



I JUST WANT TO PROTECT
OUR CHILDREN.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 —18



St Vincent de Paul Society
SA
good works



**The hand of Christ
blesses the cup**



**The hand of love
offers the cup**



**The hand of the suffering
receives the cup**



Vinnies lends a hand

Providing a hand up to people when they need support is at the core of who we are. We extend a hand of unconditional friendship to our companions, so they can restore their hope, rebuild their lives and renew their faith.

Our helping hands take many forms and we are humbled to have so many South Australians reach out to us every day.

The Cover

The cover art of this publication is by South Australian airbrush artist Andrew Slattery. It is one of seven pieces he exhibited during this year's SALA (South Australian Living Artists) Festival.

The portraits feature real people in South Australia who have experienced homelessness and accessed our crisis centres.

While any of the portraits would have been a worthy cover shot, we chose this particular one featuring interlinked hands, because providing a 'hand up' to people when they need support is at the core of who we are at the St Vincent de Paul Society.

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OUR FOUNDERS

St Vincent de Paul (1581–1660)

Vincent de Paul was born in the small southern French town of Pouy (later renamed Saint Vincent de Paul in his honour) in 1581, and ordained as a priest in 1600 at the age of just 19.

As a young man, he ministered to the wealthy and powerful. However, after an appointment as chaplain to a poor parish and to galley prisoners, he was inspired to a vocation of working with those most marginalised and powerless.

Vincent urged his followers to bring God's justice and love to people who were unable to live a full human life:

"Deal with the most urgent needs. Organise charity so that it is more efficient...teach reading and writing, educate with the aim of giving each the means of self-support. Intervene with authorities to obtain reforms in structure... there is no charity without justice."

Vincent de Paul died in Paris on 27 September 1660 at the age of 79. He was canonised on 16 June 1737 and, in 1883, the Church designated him as the special patron

of all charitable associations. The Society was named after St Vincent de Paul and follows his teachings and compassion for people in need. St Vincent de Paul is the international patron of the Society.

St Louise de Marillac (1591–1660)

Louise de Marillac was born in Paris in 1591. She did not know her mother and was raised by her father, Louis de Marillac, a 35 year old widower and a distinguished and scholarly lawyer. From the time she was a small child, she was taken to the Dominican sisters, who gave her a good education. Later, she went on to further education at a residence for young girls in Paris. Her education was much better than that of most children her age, and Louise became one of the best educated women of her time.

Louise desired to become a nun but on the advice of her confessor, she married Antony LeGras, an official in the Queen's service, in 1613. After Antony's death in 1625, she met St Vincent de Paul,

who became her spiritual adviser. She devoted the rest of her life to working with him.

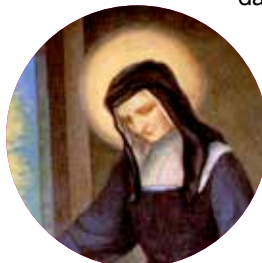
Louise dedicated her time to helping abandoned children on the streets. She also visited sick men in the prison hospital and established a house near the hospital where, each day, many women would cook food that visitors would then take to the prisoners.

Throughout France, women set up centres to serve the poor.

Louise pushed for every village to have its own clinic, school nurse and teacher. With Vincent, Louise started the Daughters of Charity in 1642. The Daughters of Charity were a revolutionary order of the poor.

They helped abandoned children, people who were poor and sick, wounded soldiers, slaves, people who were mentally ill and the elderly. Today, there are over 20,000 Daughters of Charity, and they continue to help people in need.

Louise is the patron saint of sick people, widows and orphans, and in 1960, Pope John XXIII proclaimed her the Patroness of Social Workers.



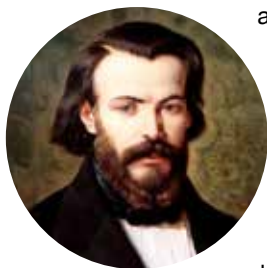
Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1813–1853)

In the early 19th century, Paris was in the grip of great upheaval. During and following the French Revolution 1789–1799, Paris was profoundly affected by social unrest.

