul Society had to adapt and change its business processes quickly. The closure of all our shops on the 31 March and the rapid shift of resources towards Emergency Relief services happened quickly.

From that point, the Society focussed on assisting those in need and nothing else detracted from that focus.

With over 26,000 people unemployed in Tasmania, in addition to those who already were suffering from financial hardship prior to the occurrence of COVID, the Society's mission is more important than ever

Sadly, we were unable to re-open all the shops

due to their size making it difficult to comply with the Tasmanian Covid Worksafe Standards. However, a new concept emerged – Vinnies Community Hubs.

The idea of the Community Hub stems from a charities forum hosted by the Society in October 2019. So, during the year, we commenced the re-purposing of the retail buildings in Somerset and Smithton and investigated a new location in Launceston.

The Society has great advantages; Vinnies is a state-wide organisation, where our members, staff, and volunteers can deliver direct services and make on-the-spot referrals to government agencies or more appropriate charities. Vinnies Community Hubs are safe spaces, where anyone in need can visit and seek assistance without fear of judgement.

During the financial year 2019/20 we provided almost \$1.2Mil in assistance and responded to over 25,000 instances of help. Most of our assistance was towards food, followed by utility bills. We also observed that in the age group of 24-49 years more females have sought assistance however the difference between them and males was minimal, 58.4% compared to 54.2%. This trend is reversed for the age group over 50 years of age, with more males than females coming forward for help, 30.6% against 26.3%.

During the year we also focused on improving our work processes and reducing costs. This was achieved by introducing an electronic time keeping and rostering web-based program which went live in October 2019. This was followed shortly after by a paperless electronic system for processing creditor invoices. Both systems, increased our efficiencies significantly, reducing processing times and errors.

In August 2019, we amalgamated the Burnie and Devonport Regions and formed the combined North-West Region with a new office in Burnie.

An additional challenge presented by Covid has been the question of how do we fundraise, how can we generate much needed funds for our emergency assistance, how do we run events? This year the CEO Sleepout has been a perfect example when technology, combined with people's desire to help, changed the face of fundraising by becoming virtual. People shared their stories on the night of the event, streaming from their backyards, cars or decks and helping

us raise much needed funds.

One the most significant aspects of this year was how staff, members and volunteers came together and worked tirelessly to deliver food, support people and assist the community.

If I was asked to define this year in a positive way, using one word, I would use 'collaboration'. We should cherish collaboration within our internal framework but also with outside organisations that share the same values as us.

Overall, we should look at this year, as a year that has given us hope, a year of learnings that with the right structures, the right decisions and with collaboration we can accomplish a lot.

A most sincere and warm Thank You to all our donors and supporters! Your have been here for us, through difficult times, ensuring Vinnies can continue helping communities across Tasmania.

Our achievements this year, our Good Works, would not have been possible without the tireless work of our staff, members and volunteers. Thank you very much for your dedication!

Lara Alexander

Don't be afraid of new beginnings.

Be creative.

Be inventive.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Spiritual Adviser's REFLECTION



It has been said that

we live our lives going forward but we understand them by looking back.

It is always helpful and indeed necessary to reflect. It is also helpful and indeed necessary to take those reflections forward and let the lessons, the wisdom and the knowledge live out in the future. The 2019/2020 financial year has been an especially significant year for gaining lessons, wisdom and knowledge. While it is finances and statistics and their connection to a specific amount of time that instigates this report, the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Tasmania has its heart in the greater story of love being told through the statistics. The money spent on serving those in need is the cost of love – love without expectation of return.

The St Vincent de Paul Society Mission says that we are an 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.”

Living the gospel message is living the story of Jesus Christ – telling that story over and over again, in new and fresh ways, in new contexts, new situations, with new insights – not just in words but in our actions, in our living, in telling Christ's story through our story.

2000 years ago an event happened that changed the world. It is still happening. Not in the sense

that Jesus hasn't reached death and resurrection yet but in the sense that we are invited to let His story fill history and help us make sense and meaning and purpose of our story. In the midst of the 2019/2020 financial year, an 'event' happened that changed the world. We have been invited to continue to recognise and tell Christ's story – the Christian story of love – through a global pandemic. This is our invitation, this is our mission.

COVID-19 has highlighted the human condition that is susceptible to suffering, pain, isolation, despair, loneliness and death. It has stripped people of their sense of self-sufficiency. If we can view this situation through the lens of Christ's story, we see that this is what he knew, understood and experienced. In taking on the human condition he suffered-with all of humanity. Why? Love! “When suffering is caused by love, suffering is love.”¹ Jesus' compassion (suffering-with) for all humanity cost him a lot – cost him everything. But he would say that it was worth it. Because if he can rise out of extreme suffering, he knows there is so much hope for us to tell the story of resurrection too.

We are called to compassion - it is one of our values. It is one of our values because it is imbedded in the story we value. Our compassion for those who experience any degree of suffering in the human condition (through whatever circumstances) is an act of love. It costs us love. But love is our story and we know that our story, if it is truly a re-telling of Christ's story, means that love leads to hope and hope leads to new life.

May we live the story in every day of every year.

Belinda Chapman

Our HISTORY



**Blessed
Frederic Ozanam**
(1813-1853)

“The knowledge of social well-being and of reform is learned not from books, nor from public debate, but in climbing the stairs to the poor man's garret, sitting by his bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces him and sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind”

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in Paris in 1833 by 20 year old student, Frederic Ozanam. Frederic and his friends visited people in their homes offering friendship and support. This group became known as the 'first' Conference of the Society. The practice of visiting people in their homes, known as Home Visitation, remains the core activity of the Society's members today. Frederic lived an extraordinary life of just 40 years and in this time he advocated against many injustices, including slavery and child labour, as well as for better health and education services.



**Saint
Vincent de Paul**
(1581-1660)

“We should assist the poor in every way and do it both ourselves and by enlisting the help of others. To do this is to preach the gospel by word and by work”

As a young man Vincent ministered to the wealthy and powerful. However, an appointment as chaplain to a poor parish, and to galley prisoners inspired him to a vocation of working with those most marginalised and powerless. An extremely gifted man, Vincent took on roles of spiritual director to other priests, negotiator with members of the aristocracy and reformer of the clergy. He organised social welfare on a national scale in France and above all dedicated his life to serving the poor, sick and disadvantaged people, seeing in them the face of God.

¹ George Schemel SJ and Judith Roemer, Beyond Individuation to Discipleship.

OUR GOOD WORKS

Financial, Material and Homelessness Support

The Society provides a range of services to Tasmanian communities affected by homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Using our statewide network of members and volunteers, we reach out through a number of activities, from the main cities to regional centres and work tirelessly to assist people in need. We recognise the importance of stopping people from 'falling through the cracks' and work hard to identify crises before they unfold. In doing so, the Society keeps at the forefront of its work the vision of offering "a hand up" to people in need and we are doing this by respecting their dignity and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

Each year we assist tens of thousands of people through our Soup Vans, Dining with Friends Programs, Home Visitations and 'face to face' Emergency Assistance. We help individuals and families with food, urgent payment of utilities, rental, medical bills and refer people to emergency accommodation, counselling and financial support. Through our Fresh Start Program we assist people to understand basic budgeting and by referring them to the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) help them avoid the trap of payday lenders.

The delivery of our Emergency Services is based on a model that involves members, volunteers and staff, all working together to assist quickly and efficiently those in need.

Outside the direct work with those impacted by homelessness or at risk of homelessness we continue to raise awareness, through our advocacy and youth activities, of this important social issue, engaging with communities and State and Federal governments in finding a viable, long-term solution.

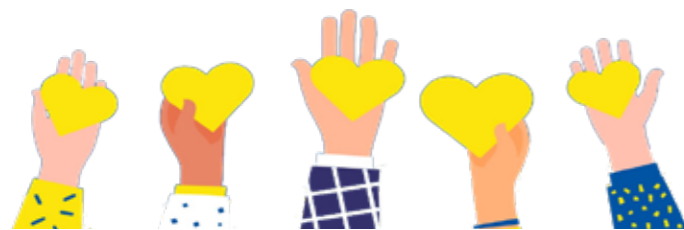


\$40K provided to assist with rent and accommodation

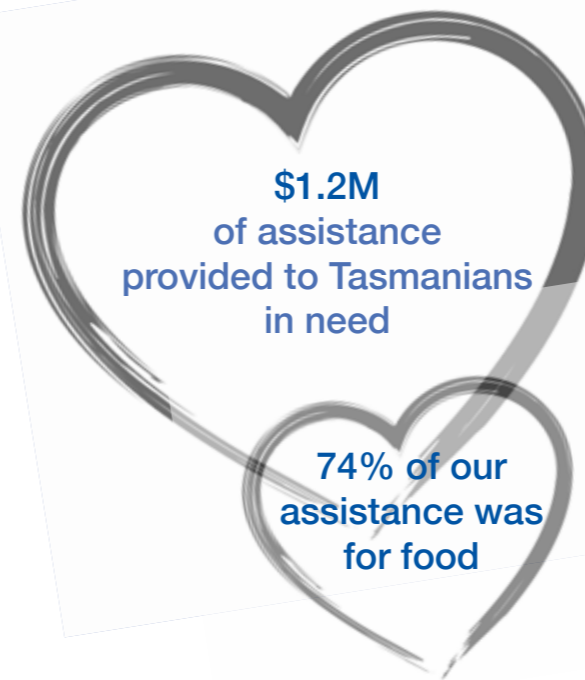


Processed 78 NILS Applications

Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future, because the number of its past works is still very small and the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite
Blessed Frederic Ozanam



WHO WE HELPED



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

During December 2019 we distributed 1,260 hampers. The following numbers represent hampers prepared with items purchased from Society funds, there was also a large number of donated hampers and grocery items that were used to supplement some of the hampers. Thanks to the generous donations we received from the ABC Giving Tree, schools, service groups and donors, gifts were also included.

220 in our Northern Region (Launceston and North East Tasmania) which includes 120 donated hampers.

440 in our North West Region (Devonport, Burnie and the West Coast).

600 in our Southern Region (Hobart and surrounding suburbs, the Derwent Valley and Huon Valley).