Large numbers of people were moving to the cities to find work in the factories. Many arrived to discover that there was no work, little pay or that the factories were closed due to revolution. Large slums areas were forming in Paris; thousands of people lived without work, some without clothes, and many alcoholic. Homelessness, disease, and starvation were rampant.

A young student, Frederic Ozanam would walk through the poorer suburbs on his way to university lectures each day and he soon became deeply moved at the hopeless state of families who had been left without the support of their breadwinners.

Ozanam gathered some colleagues and began to respond in practical ways to the poverty and hardship he saw in the lives of people around him. The small group decided to adopt the name the Society of St Vincent de Paul after the Patron of Christian charity. They sought the advice of Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity who was visiting families in one of the poorer districts.



Sister Rendu introduced the young men to people they could assist.

They visited people in their homes and offered friendship and support. The group formed by Ozanam and his friends later became known as the first 'Conference' of the St Vincent de Paul Society. They met together regularly as a group for prayer and mutual support, to learn and to share ideas about how they could best assist others.

Shortly after, other good citizens of Paris took note of the charitable works of the students. Within a year membership had expanded to 100 and it became necessary to split the conference (group) into three separate conferences. At the same time other conferences sprang up in parishes around Paris. In its first decade the Society spread to 48 other cities in France and Italy and numbered over 9,000 members. After some years the Society reached Rome (1842), England (1844), Belgium, Scotland, Ireland (1845), the United States of America (1846) and Australia on 5 March 1854.

Blessed Rosalie Rendu (1786 – 1856)

Jeanne Marie Rendu (later called Sister Rosalie Rendu) was the eldest of four girls. Her parents were simple-

living but well-respected people who lived in the mountains. When Jeanne was only three years old, the French Revolution broke out in France. At this time, many faithful priests were forced to flee because people wanted to hurt them, and the Rendu family home became a refuge for many of these priests.

When she was nearly 17 years old, Jeanne entered the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity where she took vows to serve God and the poor and received the name Rosalie. She opened a free clinic, a pharmacy, a school, an orphanage, a childcare centre, a home for the elderly and a youth club for young workers. She became known as the "good mother of all" and helped Frederic Ozanam and his friends to do good works.

As well as assisting the poor in the streets and in their homes, Sister Rosalie showed great courage and leadership during the bloody uprisings that took place in France in 1830 and 1848. During the battles, Sister Rosalie would climb up on the barricades – risking her life – to help wounded soldiers, regardless of which side they were fighting on.

Although her health was always fragile, Sister Rosalie never rested; she preferred to keep serving the poor and managed to overcome fatigue and illness.



About Us

OUR HISTORY

Founded in Paris in 1833, the St Vincent de Paul Society soon became an international humanitarian charity, reaching Australia in 1854. The Society plays a critical role advocating for and supporting disadvantaged people throughout the nation including South Australia, where our organisation was established in 1884.

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded by Parisian university student Frederic Ozanam. Frederic was deeply moved by the plight of people less fortunate and formed the Society to assist the poor. From these humble beginnings, the Society now operates in 150 countries and has over a million members who offer their time freely to assist people in need and reduce social injustice.

The St Vincent de Paul Society has become a vital part of the social fabric in South Australia. Affectionately known by many as 'Vinnies', the Society provides a hand up to people who find themselves in a vulnerable position through social exclusion, poverty, disadvantage or homelessness. Our services continue to evolve in response to the needs of the community, while maintaining our core activity of home visits to provide whatever is required to assist people through difficult times.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is one of the most well recognised and highly regarded charitable organisations in Australia.

Each year, the Society helps in excess of 100,000 South Australians by providing friendship as well as accommodation, food, assistance to migrants and refugees, clothing, furniture, money management education and meals via our Fred's Van services. Our 36 Vinnies shops across South Australia are patronised by over 550,000 shoppers each year. None of this work would be possible without the commitment of the Society's 3,000 dedicated and compassionate members and volunteers.

*I would like to embrace
the whole world in a
network of charity.*

BI Frederic Ozanam



Who we are



The St Vincent de Paul Society is a volunteer-based organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing assistance to people in need.