HOW WE HELPED

21,043 Instances of support were provided

During COVID we responded to Tasmanians in need by transferring our services to a 'Drive and Drop' model which remains in place, especially for the elderly and those who are isolated at home for various reasons.

92% of those we assisted are receiving government benefits

37% of these are receiving a Disability Support Pension



Emergency Relief Programs



Online Support Program



Soup Van Programs



Dining with Friends Programs



Vinnies Shops



Youth Programs

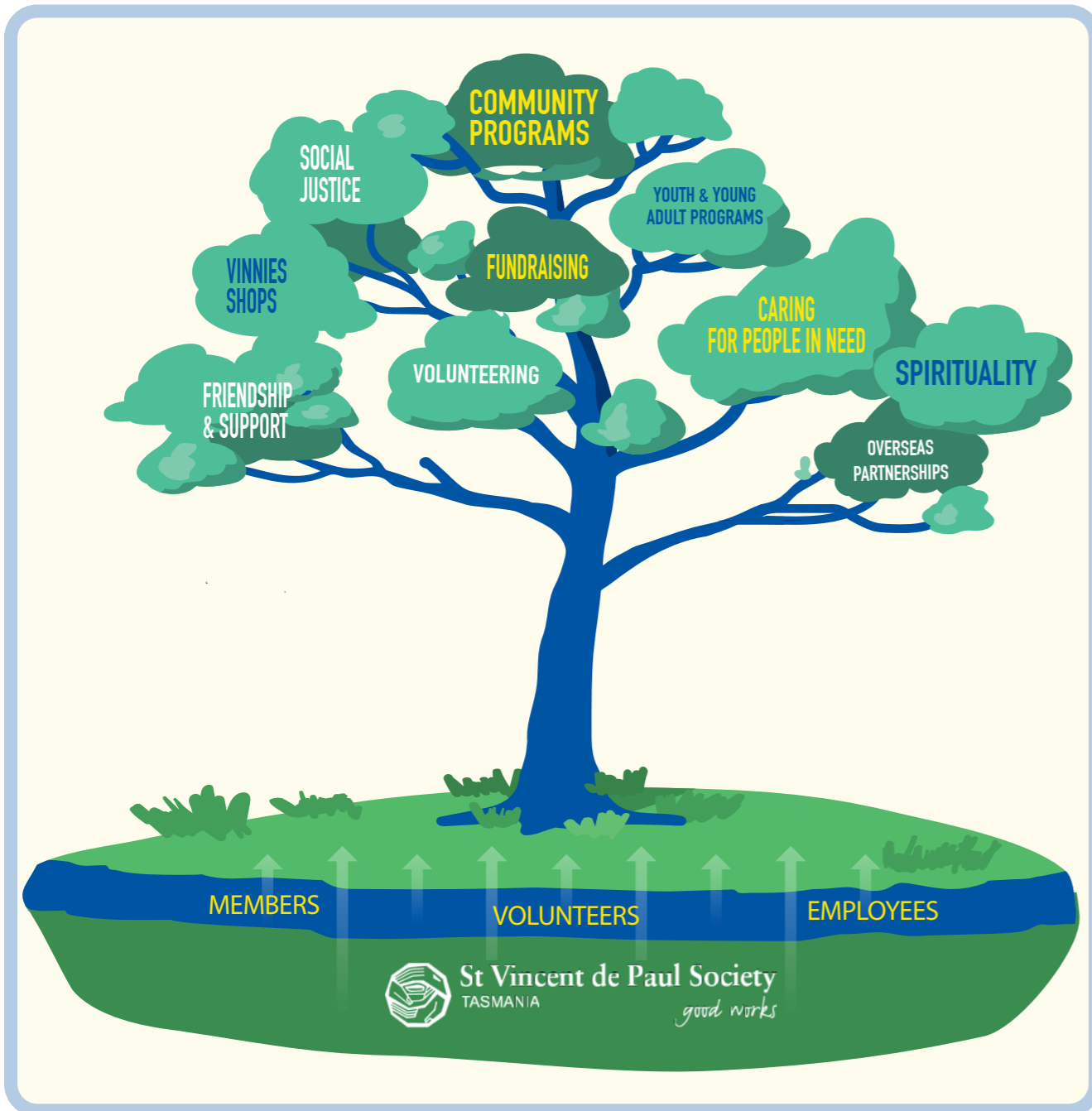


Marillac House



No Interest Loan Applications

Our VINCENTIAN MISSION



No work of charity is foreign to the Society. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions.

The Rule, SVDP Australia 7th Edition 2012 (Amended 2014) Part 1, 1.3 pg 16

OUR GOOD WORKS

Community Programs

Dining with Friends

Dining with Friends is a social program, providing a monthly meal and an opportunity to meet new people. The program caters to those who may be socially isolated, lonely or would just like to share a meal with others.

Volunteers enthusiastically support this program by providing nutritious meals, companionship and referrals. The Hobart City Dining with Friends program is run solely by our Project Revolution team (youth group). This year, a Guilford Young College catering class has, over many months, generously donated and provided the full meal for our Hobart City program.

The Dining with Friends Program ceased statewide in March due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Program recommenced several months later with many different changes – social distancing, no sharing of jugs or utensils by guests, limited capacity to seat guests in some venues, to include but a few of the many changes. Many of our Dining with Friends guests are vulnerable and socially isolated but the COVID lockdown period meant that they experienced even more isolation than usual. Many were keen to return and share a meal with friends. All Dining with Friends locations have experienced great attendance since recommencement. The Launceston Dining with Friends has limited seating capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions and has increased to twice a month in order to cater for all guests. Our Dining with Friends volunteers are also very happy to return to their much loved volunteering role.

Dr Ashley Dent (Chiropractor) has given of his time to provide free chiropractic care at the Hobart City location. This service has been well received by our guests. Thank you Ashley!

St Patrick's College 'Ascent' students have given of their time to come along and volunteer at our Launceston City Dining with Friends Program.

Dining with Friends in Launceston would not be possible without the generosity of the Launceston Catholic Parish and the Cecilia Kilkeary Foundation.

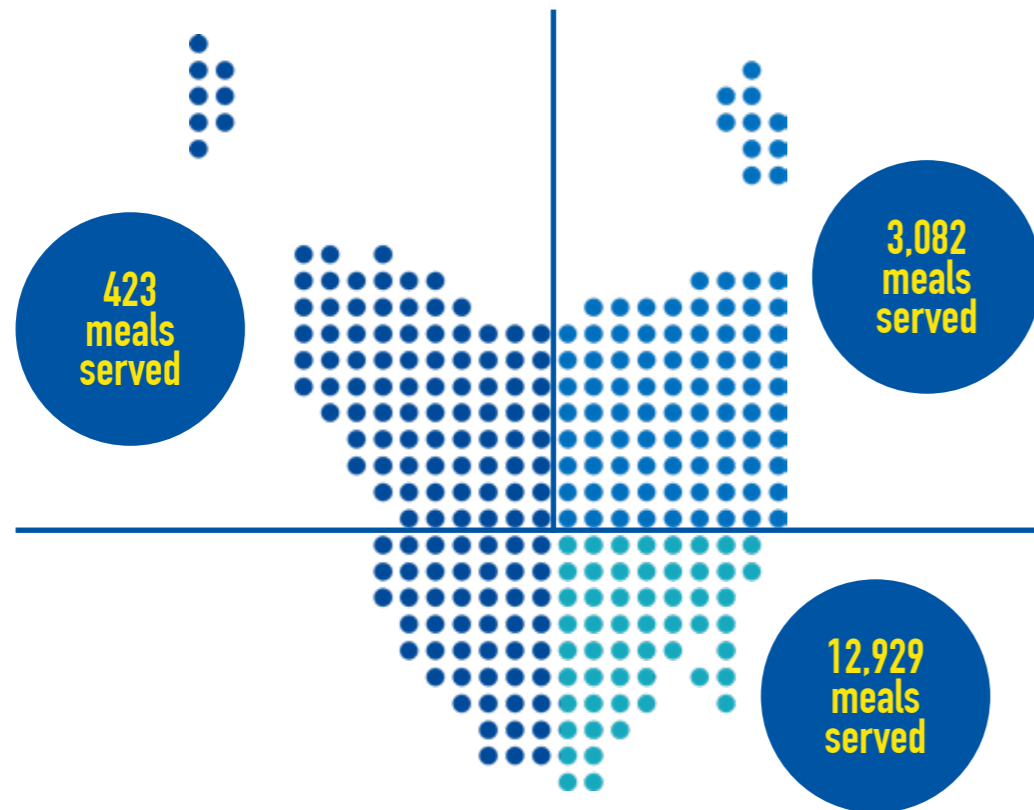


857 meals served statewide



Soup Vans

Our Soup van services provide assistance to some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Many people access our services for food, warm clothing, blankets, friendship and support. Homelessness is increasing and we are therefore seeing many people who struggle to find suitable and affordable accommodation. We provide information on other services and refer people to other organisations for additional support.



Vinnies Loui's Van operates in the south of the state and offers a reliable service that provides people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness with a meal, warm drinks and conversation, helping break through the barriers of loneliness and social isolation.

Teams of volunteers operate the soup van six nights a week in the areas of Bridgewater/Gagebrook, Kingston, Hobart CBD, Glenorchy, Clarendon Vale, Huonville and Cygnet. The model of service at Clarendon Vale involves community members preparing a three course meal at the local Neighbourhood House. Loui's Van is present to provide hot drinks and support.



Moreton Training continue to provide a free after-hours medical service shadowing Loui's Van in the Hobart, Glenorchy and Clarendon Vale areas. The service provides immediate medical care and referral.

Loui's Van has visited many schools across Southern Tasmania. This provides students a real life experience of the support that Loui's Van provides to community members in need and it encourages students to further explore social justice issues in society. Loui's Van has received an incredible amount of donations including blankets, sleeping bags, care packs, socks, food and monetary from both schools and other community members.



Congratulations and a very special thank you goes out to the **Loui's Legends** who raised over \$7,500 at the 2019 Point to Pinnacle Challenge in Hobart for our soup van services in Southern Tasmania. These funds will be a great help in providing food and essential items.

During COVID-19, we had to adapt our services to ensure the safety of the people we assist and the volunteers that are a large part of providing assistance. Due to the nature of this service, the COVID-19 risk was too significant and therefore the tough decision was made to put Loui's Van into hibernation until such time as it was safe to get back on the road so in March 2020 we cancelled our normal service.

Rather than cease the service completely, we adapted the service in a more controlled environment by using our Donation Bay at the Vinnies Argyle Street shop. Putting in place measures to ensure recommended social distancing and other safety measures, a roller door was opened up to guests from 6-7pm to collect supplies in a takeaway fashion.

With the support of our significant volunteer team, the 'Roller Door' Service provided hot food, soup, bread, donated pastries and winter clothing to approximately 20 guests per night. The people who benefited from this service were very appreciative and extremely compliant with the safety measures put in place. At the end of the Roller Door Service, surplus sandwiches and pastries were then delivered to the Safe Night Space Program for their guests to enjoy. As the nights got longer and colder, we saw the increased importance of this service to our most vulnerable.



The success of the Roller Door Service resulted in the trial of a similar service out of the Vinnies Glenorchy shop to make sure that the most vulnerable people in the northern suburbs were taken care of as best as possible during the height of the pandemic.

Who attends our Soup Vans?



Vinnies Van operates in the north of the state under the same principles as Vinnies Loui's Van. Vinnies Van provides hot soup, sandwiches, muffins, fruit, hot drinks, warm clothing, bedding and survival packs to a wide range of people, many of whom are sleeping rough, in temporary accommodation or experiencing significant disadvantage due to mental health or other issues.

In the North during 2019/20 Vinnies Van operated 3 nights per week, Saturday and Sunday nights in the Launceston area visiting the Launceston Mall and Ravenswood and Thursday nights in George Town.



A review of the George Town service in December 2019 identified that the area would be better suited to a Dining with Friends Program, so the Soup Van service stopped in January 2020. It is expected this new service will start operating in the 2020-2021 year once COVID-19 restrictions ease.



Due to the COVID-19 restrictions a decision was made to stop the Launceston service in March 2020. This was an opportunity to review the service with changes needing to be made to meet the requirements of our COVID-19 Plan. The service was able to resume in July 2020 with the easing of restrictions.

Thank You to the St Patrick's College, Year 9 students for providing soup to Vinnies Van Launceston on a weekly basis.

In the north west Vinnies Van operates three nights a week in the Somerset, Wynyard and Burnie communities.

The Soup Van services were stopped in March with a return to service in July 2020.

Thank You to the Kookaburra and Milpara After School Care, Burnie for providing soup and sandwiches for our Burnie service.



Thank You

to all of the volunteers with our Soup Vans and Dining with Friends Program who generously give of their time. Without our volunteers, these service would not be possible.



OUR GOOD WORKS

Accommodation Support

Marillac House is a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society that provides supported accommodation for patients, family members and carers travelling to Launceston for medical purposes.

Assistance and support is provided in a respectful and caring manner, with an emphasis on individual needs. Most of our regular guests consider Marillac House their home-away-from-home.

There is a mix of single, twin, double and family rooms and two of the downstairs rooms have disability access. All rooms have ensuite facilities.

Our passion and commitment for making a difference in the lives of others will always help to fulfil the Society's mission.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Being able to remain open during COVID-19, as well as retaining our staff and volunteers during this difficult time.

Receiving a Grant from the **Tasmanian Community Fund** to install solar panels at Marillac House. This installation will see a reduction in power costs over the coming years.

Ongoing community confidence in our service delivery.

Our role in continuing to provide quality of service to unwell and vulnerable people.

The ongoing dedication of our volunteer team must be recognised as an achievement. Their numbers are small, but they go above and beyond to assist the staff and guests.



**363 new referrals,
a 30% increase on
last year**

970 guests

**32% of referrals
are from King or
Flinders Island**

**394 referrals from
hospitals
statewide**

**186 referrals
from health
care providers
statewide**



OUR GOOD WORKS

Vinnies Youth

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded by a 20 year old university student named Frederic Ozanam who decided to do something about the poverty he saw in his community. Although Frederic was young, he did not let this stop him and together with a group of friends, founded a Society that now operates in over 155 countries in the world. Today, 186 years later, Frederic's work continues to illustrate that even if you are young, you can make a global and lasting difference. Vinnies works with young people across Australia to continue Frederic's legacy and continue the fight for a more just and compassionate society. From primary school, through high school, university and beyond, the Society offers young people the opportunity to learn, reflect and make a difference in their community, all whilst engaging in the Vincentian way of living.

The 2019/2020 financial year has been a big year for Vinnies Youth Tasmania with the development and implementation of new initiatives and programs as well as the readjustment of existing programs and services amongst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Vinnies Youth programs encompass 5 main areas

- Education and work within schools
- Support for disengaged and disadvantaged children
- Upskilling and leadership opportunities for young people
- Youth volunteering and fundraising as well as the development of new programs
- The ongoing coordination of existing programs

SCHOOLS

In Tasmania, we have many 'Mini Vinnies' groups in primary schools across the state and Youth Conferences, projects and social outreach opportunities are offered to secondary schools and colleges. The Society encourages school communities to live their faith through action using the 'See' (education and awareness), 'Think' (formation and reflection) and 'Do' (community service and fundraising) model.

Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies work is conducted within their own school, with their own peers and family members. It's about creating a generation of kind, socially conscious children who are passionate about making the world a better place. There is a heavy focus on education encompassing the story of St Vincent de Paul and our services as well as state, national and international social justice issues that are affecting our world, such as mental and physical health, poverty, the affect of living in regional areas, equal rights, discrimination plus many more. Another focus is on basic financial education and budgeting in which the intention is to instill in children invaluable basic life skills to support them throughout their lives. Children are offered easy ways to get involved, with schools this year participating in donation drives, cooking food for the Soup Van services, participating in School Sleepouts, writing letters and making cards to give to people in need.

Youth Conferences

Once students reach secondary school, Mini Vinnies become Youth Conferences where there is a heavier focus on social outreach, social based learning and volunteer experiences. Numerous school groups have undertaken 'Street Retreats', visiting the Vinnies offices or various Vinnies service locations to learn about what happens in each of these services, what social issues they strive to combat and also what future volunteer and employment opportunities Vinnies can offer. Students are given the chance to learn first hand how their support makes a difference and they get to have a taste of volunteering by picking something they are passionate about. Some things have included: preparing soup for the vans, cleaning the Vinnies Loui's Soup Vans or putting together care packs such as hygiene kits or dignity packs. In Launceston this year, there were also a number of secondary school students who undertook volunteer and work experience placements in the youth programs, Vinnies Shops and Dining with Friends as well as one student undertaking a 3 month mentorship.

The contribution of schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period was outstanding. In the Southern Region, schools offered to provide pre-cooked meals that could be provided to people throughout Vinnies Loui's Van program and the Emergency Relief Program. The increase in food assistance requests during this period saw schools in the Southern Region get together and do a large scale food drive in the community. This was amazingly successfully and enabled a significant amount of people to receive much needed food assistance during this time.



One of our most common requests from schools and community groups is for a visit from the local Vinnies Soup Van service. This provides a real life experience of the great work we do at Vinnies and encourages students to explore the social justice issues within their community. Along with visits to schools, our Soup Vans receive many donations from schools and community groups to provide to people that it assists. Some of the donations include: soup and baked foods, hygiene kits, dignity packs, reusable cups and drink bottles, torches, warm clothing, explorer socks and monetary donations through fundraising. This is an invaluable link for the children and community members to see exactly where their generosity has supported others. The children love receiving a hot Milo and being able to see where their donations are handed out from.

Community Outreach and Upskilling

Community support services such as employment agencies and various disability support agencies have become heavily involved with Vinnies in the north and north-west regions, focusing on developing people's skills and linking them with opportunities. A number of young people living with disabilities have been connected with ongoing paid work or volunteer experience in our Vinnies Shops with support from their disability support providers and we are hoping to continue to grow this across the state.

The employment groups consist of young people enrolled in 3-week ready for work courses as a requirement by Centrelink. The groups get a chance cook soup and bake cupcakes and savoury muffins for the northern Vinnies Van. This gives the group members a chance to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence within the kitchen, learn food handling practices and become empowered to implement small strategies such as bulk meal prepping to help them plan and manage their home life to then support them in being able to juggle work as well. The participants also get to see how easy and inexpensive it can be to make healthy meals in bulk to freeze for the week all whilst giving back to the community at the same time.

Buddy Programs

Buddy Days and Kids Camps are run by Vinnies Youth to continue the 'Good Works' of the St Vincent de Paul Society program for disadvantaged and disengaged young people.

The Vinnies Youth Buddy Programs are designed to offer children a break from any hardships they may be experiencing as well as involving a range of activities that encourage children to develop new skills, enhance their self-confidence and encourage friendship development with other children. The other main benefit of these programs is the respite time for the parents and guardians.

The Vinnies Youth Team have so far hosted four Buddy Days and a Buddy Camp. Sadly, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Buddy Programs have been on hold since early 2020. The Youth Team are eager to have them back up and running as soon as possible and recommence by the end of 2020.



Young Leaders

Vinnies Youth encompasses anyone aged 35 and under who are engaged or volunteering in any division throughout Vinnies, with the main focus area being the youth programs.

Big Buddies

Our young leaders can volunteer as a 'Big Buddy' during our Buddy Programs. The role of a 'Big Buddy' provides not only friendship and fun for the children who attend the event but also assists them with learning appropriate behaviours and helping them to identify positive role models in life. These programs also strive to offer opportunities for our leaders to learn new skills, develop their confidence and provide invaluable mentorship to our Little Buddies. The Buddy Programs provide invaluable opportunities for our young leaders to learn leadership, planning and organisational skills as well as grow their work experience which will assist them when seeking future employment or aid in deciding their future career paths.