Our members and volunteers provide practical support, advocacy and friendship to the most vulnerable within our community. The majority of assistance provided by the Society is through local groups known as conferences, our Fred's Van mobile food service, our crisis accommodation services and our Vinnies shops. The Society also provides money management education and specialist counselling, assistance to migrants and refugees, and supports individuals and communities in developing countries.

Our volunteers, supported by dedicated staff, 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.

The Society's activities in the community are performed primarily by our conference and volunteer members. Without their dedication, our diverse range of assistance and services would not be possible.

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 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 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.

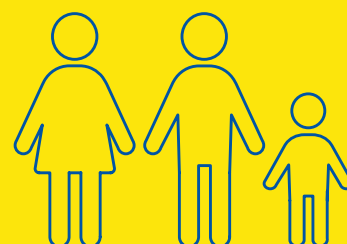
Empathy— establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception.

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.

135,078 South Australians Assisted

In 2017/18 we assisted 135,078 South Australians. Most of this assistance was delivered through our conferences, which are regionally grouped Society chapters of volunteers who are committed to helping people experiencing disadvantage, poverty or marginalisation.



About Us

WHY WE HELP

6,224

South Australians
are homeless



23%

are 18 or younger



12%

of South Australians
are living below
the poverty line



Two in five

people aged 18 years
and over experienced
an incident of physical
or sexual violence
since the age of 15.



Sources:

Australian Bureau of Statistics: 2016 Census of
Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness

ACOSS Poverty Report 2016

Australian Bureau of Statistics: 2016 Personal Safety
Survey

Who we help

The St Vincent de Paul Society's members and volunteers reach out to the most vulnerable in our community through our Conferences, Special Works and Vinnies shops. Members and volunteers assist people in need and do not discriminate against cultural, religious or political beliefs.





How we help

- Vinnies shops
- Home visits
- Housing and emergency accommodation
- Food distribution
- Clothing distribution
- Disaster relief
- Furniture distribution
- Budget and financial counselling
- Specialist counselling and vocational pathways
- Youth buddy days
- Advocating for social justice

Looking ahead

Earlier this year we were proud to launch our new Strategic Plan 2017–2022. This plan was developed with input and direction from our members, volunteers, staff and partners, and endorsed by the State Council. We believe this document is simple in its wording and context but powerful in the expectations that it creates for us all.

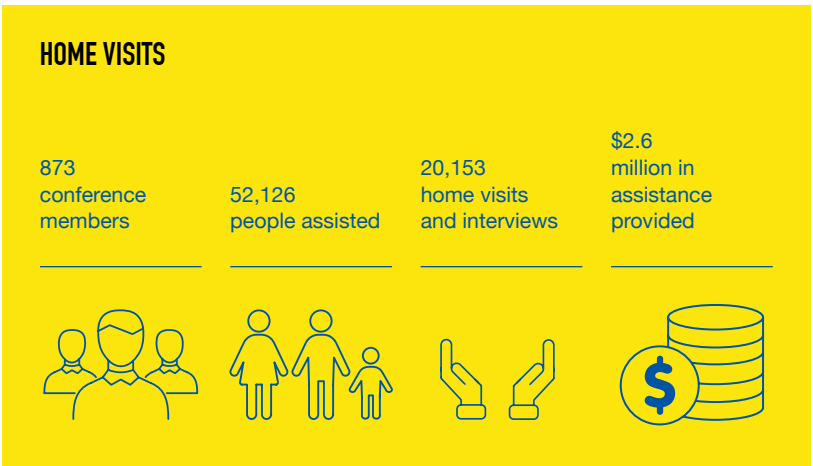
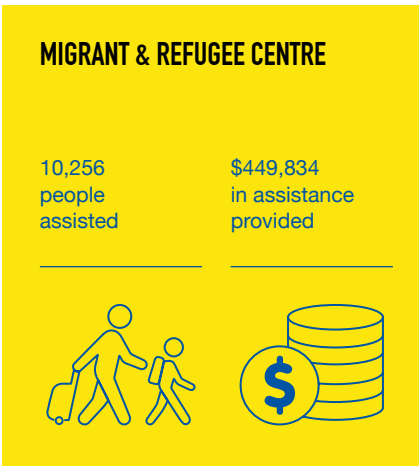
As a result, we will be an organisation of inspiration, where our communities want to be involved. We will be positioned to be a strong and viable partner with the State Government as it explores its policies. Our financial position will also improve so that we can offer more, and be more effective in addressing poverty on every level.