Project Revolution

All young leaders are welcome to join the Vinnies Youth group, Project Revolution, which is a group of young people who meet regularly to discuss social justice issues and implement social justice events within the local community. Members of Project Revolution can also choose to play a large role in supporting with the planning, preparation and delivery of community outreach programs such as Vinnies Youth Buddy Days and Kids Camps as well as helping out with events such as School Sleepouts (One Night of Poverty). Project Revolution is an opportunity for young people to enrich their lives, meet like-minded people, learn important leadership skills and strive to make the world a better place in a fun and exciting way. Anyone aged 15-35 is welcome to attend these meetings which run in both the Launceston and Southern regions. Members of Project Revolution get to be a voice for their peers and bring forward causes they are passionate about and plan initiatives around them.

One of the long standing initiatives of our young volunteers is our Hobart Dining with Friends Program. This is a monthly community dinner where our young leaders come together, organise and cook a three course meal for people who attend. The guests who attend this program not only receive a nutritious meal but also have the opportunity for social interaction which many need, especially during the pandemic.



Engagement in Appeals and Initiatives

The Winter Appeal was a huge success across all regions throughout the 2019/2020 financial year with many schools running clothing drives, food drives, fundraisers and other creative initiatives such as letter and card writing to give to people through our Emergency Relief Assistance Offices and Soup Van Services.

'Dressed by Vinnies Day' in 2019 was a huge success with many schools hosting their own days encompassing fashion shows, competitions and music busking sessions.

The Christmas Appeal in 2019 had the involvement of numerous schools across the state supporting those in need. In the Launceston Region, approximately \$7,000 of in-kind support was donated through schools for the Christmas Appeal. Most support through schools for the Christmas Appeal is 'in-kind' so comes in the form of presents for children who may go without or food donations to create Christmas hampers that support people suffering from hardship within our community. With the generosity and support from our amazing schools, Vinnies are able to assist many more people during the Christmas period.

Along with significant donations, schools were also given the chance to help with the Christmas Hamper packing in the Southern Region. This was a great opportunity for students and staff to contribute to helping our most vulnerable people to have a Christmas to celebrate.



St Brigids School card making for companions



Old Beach Cubs helping to serve at Dining with Friends Bridgewater



"I am...." Values activity at YMCA Buddy Day



Vinnies Youth Tas

VINNIES SUPPORTING THE LOCAL TASMANIAN COMMUNITY

Since 1899

St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania offers statewide assistance to anyone in need.

For emergency relief, No Interest Loan Scheme applications or information on any other services, our caring and compassionate team are only a phone call away.



Emergency Relief



Youth Programs



No Interest Loan Applications



Dining with Friends Program



Vinnies Soup Vans

Servicing the Northern, North West and Southern Regions



Online Support Program

Providing support with online grocery ordering



Supporting the homeless and their companion pets



Marillac House

Patient and family accommodation

Our

OUR GOOD WORKS

SPECIAL WORKS

Central Mens Shed

It is said that every man needs a shed - a place he can hide, to work, to sit, to dream, and we have now extended this to include a 'Ladies Day'.

This Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society was opened twelve years ago. Numbers fluctuate from week to week but a core of thirty men attend on a regular basis. People come for a number of reasons; some come for company, some for respite, and some to utilise the facilities. Most of the attendees are older people. The men come from a variety of backgrounds but there are several retired tradies, who willingly share their expertise.

The Shed is well-equipped for woodwork and metal work where the attendees can work on a variety of personal projects.

The Shed is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Women are welcomed and encourage to attend, with Ladies Day predominantly on a Friday.



State Overseas Partnership Committee

THE TASMANIAN CONNECTION WITH OVERSEAS VINCENTIANS

Tasmanian conferences continue to connect with 32 overseas conferences in the Asia Pacific region as well as partnering with two regional councils and the National Council of Thailand. All Tasmanian regions are represented by their regional coordinator on the State Overseas Partnership Committee (SOPC) along with a representative in a specialist support role from each region.

Together with other Vincentians, the SOPC supports marginalised communities in developing countries within our region including India, Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand. The Tasmanian SOPC has three areas of major activity. This year, the committee has focused on strengthening our twinning relationships.

CONFERENCE TWINNING

Twinning relationships form the basis of all our support to overseas Vincentians in their important work with those in need in their local communities, as we do here in Tasmania. In some cases, communication is made difficult simply because our twinned conference is located in an impoverished area or impacted by natural disasters. In other instances, they may not have access to someone who can write or read English, or they are missing a postal address or the finances to reply to our correspondence.

The SOPC is continuing to seek alternative methods of building the relationships with our twinned conferences. The SOPC continues to provide special financial support, in quarterly allocations and special grants at Christmas and Easter, to our twinned conferences.



Twinning Prayer

*In the Gospels Our Lord says:
I have come that they may have life and have it to the full*

We pray that developing nations achieve a just share of the world's food and resources. May they promote the dignity of their people, lost through colonisation and exploitation. May we work with them in love, respect, hope and joy, shaping a more just and compassionate world.

*This we ask in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

ASSIST A STUDENT PROGRAM

The Assist a Student program (AAS), is designed to provide essential support to individual students, at several levels of education, so that they can participate in their local education area and go on to contribute to their families and communities in one of our partner countries for one year. This support is such an important and appreciated need in our region of the world. Fundraising continues in this area. In many Asia Pacific countries, poverty excludes individuals from reaching their full potential by being a barrier to opportunities accessing education.



OUR GOOD WORKS

Vinnies Shops

The retail team undertook a statewide campaign to improve our customer's experience. This saw the introduction of a number of initiatives including:

- the introduction of sizing hangers for quick size recognition by customers
- new pricing tickets for clear precise product pricing
- the implementation of a statewide promotional and clearance sales calendar
- the introduction of Concession Day discounts
- the opportunity to support Vinnies by purchasing new quality mattresses

Vinnies, along with all retail outlets in the state, was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with all of our shops closing in March.

Our COVID-19 Response Plan was enacted and it was going to take time to ensure that all shops meet the necessary requirements of the plan and the State and Federal Government requirements. A huge team effort was required to ensure that all shops were fitted with the necessary equipment and all staff and volunteers received the necessary training to ensure our shops were COVID safe for everyone.

Our larger Vinnies shops began to re-open in mid to late May, however social distancing requirements meant that initially this would not be feasible for the smaller shops.

Those shops that did open were faced with challenges such as reduced customers and a shortage of volunteers. The age and health of some of our volunteers meant it was not safe for them to return to our shops. There was the on-going challenge, that everyone was facing, of accessing equipment such as hand sanitiser, face masks and 'sneeze-guards'. In some cases, the shop layout had to be reorganised to allow the introduction of social distancing spots on the floors.



Opened 2 new shops in the Greater Hobart area

Opened 3 new shops in Northern Tasmania

Relocated 2 shops to better locations in Northern Tasmania

Our Vinnies shops are the hub of their respective communities, especially in rural areas, and offer many services including volunteering opportunities, meeting places for conferences, and providing clothing, homewares and furniture to families in need.

Times have changed for Vinnies shops, no longer are we viewed as an outlet of last resort, shopping for preloved clothing is viewed as fashionable; where it is seen as trendy to find that elusive and unique sought-after item. Environmental considerations also play a part in the new vogue of shopping at Vinnies. Every year, Vinnies shops save thousands of tonnes of perfectly good clothing from ending up in landfill. With a mix of fashion, business attire, casual clothing and clothes for children, we are proud to cater for all tastes and budgets, while supporting those in need, the wider community and, of course, the environment.

People often ask what happens when unwanted items are donated to Vinnies. Invariably, donated items are re-used in various ways. Donations are sorted through our warehouses and categorised as stock to be sold in Vinnies Shops or given to people in need through our Emergency Relief Services. Items unsuitable to be sold in Vinnies Shops are sent to Vincent Industries to be shipped to countries overseas or cut into 'bags of rags' for cleaning at either St Vincent Industries or Vincent Industries. The very small proportion of items that do not fall into these categories are disposed of at a local refuse centre.

Greater Hobart

2019 saw the opening of two new shops in southern Tasmania. In New Norfolk we moved to a new bigger location in July and a second shop was opened in the Kingston area in September. Both communities have been very supportive and our shops have seen an influx of quality donations.



Vinnies Kingston



Vinnies New Norfolk

North and North West Tasmania

It was a busy time for the retail staff in the northern part of the state. A new shop opened at Upper Burnie in July followed by the opening of another at Boland Street Launceston. The Boland Street Shop is our biggest, at over 900sqm. The community came together to show their support with over 600 customers on the opening day. July also saw the closure of our Mowbray shop with staff and stock moving to the new Boland Street shop.

September saw the relocation of the Burnie City Shop to a new more central location followed by the opening of a new shop at Deloraine. The Deloraine community was very welcoming and excited to see Vinnies return to this beautiful little town. March 2020 saw our shop at Ulverstone move to a new, brighter location in the main street.

Vinnies Boland Street
Launceston



Vinnies Upper Burnie Volunteers



Vinnies Deloraine

Thank you to the north west radio listeners who voted and our north west Vinnies Shops received the **Best of the Best Customer Service Award**

Our SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

A Paw Up	Finlay Watchorn Lawyers	Riverside Golf Club
ABC Tasmania	Gayle Bigwood Mundy	Rod Glover Legal
Anaconda	Givit	Ross A Hart Barrister & Solicitor
Aurora	Glenorchy City Council	Rotary Club of Hobart
Australian Federal Government	Grey Sands Vineyard	Rotary Club of South Launceston
Backpack Beds For Homeless	Hobart City Council	Self Help Worplace Youngtown
Banjos	Hobart Friendly Care Pharmacies	Senator Wendy Askew
Behrakis Group	Hobart Refrigeration & Appliance Repairs	Shell West Launceston
Bellerive Bakery	House of Anvers Latrobe	SKAL International - Tasmania
Bethlehem House	Hydro Tasmania	Southern Cross Austereo
Bold Lawyers	Ian Guest & Associates Lawyers	Southern Waste Solutions
Breadd Hobart	IGA	Stuart Barry Financial Adviser
Bridget Archer MP	Jacqui Lambie MP	Sue Hickey MP
Brighton Council	James Crotty Barristers & Solicitors	Sues of Invermay's My Style Work + Shop
Brighton's Best Bakehouse	JGD Legal Lawyers	Tamar Valley Cruises
Bunnings	Lactalis	TasGas
Calvary Hospital	Launceston City Council	Tasmanian Community Fund
Camerons Accountants and Advisors	Launceston City Council Leisure and Aquatic Centre	Tasmanian State Government
Castrisius Law Lawyers	Launceston Travel and Cruise Centre	The Advocate Newspaper
Catholic Parish of Launceston	Loui's Legends	The Derwent Valley Gazette
Cecilia Kilkeary Foundation	Lyone Foundation	The Examiner Newspaper
Central Highlands Council	Macq 1	The Hawthorn Football Club
Circular Head Chronicle	Maguire + Devine Architects	The Mercury Newspaper
Colin Bisdee Trust	Marine Solutions	The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Mark Wells Public Affairs	The Robert Fergusson Family Foundation
Deloittes	Matthew Stolp	The Select Foundation
Emily Wilkins	MyState Bank Community Foundation	TPT Wealth
Estate of Eleanor Mary Trethewie	Oglivie Jennings Lawyers	Turners Still House
Estate of Mary Margaret Renahan	Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitalier, Australia. Priory of Tasmania	Vos Construction & Joinery
Estate of O'Meara	Paul's Outdoor Products	Wallace Wilkinson Webster Lawyers
Estate of Stephen Joseph Cooper	Pura Milk	Walsh Day James Mihal Lawyers
Federal Group	RACT	Woolworths
	Rae & Partners Lawyers	

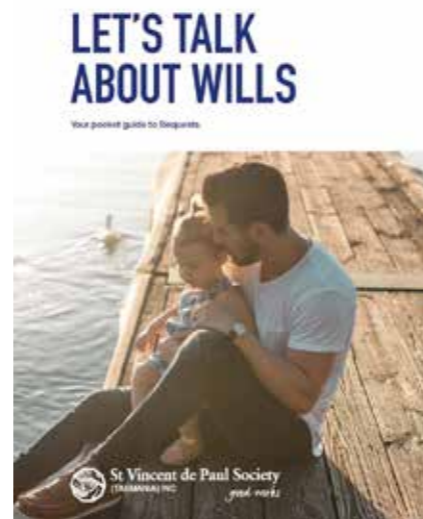
Our FUNDRAISING

OUR GOOD WORKS

It has been an exciting, busy, challenging but overall a highly successful year and we have been able to implement a number of new initiatives.

We introduced a [sponsorship/partnership agreement](#) for businesses and organisations wishing to partner with us, in supporting us with monetary or in-kind donations, in return for promoting their businesses.

We have partnered with [TPT Wealth](#) to produce a co-branded [bequests booklet](#), with TPT Wealth contributing to the whole of the printing costs and Flying Colours contributing to the design work. We are incredibly grateful to have an organisation such as TPT Wealth, partnering with us, in what is a very important space. Almost half of all Australians do not have a will. Gifts in wills ensures the Society continues to meet people face-to-face and provide support, friendship and material assistance. We change lives today and into the future. Every legacy, large or small is useful and will improve lives of those less fortunate. Receiving a gift in a will enables us to plan projects in advance, for the long-term benefit of the community.



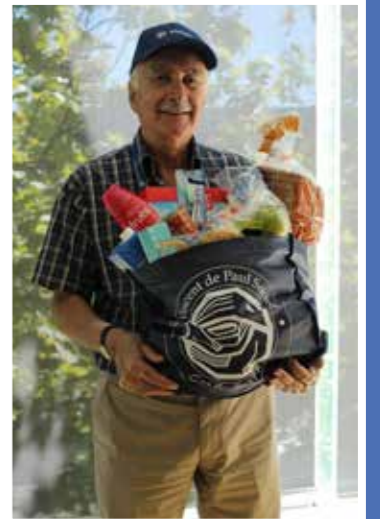
We have also introduced an [‘Honorary Solicitor’ Scheme](#), whereby Tasmanian Solicitors agree to take instructions and draft a free ‘simple will’, where the client is leaving a legacy to the St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania. A simple will is where the supporter intends to include a gift in their will to their spouse/life partner, their children and a legacy to the St Vincent de Paul Society, Tasmania. We currently have 14 Solicitors who have signed up to provide this service and we greatly appreciate their time and service.

We had a very successful [Christmas Appeal](#) raising \$153,400. We were also over-whelmed by the response to the ABC Giving Tree; we received lots of toys, gifts and gift vouchers for children, women and men, who might not ordinarily have anything under the Christmas tree to open. Whilst Christmas is not all about presents, when you don’t receive a Christmas present, it can compound feelings of despair, loneliness, marginalisation and exclusion at this time of year. We were also very lucky to be supported by The Examiner Newspaper ‘Empty Stocking’ appeal as well.

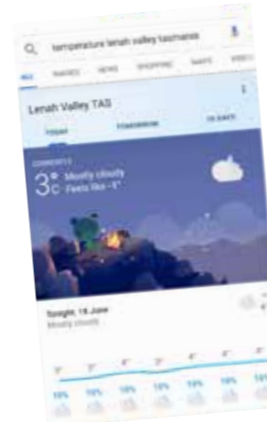
Early in the year, as everyone would know, we were hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant we had to shut our retail operations. This had a significant impact on our fundraising ability and activities.

Our retail activities are a major part of our fundraising income and enable us to raise much needed funds to assist individuals and families with food, warm clothing, bedding, furniture and household items (we all tend to take for granted) and assistance with paying bills. It also enables us to run a number of community programs, which are designed to build individual and community resilience and capacity. Where an individual cannot afford an item, we give it to them for free. With the onset of COVID-19 we couldn’t accept physical donations nor open our shops.

Our National Office launched the [COVID-19 appeal](#) and for [winter 2020](#), Tasmania decided to run a locally produced winter campaign. We were very heartened and humbled by the assistance we received from so many individuals and organisations. We even had many pensioners donating their \$750 Federal Government COVID-19 supplement, to us, so we could help those 22,000 Tasmanians who either lost their jobs or had their hours reduced. The support we have received for our work in the community has been amazing and once again, I would like to personally thank all of those individuals and organisations for this support, along with our hard-working conference members, staff and volunteers. A number of those, we have listed in this annual report. However, there are a number of organisations, foundations and individuals, who have elected to remain anonymous.



One of the best parts of this job and there are many, are the amazing donors I get to speak to either face-to-face or over the telephone. I get to speak to some amazing and extremely generous people and it has been interesting listening to their stories. I have had the privilege of speaking to many senior Australians who experienced as a young person the last, world-wide pandemic. Additionally, we were supported in our efforts, once again, by The Examiner Newspaper ‘Winter Appeal’. Together, as a community, we were able to raise a staggering \$173,000.



COVID-19 also had a major effect on our [2020 CEO Sleepout](#) fundraiser. There was a period where we didn’t know what was going to happen; so we were in a ‘holding pattern’. However, in the end, as a national fundraising activity, we decided the safest and best way to go was to have a virtual sleepout, with participants electing to either sleepout in their backyard, balcony or deck or in their car. Despite the number of participants and donations being down, we were able to raise \$104,000.



Time-and-time again, Tasmanians have demonstrated they are a very generous and caring bunch of people. Without the support of the Tasmanian community, we couldn’t help as many people as we do. We never cease to be amazed by how caring and mature many of our young Tasmanian people are. Many young people through their schools have raised money or goods to assist those doing it tough. We had two school teachers, Matthew Stolp and Emily Wilkinson, early on in the pandemic, organise two pantry drives and they collected food items from all over the greater Hobart area.



When I started at the St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania last year, we had 6,000 Facebook followers - we now have over 8,000!

Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues state-wide and nationally, for their input, guidance, support and assistance.

Bernadette Ulbrich-Hooper
Fundraising and Marketing Advisor

Our PEOPLE

OUR GOOD WORKS

Volunteers

As another annual report heralds the end of another year, Vinnies would like to use this as an opportunity to recognise our 1300 dedicated volunteers and to **thank you all** for the invaluable contribution you make to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

A large number of our fantastic volunteers have been with us for many years, while others have gained valuable work experience over shorter periods. Some work with us in our Vinnies shops across the state, while others make their essential contribution by helping out on one of the Soup Vans. As a Society committed to the wellbeing of others, we are immeasurably grateful for the time and energy our volunteers spend enriching our work; and helping us to reach and assist even more vulnerable people in need.

Vinnies volunteers work in a huge variety of different areas such as:

- Our Hubs, where staff and volunteer advocates are trained to empower people with the information and resources they need to live the lives most of us take for granted.
- Ensuring our support, membership, and fundraising services run smoothly, and contributing their experience and expertise to our communications and campaigning work;
- Giving generously of their time and energy to be a volunteer at our Vinnies shops, helping to raise money and offering a welcoming smile to those who (sometimes) just need to see a friendly face;
- Braving all weather conditions to deliver hot drinks and nutritious meals to the homeless and those sleeping rough from one of our Soup Vans in every region; and
- Supporting one of our Special Works such as Marillac House or our Dining with Friends Program.



The true calling of our volunteers is embodied in a quote attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi;

“Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self”

meet Chloe

Following the opening of the new Boland Street shop in Launceston, the St Vincent de Paul Society reached out to potential candidates interested in working and volunteering at this location. Interact Australia – an organisation that provides support for youth at risk, Indigenous people, migrants, and people living with a disability answered the call and arranged a work placement for their client, 21-year-old, Chloe Hansson, who has Down syndrome.

After meeting with our team, Chloe was offered a position at Vinnies on Boland. Chloe started in July and is loving her new role.

Chloe is popular with the other staff and volunteers, and loves helping our customers whenever she can. She has settled into her new role, working a few days a week, and has made a positive impact on her colleagues. Interact Australia Performance said that Chloe’s placement at the Vinnies Boland Street Shop in Launceston was representative of how successful placing people with a disability in employment can be.

Interact Australia is so happy that Chloe has secured a role within such an iconic community organisation, as the St Vincent de Paul Society. Vinnies have been there every step of the way when people need them, and this is just another example of this great organisation leading the way when it comes to supporting people within our community.