Our strategic priorities until 2022 are:

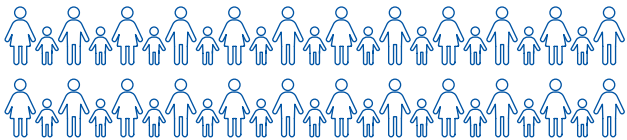
- Genuinely address poverty and hardship
- To be a volunteer organisation of choice
- Build adaptable and flexible conferences (our member teams that deliver the Society's home visit service)
- Ensure adequate resources
- Nurture the spiritual base of the Society



KEY HIGHLIGHTS



135,078 South Australians Assisted





FREDERIC OZANAM HOUSING ASSOCIATION

259
properties

499
people housed



CRISIS ACCOMMODATION

67
beds

21,535
nights of shelter provided



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

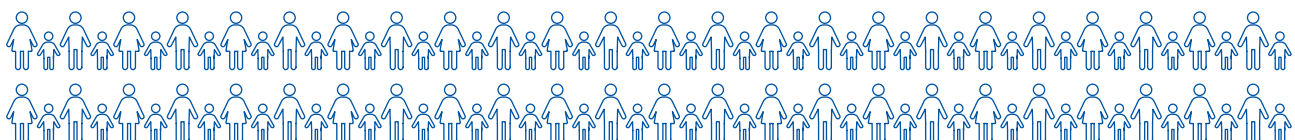
200
School Presentations
on social justice and
other issues

20
community
sleepouts held

129
participants in
the CEO Sleepout

\$2.5
million raised for
people in need

4,300
toys donated



State President's Report

CATHY BEATON

One of the many privileges being the State President affords me, is the opportunity to speak with our members, volunteers and staff about the hopes and aspirations they have for how we can better serve the people who seek our assistance.

Following a wide consultation process across the regions and Special Works of the Society, the State Council launched the 2017–2022 Strategic Plan. We identified five key strategic priorities that reflected what we believe will drive the Society over the next five years. This saw our existing good works continue and new initiatives commence with a clear focus on our strategic priorities.

Over the last 12 months, the State Council reviewed the governance structure. This resulted in the establishment of a Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee to maintain sustainability and strengthen the Society. As part of the review, the Regional Presidents also formed an Advisory Group to work through the common challenges of our conferences in meeting the needs of members and companions through our core work of our home visits.

Another key focus for the Society was nurturing our spiritual base. This was achieved through formation

and embracing the work of our founders along with the meaning of the Vincentian values across the Society and the wider community. To support this work, throughout the year I visited every region, from Mt Gambier to Coober Pedy. This gave me the opportunity to meet and encourage members to embrace their Vincentian skills and leadership in order to meet the challenges that they face in their area head on.

In the spirit of tackling significant challenges head on, the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre was established. This is the first crisis centre of its kind in South Australia and provides a much needed safe-haven for women experiencing homelessness, along with their children and pets.

This year, we were proud to be a hub of collaboration and consultation. In October, 200 Vincentian leaders from around Australia came together in Adelaide as we hosted the first National Congress to be held in 60 years. The Congress provided the opportunity to progress both the spiritual sense of who we are and how we relate to each other, as well as the social imperative to address



injustice and to build a better society. The days were full of hope, inspiration and determination to build on the work of our founders in the spirit of the Vincentian values.

In February, the Society had the opportunity to become involved in discussions about shaping the Catholic Church in Australia. As a lay Catholic organisation, our good works, leadership and our voice for the poor is significant in how we relate to the Catholic Church and to the wider community.

I would like to thank the members of the State Council for their leadership, counsel and vision for transforming the Society, along with Chief Executive Officer David Wark, for leading the implementation of this vision. In addition, I would like to acknowledge the conference, volunteer and staff members for their valued work in building *One Society, A United Voice*. Thanks also to our partners, benefactors, bequestors and our families who support us to do the work that we do in assisting our companions.