The not-for-profit sector, and certainly the St Vincent de Paul Society, has taken up the challenge to lead by example and offer employment or volunteer opportunities to people with a disability. Possibly because the whole Vinnies organisation is one of support and empathy, we are best placed to show leadership in this area and help the disadvantaged and disabled within our community.

Working with organisations such as Interact Australia, our intention is to raise awareness of disability inclusion and to make it part of every CEO’s agenda. For the St Vincent de Paul Society, disability inclusion means making sure that every one of our employees and volunteers – regardless of their situation – is supported in the workplace; and that we assist them to live happy, productive lives, and reach their full potential. We achieve this by implementing a disability confidence program, which means we engage regularly with employees with a disability to understand what support is required.



Members

Society members are passionate about helping those in need in their local community and work together in groups known as 'Conferences' that are usually attached to parishes, schools, universities, social groups, workplaces, or groups of individuals from the local area.

We would not exist without members and volunteers; they are the Society. They live their faith in action by visiting people in their homes or in the community, providing friendship and support to those they serve and to each other. They are called to seek out the poor and marginalised wherever they may be.

Our history of good works is built on providing practical support, but also by extending the hand of friendship. Isolation is a common experience for the ageing and disadvantaged in our community.



Vinnies changes lives everyday

28 Conferences statewide

Established an Aged-Care Visitation Conference in Burnie/Somerset

Members continued to provide assistance to those in need via telephone meetings during COVID-19

Assisted 3,302 families with 21,043 instances of support

Assisted Temporary Visa Holders during COVID-19

Members embraced video meetings during COVID-19, coming together for 'Prayer and a Cuppa'

Referred 1,037 people to other service organisations to meet their needs

49 new Conference members

Created 'drive and drop' and 'roller door' programs in response to COVID-19 restrictions

New Conference formed on King Island

Employees

We recognise the Society's employees, who dedicate their time and energy to improving the lives of others.

Our employees work tirelessly to support our Members and volunteers who are working in every part of the community, and in every aspect of our work.

As an organisation, we are truly inspired by the personal commitment of our employees, who make a difference – especially in these unprecedented and challenging times – to the lives of so many people. The approach of our employees embodies the care and selflessness of our founders and the Society itself.

In the past year, our employees have been instrumental in supporting the Society's work through very difficult times.

On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society, **thank you** for your commitment to helping us to actually change the world, one vulnerable Tasmanian at a time.

The Society will never be able to fully express its gratitude to our employees, but please know how much the efforts of each and every one of our employees is appreciated and respected every day.



Thank You

for your kindness, compassion and caring



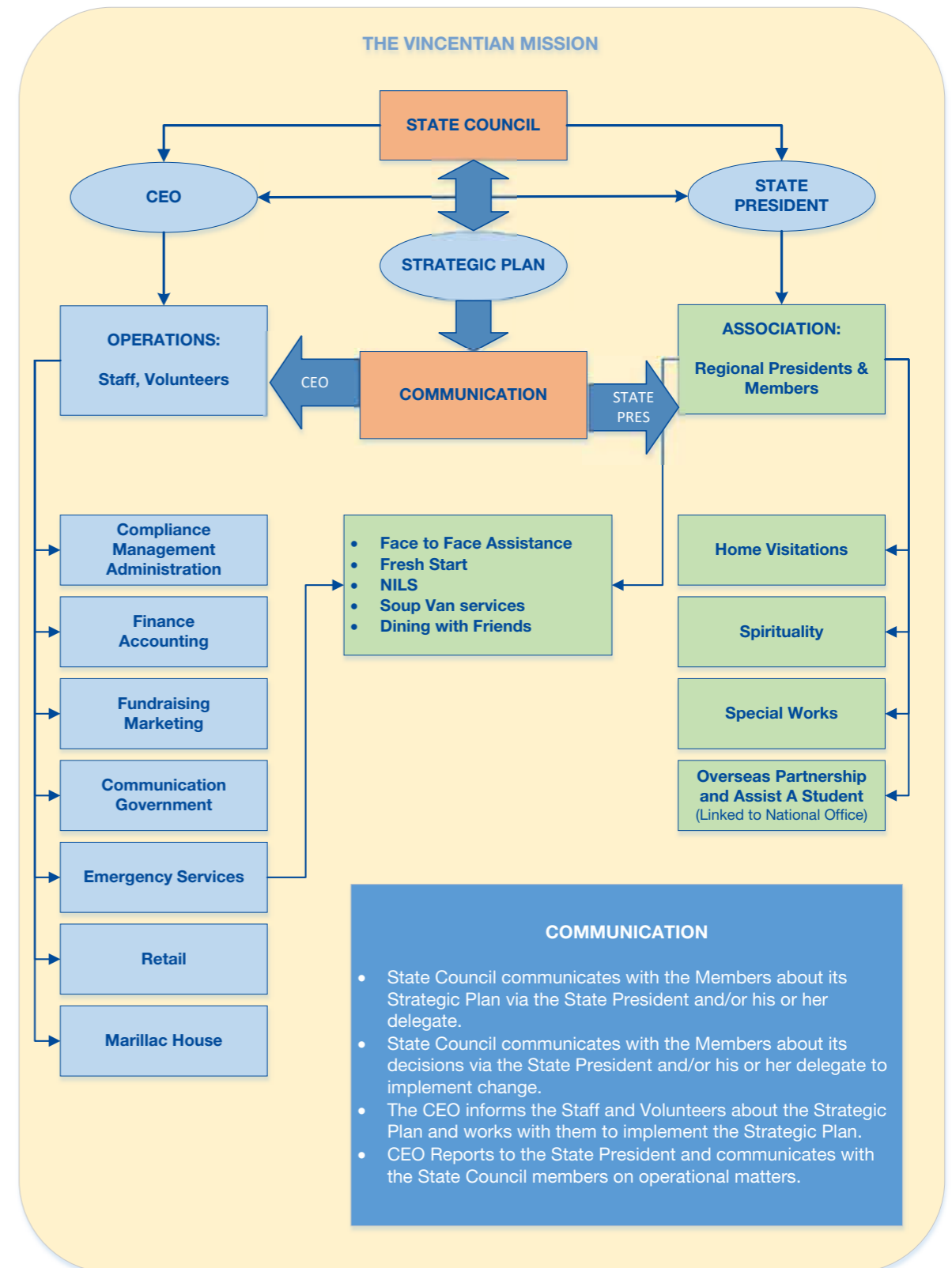
Our STATE COUNCIL



STATE COUNCIL - (L to R) Catherine Beaver, Mark Gaetani, Vyvyan Allchin, Kirsty Evans, Lara Alexander (CEO), Patrick Flanagan, Belinda Chapman, Corey McGrath, Les Baxter (Inset: Brendan McManus)

<p>Mark Gaetani State President</p> <p>MBA Member AICD, AIM Senior Associate Financial Services Inst of Aust</p> <p>Committee Member: Finance and Risk Management (Chair), Governance, National Council Finance Risk & Audit, National Council International Standing Committee</p> <p>Joined the Society in 2016 and served as Treasurer for State Council. Over 35 years experience in banking and finance. Chair of the Archdiocese of Hobart Finance Committee (voluntary) and has supported various parish communities.</p>	<p>Corey McGrath President North West Regional Council</p> <p>JP BBus MAICD</p> <p>Committee Member: Finance and Risk Management</p> <p>Extensive experience in IT and the financial markets. Joined the Society in 2016. A serial volunteer who currently sits on the boards of several other non-profits.</p>	<p>Vyvyan Allchin President Northern Regional Council</p> <p>Committee Member: State Overseas Partnership (Chair), Governance</p> <p>Extensive experience in technical and management consultancy. Member Apostles Conference for 9 years.</p>
<p>Brendan McManus Secretary</p> <p>BA LLB</p> <p>State Council Secretary and Public Officer</p> <p>Member St Mary's Cathedral Conference for 20 years. Deputy Registrar Supreme Court of Tasmania.</p>	<p>Catherine Beaver Vice President</p> <p>BA Dip Ed</p> <p>Member Corpus Christi Conference. Joined the Tasmanian Society in September 2012. Prior to this, Regional President Paramatta Diocese, NSW. Society member for 25 years.</p>	<p>Patrick Flanagan President Southern Regional Council</p> <p>B Ec CPA JP</p> <p>Committee Member: Finance and Risk Management</p> <p>Extensive experience in senior management. Member of St Mary's Cathedral Conference. Society member for over 50 years.</p>
<p>Belinda Chapman Spiritual Adviser</p> <p>Diploma in Theology Bachelor of Theology Graduate Diploma of Spiritual Direction</p> <p>Previous experience with the Archdiocese of Hobart. Spiritual Adviser for Stella Maris Conference, Northern Region and Vinnies 2019 Immersion Program.</p>	<p>Les Baxter</p> <p>PhD Master Entrep & Innovation Man MBA M Agri Sci CMg GAICD FIML Grad Dip Law Description</p> <p>Committee Member: Governance (Chair)</p> <p>Over 25 years experience in senior management/leadership roles in the public and private sectors. Certified Practising Manager, Chairman of the Board Eskleigh Foundation and Director of several NFP and commercial company boards.</p>	<p>Kersti Evans</p> <p>Bachelor of Business Hotel & Catering Management (majoring in Accounting) Associate of Institute of Public Accountants</p> <p>Committee Member: Finance and Risk Management</p> <p>Over 20yrs experience in Management Accounting and 11yrs within her own company.</p>

Our STRUCTURE



Our GOVERNANCE

The governing body for the St Vincent de Paul Society in Tasmania is the State Council.

The State Council is constituted and empowered pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (Tas), the Constitution of the Society and The Rule of the St Vincent de Paul Society Australia (The Rule). In carrying out its responsibilities and exercising its powers, the State Council recognises at all times its overriding responsibility to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the Vincentian spirit with the highest standards of integrity, fairness, respect and ethical conduct in meeting the Society's Constitutional principal objects:

- (a) to provide any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation, and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. The Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. Vincentians strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity;
- (b) to seek to cooperate in shaping a more just, compassionate Australia and to share the Society's resources with our twinned countries;
- (c) to work with and assist people in need whilst respecting their dignity, sharing our hope and encouraging them to take control of their own future;
- (d) to promote informed discussion on the plight of those in need and to advocate improved services and facilities for them;
- (e) to liaise with and share resources with other charitable and benevolent organisations with the objective of assisting those people in need;
- (f) to follow the teaching and charism of Blessed Frederic Ozanam; and
- (g) to ensure that the basic principles and The Rule of the Society are respected.