Throughout this year, I have found myself continually returning to the



wisdom of our Founders. I would like to leave you with these words from Blessed Rosalie Rendu, which I believe highlight beautifully the core of our service.

Be kind and love, for love is your gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you can bring them. If you wish to be loved, you must love, and if you have nothing to give, give yourself.

Cathy Beaton with past State Presidents, John D'Souza, Brian Spencer and Keith Belton.

Cathy Beaton
State President

Chief Executive Officer's Report

DAVID WARK



The beginning of the 2017/18 year had the sense of optimism that goes with any new era. With Cathy Beaton, our newly elected State President just months into her term, and our Strategic Plan being embedded into every day practices, the Society was set for a very positive year.

I am pleased to report that this year did in fact live up to our expectations. We are proud to have provided unprecedented service to our companions and excellent support to our members and volunteers. In addition, there has been further growth in the business of Vinnies to underpin all aspects of our work.

Despite very challenging retail times our shops continued to grow in the number of transactions and we hope to soon be increasing our presence with more shops. The volunteers in our shops show extreme loyalty to Vinnies and demonstrate our shared values daily. It is no wonder, then, that we were able to grow the retail business' turnover by nearly five per cent.

We provided over 800 meals a week from 10 Fred's Van sites across the state. The interaction our companions have with this service is deep and it provides a great experience for all.

I could relay countless stories of people coming to Fred's Van for the

company more than the meal and it is in providing this companionship that our volunteers excel. Being part of a noisy, enthusiastic crowd of people tucking into a healthy meal is a privilege and serves as a reminder of the power of sharing food with others.

The Society members, the backbone of the organisation, continue to inspire with the dedication, resilience and service they provide to the most vulnerable members of our community. We estimate that through their home visits plus their work providing food hampers, gift cards and meals at our Crisis Centres, we have given enough food for a further 165,000 meals to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

This year also saw us awarded White Ribbon accreditation which was a great achievement. The program was rigorous, but we stand proud knowing we have made our position on the issue of violence against women clear. The accreditation program enabled us to engage with volunteers, members and staff in an education process about the myriad of forms violence can take and the measures we can initiate to change the culture and stigma surrounding it. This was

pursued against the backdrop of opening the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre which, by every measure, has been a great success. The Centre was established for women who were experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence or other causes. Previously, many of these women, often with their children, were forced to stay in hotels or motels which did not adequately provide them with the support services they needed to get back on their feet.

The service has already been used by hundreds of women, children and many pets. Provision was made for family pets to prevent this from being a barrier to leaving an abusive relationship. This has been received particularly well and it's heart-warming to see children proudly walk their dog through the Centre.

Another key highlight has been the transformation of the culture within the staff cohort. We have established an open dialogue regarding the behaviours we wish to embody and have created a shared platform of how we treat each other, as well as our members and volunteers. This extends to how we treat our companions and customers, knowing

The Society members, the backbone of the organisation, continue to inspire through the dedication, resilience and service they provide to the most vulnerable members of our community.

that if we can achieve our ambition, the commercial aspect of what we do will be well looked after.

Thank you to all who have contributed your time, your donations and your spirit to our cause. The State Council continue to lead with integrity and courage, the many committees and advisory groups provide excellent advice and support and our volunteers and staff are talented and committed, well beyond what could be reasonably expected. This year has been challenging whilst being very satisfying and has again laid further foundation for an exciting future.



David Wark

Chief Executive Officer



At the opening of the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre.

Left to Right: Nick Reade, CE BankSA, David Wark, CEO St Vincent de Paul Society (SA), Hon. Zoe Bettison, Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Cathy Beaton, State President St Vincent de Paul Society (SA), Police Commissioner Grant Stevens, SAPOL, Sr Meredith Evans, Spiritual Adviser St Vincent de Paul Society (SA), Graham West, National President St Vincent de Paul Society.

OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

Our members, volunteers and staff ensure the Society's workplace culture is aligned with our values. The passion and dedication of our people is central to the good work we deliver and we support them to be the best they can. This maximises our ability to meet our goals and impact in the community.