The State Council carries out the legal duties of its role in accordance with the following Code of Conduct principles:

1. Deliver Society services safely
2. Treat everyone with dignity, compassion and respect
3. Act legally and professionally
4. Respect Diversity
5. Maintain confidentiality and privacy
6. Avoid or manage conflicts of Interest
7. No Drugs and Alcohol
8. Caring for Society Property



The State Council membership is based on the following:

- (a) The number of State Council members, manner of appointment, term of appointment and circumstances for removal or a vacancy are as set out in The Rule and the Constitution.
- (b) The State Council of the Society in Tasmania comprises of the Officers of the Society which are: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Presidents of the Regional Councils (North, North West, South) and the Spiritual Adviser.

State Council Advisory Committees:

The State Council may discharge any of its responsibilities through advisory committees to which it has delegated powers and functions. The State Council determines the mandate, term and membership of each Committee. The State President may establish other permanent or temporary Committees as it sees fit from time to time. The term of appointment of the members of a Committee is to be determined by the State President. The appointments cease upon the election of a new State President.

Currently the State Council has established the following Committees:

- (a) Finance and Risk Management Committee;
- (b) Governance Committee;
- (c) Overseas Partnership and Development Committee

Regional Councils

The State Council is the head State body and the Regional Council reports to the State Council and is bound by the decisions of the State Council.

The Regional Council is responsible for matters such as:

1. Assistance to people in need in the Region;
2. Local regional activities (such as food drives);
3. Building Regional membership and succession;
4. Giving members tools to help those in need in the Region;
5. Ongoing support and spiritual development/welfare

The number of Regional Council members, manner of appointment, term of appointment and circumstances for removal or a vacancy are as set out in The Rule. Regional Council meetings provide the forum for Conferences within that Region to report on their activities, discuss matters of common concern and make recommendations on action to be taken as per matters identified above.



Glossary

CONFERENCE	A group of Vincentian Members who come together to fulfil the Mission of the Society in accordance with The Rule
INCORPORATED SPECIAL WORK	A Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society that has been incorporated separately under the Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (Tas)
LAY CATHOLIC	Ordinary members of the Catholic Church who are neither clergy nor recipients of Holy Orders or vowed to life in a religious order or congregation
REGIONAL COUNCIL	Coordinating body for a group of Conferences within a geographic area
SPECIAL WORK	A facility or service created where the need cannot be addressed within the normal scope of a Conference or Council's activity
STATE COUNCIL	The Society's highest governing body in the State
THE RULE	The governing document of the St Vincent de Paul Society internationally and is written for members and volunteers
VINCENTIAN MEMBER OR MEMBER	A person who is part of a Conference who may or may not also volunteer with other activities of the Society
VINNIES SHOP	Retail outlets that assist with our fundraising efforts but also sells and distributes quality second hand items to people in need and the general public
VOLUNTEER	A person who donates their time to the Society and is not a member of a Conference



Our FINANCIAL REPORT

St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania) Inc

Income Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Commonwealth Emergency Relief Grant	390,884	230,940
State Family Assistance Grant	100,000	100,000
Other Government Grants	53,473	56,500
Sale of goods	5,088,528	5,097,528
Client contributions	355,574	217,960
Fundraising	1,277,564	930,612
Bequests	290,311	469,368
Investment Income	187,876	13,642
Profit on Sale of Assets	6,995,476	45,047
COVID-19 government subsidies	860,000	-
Other Income	89,841	75,371
TOTAL REVENUE	15,689,527	7,236,968
SOCIETY GOOD WORKS EXPENSES		
Cost of Goods Sold	66,469	37,189
Personnel Costs	5,621,919	4,574,401
Property Costs	1,189,434	1,147,016
Transport Costs	204,250	194,555
Depreciation	1,449,667	329,034
Material Assistance Costs	1,147,998	711,588
Operating Costs	710,661	816,380
TOTAL GOOD WORKS EXPENSES	10,390,398	7,810,163
Net Society Transfers	(108,157)	(131,000)
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD	5,190,972	(704,195)

St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania) Inc

Balance Sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2020	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,121,895	675,126
Trade and other receivables	418,717	69,942
Inventories	35,168	17,044
Financial assets	169,311	145,537
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,745,091	907,649
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	16,860,085	13,054,366
Financial assets	5,532,600	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	22,392,685	13,054,366
TOTAL ASSETS	25,137,776	13,962,015
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	672,769	597,024
Lease liabilities	954,972	-
Provisions	501,459	677,622
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,129,200	1,274,646
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Other payables	100,000	100,000
Lease liabilities	5,334,564	-
Provisions	83,218	82,652
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	5,517,782	182,652
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,646,982	1,457,298
NET ASSETS	17,490,794	12,504,717
CAPITAL FUNDS		
Reserves	100,000	9,191,730
Funds for future social programs	17,390,794	3,312,987
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	17,490,794	12,504,717

St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania Incorporated Special Works Financial Reports

INCOME STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020	Bethlehem House	St Vincent Industries	Tastex Knitwear	Mt St Vincent Nursing Home	Vincent Industries
Operating revenue	3,951,991	787,929	1,216,252	-	900,330
Operating expenses	3,379,509	750,297	1,131,312	-	897,342
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	572,482	37,632	84,940	-	2,988
Non-Operational Revenue	(138,018)	-	4,200	2,719,318	-
Non-Operational Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	434,464	37,632	89,140	2,719,318	2,988

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019	Bethlehem House	St Vincent Industries	Tastex Knitwear	Mt St Vincent Nursing Home	Vincent Industries
Operating revenue	1,912,206	750,586	1,134,782	-	976,839
Operating expenses	1,565,999	729,565	1,086,710	-	929,712
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	346,207	21,021	48,072	-	47,127
Non-Operational Revenue	295,126	(898)	1,591	-	-
Non-Operational Expenses	97,680	-	-	-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	543,653	20,123	49,663	-	47,127

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2020	Bethlehem House	St Vincent Industries	Tastex Knitwear	Mt St Vincent Nursing Home	Vincent Industries
ASSETS					
Current assets	1,603,160	1,081,361	837,530	-	807,092
Non current assets	5,873,361	609,502	117,962	-	310,106
Total assets	7,476,521	1,690,863	955,492	-	1,117,198
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities	449,222	146,665	168,122	-	235,398
Non current liabilities	25,727	6,113	7,750	-	21,980
Total liabilities	474,949	152,778	175,872	-	257,378
NET ASSETS	7,001,572	1,538,085	779,620	-	859,820
CAPITAL FUNDS	7,001,572	1,538,085	779,620	-	859,820

AS AT 30 JUNE 2019	Bethlehem House	St Vincent Industries	Tastex Knitwear	Mt St Vincent Nursing Home	Vincent Industries
ASSETS					
Current assets	6,549,326	991,475	704,537	-	675,115
Non current assets	201,999	617,837	144,782	-	323,414
Total assets	6,751,325	1,609,312	849,319	-	998,529
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities	216,586	93,598	140,045	-	117,674
Non current liabilities	9,553	15,261	18,794	-	24,023
Total liabilities	226,139	108,859	158,839	-	141,697
NET ASSETS	6,525,186	1,500,453	690,480	-	856,832
CAPITAL FUNDS	6,525,186	1,500,453	690,480	-	856,832

These financial reports consists of the St Vincent de Paul Society incorporated special works which are the Bethlehem House Homeless Men's Assistance Centre Inc., St Vincent Industries Inc., Tastex Knitwear Inc., Mt St Vincent Nursing Home & Therapy Centre Inc. and Vincent Industries Inc. Mt St Vincent Nursing Home & Therapy Centre Inc. was sold on 31/08/2019.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (TASMANIA) INC

ABN: 41 003 138 898


STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

In the opinion of the State Council of St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania) Inc:

- i. The financial statements set out on page 2-20 present a true and fair view of the financial position of the St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania) Inc. as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirement of the *Associations Incorporated Act (Tas) 1964*; and
- ii. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- iii. The financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*

Signed in accordance with subsection 60-15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.


Committee Member
State President
Dated: 7/10/2020


Committee Member
Secretary
14.10.20

The Society's

INCORPORATED SPECIAL WORKS

BETHLEHEM HOUSE

S Kirkman Meikle, CEO Bethlehem House

Bethlehem House is a full service supported accommodation facility supporting homeless men, including homeless NDIS participants. 2019-20 was a very busy year for us responding to the very complex support needs of homeless men with alcohol and other drug use issues, often combined with ongoing mental health support needs. In the 2019 year 121 clients had a diagnosed mental health issue and a further 83 were identified as having a non-diagnosed mental health issue. The prevalence of mental health support needs remained similarly high this year. (Data produced from SRS SHIP database).

This year, we operated 12 crisis accommodation beds and one unit for dads with children, with Communities Tasmania Grant deed, as well as a Supported Independent Living House for NDIS clients: all these were 100% occupied, including during COVID-19 restrictions.

In order to reduce the risk of infection for our residents with compromised health issues and to remain Covid-safe, we had to reduce the numbers of bedspaces in our main residence. This has meant that we no longer have any shared rooms. We also had to take the hard decision, during the pandemic, to cease delivery of services provided in-house to non-residents. Fortunately, this meant we were able to continue operating and we had no cases of COVID-19.



At the end of the year our capacity is to accommodate 31 men, some of whom are in crisis, and others whom we support in 18 additional transitional Living Pods, attached to the facility.

The construction on-site of the new Living Pods between January and May was quite a challenge but the transitional residents are enjoying having control over their own space, with private facilities. The units have a bedroom, bathroom with shower, a fridge, tv, A/c unit and in some cases a fantastic view across Hobart to the mountain. Residents certainly enjoy the peace and sense of privacy.

In a year our kitchen provides 31,000 meals to residents and provided a further 5000 meals to non-resident homeless men who regularly called in for free showers, laundry and a chance to speak to support workers. For these non-residents, thanks to generous donations, we were also able to provide clean clothing, new underwear, essential toiletry items, blankets, backpack beds and swags. Our residents operated a free clothing shop where men were able to pick up everything from warm jumpers

to shoes. During Covid we had to suspend this service to visitors but we were able to pass on the donations through partners in the community.

We had 159 separate admissions to our accommodation and support service overall, including 92 men who needed to stay in our emergency after hours bed on at least one occasion. There

were often multiple demands for this emergency service and we supported 38 men for more than one night, sometimes on up to 8 separate occasions. There were around 14 homeless men who sleep rough but regularly requested a bed for the night as respite.

Over the past two years, we have been able to run a range of additional skills based support programs, thanks to the Tasmanian Community Fund grant aided 'Improving Skills: Improving lives of homeless men project, which runs over four years.

The project aims are:

1. To enable men recovering from homelessness and related drug addiction, alcohol abuse, social issues to engage in positive life experiences
2. To engage homeless men in daily practical focussed workshops teaching essential skills.
3. To teach homeless men essential skills which they can use to improve their wellbeing and to assist them to reintegrate into a stable community life:
 - Literacy
 - Digital Literacy
 - Household skills (Finances/Cooking)
 - Mental health, Social and Relationship skills:
4. To better equip to return to the community with improved community connections.

The Program has been well received and uptake of the different support strands has been very good. Delivery of the program is made possible through program partners Hobart Library, Connect42 Speech Pathology and UTAS.

This year, and last year, in addition to our main support services, we delivered NDIS support services, in a neighbouring property, for homeless men in need of Supported Independent Living. The property has been set aside for men with mental health and cognitive disabilities and we have a dedicated support team available for this 24/7 service.

There has been a sharp increase in the recognition of the numbers of clients with a psychosocial disability, as reflected in the number of clients who now have an NDIS support package. To meet this demand our NDIS team has grown substantially and we are much better able to help men work towards their goals. We have notable success in working with partners to help men exit to long term supported accommodation.

Finally, the Tasmanian Government Communities Tasmania, 'Affordable Housing Action Plan' has set the timetable for our long-awaited and much needed move to a purpose-built facility in 2023. We expect an even busier year ahead as, together with our colleagues in the community and public sectors, we prepare to meet the extremely complex support needs of homeless men.



ST VINCENT INDUSTRIES

D Teague, CEO St Vincent Industries



St Vincent Industries (SVi) employs 42 people, with 35 being NDIS participants who are supported in the workplace. 2020 saw long-time employee Mark Sargent retire. Mark was presented with a painted portrait by Milly Crombie as a retirement gift.

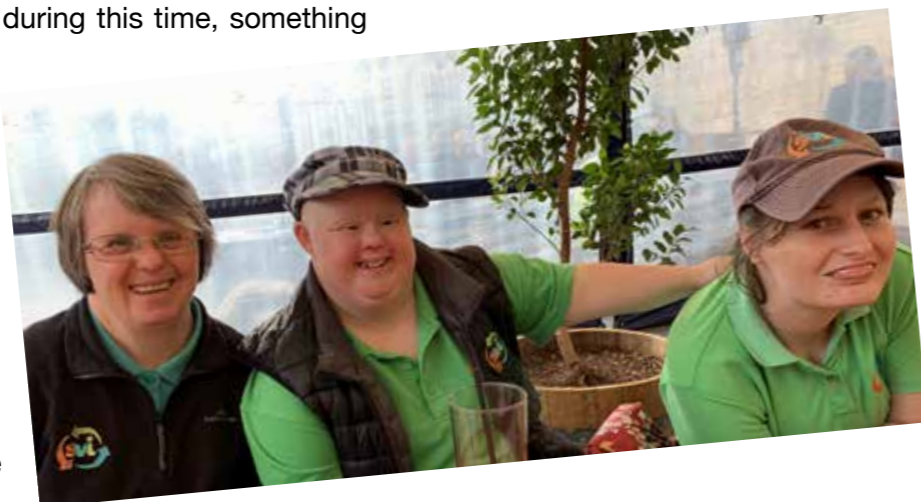
At the 2019 Tasmanian Training Awards, St Vincent Industries was awarded Equity Employer of the Year in recognition of our extensive training programs. Over the past 12 years we have provided training to over 45 employees, who have gained a total of 84 separate qualifications. These qualifications include Certificate II in Warehousing Operations, Certificate II in Process Manufacturing, Certificate I in Warehousing Operations, a Language, Literacy & Numeracy Skillset and First Aid training.

A group of eight employees are currently undertaking Certificate II in Warehousing Operations.

Rag sales remain strong despite the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in. Most of our customers remained open and the Rag Van has been there to supply them with our recycled rags.

St Vincent Industries remained open during COVID-19. The Board and Staff have worked hard to provide the support needed to all our employees during this difficult period. SVi has not had to make use of Job Keeper during this time, something we are all very proud of.

St Vincent Industries' future is an exciting one, with new opportunities with the NDIS, a strong training culture, new business opportunities being investigated, initiatives for inclusion in our wider community and a focus on relevant work and life skills for people with disability makes St Vincent Industries a dynamic and enjoyable workplace for all its employees.



VINCENT INDUSTRIES

N McKenna, General Manager Vincent Industries

During the 2019/2020 year we were able to celebrate the following achievements:

One of our supported employees was a finalist in The 2019 Tasmanian Training Awards under the category Equity Vocational Student of the Year. This is the 2nd consecutive year Vincent Industries has had a supported employee achieve the success of "finalist" in these training awards.



VINCENT INDUSTRIES (continued)

12 supported employees have received training certificates for completing skill sets in Garden Maintenance and Kitchen Operations.

We have welcomed 2 new supported employees and a Leading Hand into our workplace. This brings our total number of employees to 47, of whom 42 are supported employees. We did not farewell any employees in the year.

One of our employees celebrated 40 years as an employee of Vincent Industries. We held a special morning tea for all employees and the family of our long serving employee. The employee's sister told me she was only 10 years old when her sister started working at Vincent Industries!



The average age of our supported employees is 47, so we are not a young workforce! 8 of our employees live in the Cape Country units belonging to St Vincent de Paul in Cotton Street. Of our 47 employees, 20 live in Wynyard while most of our other employees live in Somerset or Burnie. 12 employees travel to and from work using the Metro bus service.

During the COVID-19 restrictions, we remained open and only closed our production for 3 weeks during the outbreak and lockdown period in Burnie. A credit to all our employees who followed all the public health guidelines and stayed safe and well.

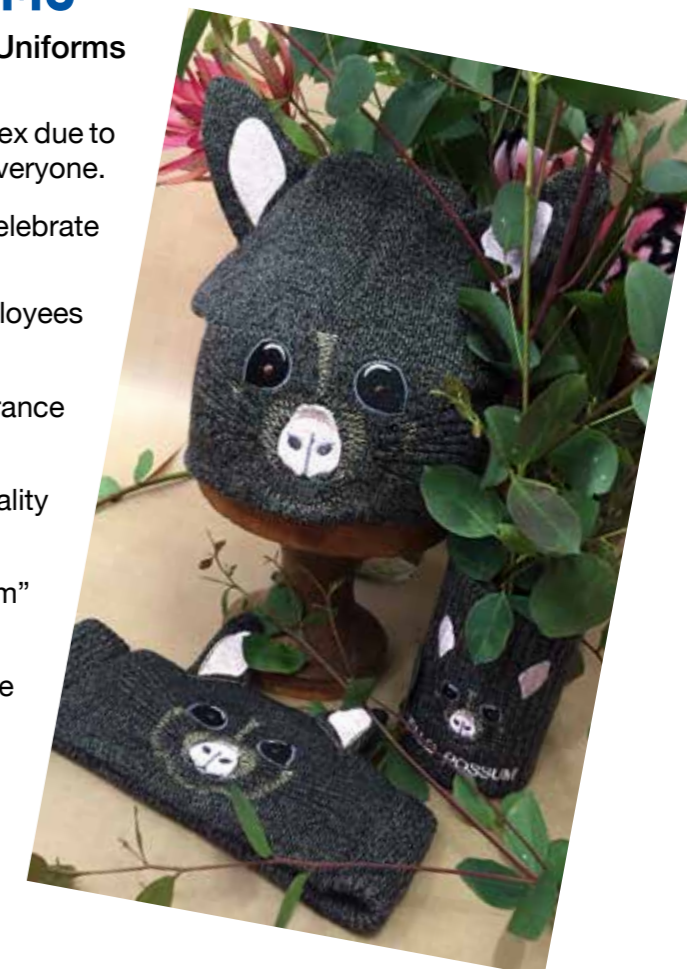
TASTEX KNITWEAR & UNIFORMS

V Hawker, Executive Officer Tastex Knitwear & Uniforms

The 2019/2020 year has been very challenging for Tastex due to the COVID-19 pandemic as I'm sure it has been for everyone.

Some of the major achievements we were able to celebrate during the year are:

- Keeping all 8 staff and 18 Supported Employees employed during the pandemic.
- Maintaining ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Assurance including re-certification in June 2020.
- Obtaining re-certification for Disability Quality Assurance in June 2020.
- Launching our new range of "Hello Possum" Devilknits products.
- Updating our Devilknits on-line shopping site www.devilknits.com.au



How You Can **HELP**

CORPORATE COLLABORATION allows your business to join with us and provide support in whatever way you can

DONATE to one of our Appeals or Special Works

JOIN US – Become a member of a Conference and assist people in need in the community

GIFTS IN A WILL ensure your legacy lives on through the assistance you have been able to provide

VOLUNTEER your time and skills with one of our Shops or Programs

DONATE your good quality pre-loved items to one of our Shops

Find us online at



www.vinnies.org.au



Vinnies Tasmania



[vinnies_tasmania](https://www.instagram.com/vinnies_tasmania)



St Vincent de Paul Society
TASMANIA
good works

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