- Conference members, also known as Vincentians, help people in need with support, friendship and material assistance.
- Vinnies shop volunteers work in Vinnies shops, assisting with customer service, sorting, display and pricing of items.
- Administration volunteers work in our assistance contact centre, as well as providing administrative aid for events, fundraising activities and general office duties.
- Special Works volunteers support a range of services, including our crisis accommodation services, Migrant and Refugee Centre and Fred's Van.
- Staff work across a number of areas including finance, marketing, retail, corporate services and administration to support the work of the conference and volunteer members.

Congress

In October, Adelaide hosted St Vincent de Paul Society regional presidents, staff and youth as part of the National Congress 2017: One Society, A United Voice. It had been a little more than 60 years since a gathering of this kind last took place and it was an opportunity to explore future opportunities for the Society.

Around 200 participants came together for the Congress, to both assess the spiritual sense of who we are, how we relate to each other and discuss what we need to do to reduce poverty and inequality in Australia. This gathering was seen as the first step in a process to collectively renew the Society.





“Our solidarity with companions is great but we can’t be silent. We must challenge assumptions people make about others.”

Peter Knowling, Northern Regional President

Participants enjoying the 2017 Congress in Adelaide.



A VALUES CENTRED ORGANISATION

Vincentian Mission and Values Centred Leadership Program

Now in its fourth year in South Australia, the Vincentian Mission and Values Centred Leadership Course continues to provide a unique, enjoyable and thorough overview of a modern approach to leadership.

In 2018, the course was host to a talented group of individuals representing the Society and the Hutt Street Centre. The initiative

has continued to foster personal development, enable participants to reflect on their own strengths and areas of growth and to explore new models and tools for creating positive relationships. Consisting of three groups led by past participants from the Society and facilitated by delegates from Victoria, the cohort was spoilt with knowledge and experience in their leadership journey.

The Vincentian Mission and Values Centred Leadership Course hopes to further develop members of the Society in the future.

Volunteer survey

To support the Society's strategic plan, the University of Adelaide Business School conducted a survey of volunteers across the Society. Overwhelmingly, the results of the survey showed that the volunteer base of the Society is loyal, committed and satisfied with their volunteer experience. Importantly, more than 85 per cent of volunteers were satisfied with the impact that their contribution is making on the lives of our companions.



Creating a safe work environment



Work Health and Safety (WHS)

The Society has continued to implement a proactive safety program for all workers and contractors to nurture a safe environment across our sites. During 2017/18 the Society's WHS Committee met four times to focus on improving how safe work systems are applied across the Society, in order to achieve best practice standards and outcomes.

The committee implemented initiatives to improve the overall safety performance throughout the organisation.

Some of the initiatives included:

- More robust and extensive record keeping;
- Implementation of the WHS Task Manager system;
- Implementation of strategies to reduce corrective actions;
- Provision of WHS training across the organisation;
- Introduction of strategies to improve culture and awareness;
- Visits to country sites (approx. four per year);
- Provision of WHS guidance regarding new capital projects, shop relocations and fundraising events;
- Development of WHS Policies and Procedures; and
- Promotion of the Society's Employee Assistance Program provider to staff and volunteers to increase usage.

During the next 12 months the Society aims to:

- Continue to foster a positive safety culture and initiatives across the Society to achieve best practice standards;
- Further reduce corrective actions;
- Improve preventive measures to reduce incidents and accidents; and
- Continue to develop more effective training delivery.

HOME VISITS AND INTERVIEWS

Vinnies is the only Australian charity to deliver a home visit program. This year in South Australia over 20,153 home visits and interviews were made resulting in support and assistance to more than 52,126 people – including 22,600 children.

For many of our companions necessities such as regular meals, healthcare and the ability to pay utility bills are a daily struggle. No matter how hard they try, many continually battle to make ends meet. Others face temporary situations where they require support and a hand up before a crisis point is reached.

When people call our assistance line they are connected with caring volunteers (conference members) from their local area, who meet them in their home or a local Vinnies office which is often located in a Vinnies shop.

By meeting people face-to-face, our conference members are privileged to hear our companions' stories and have the valuable opportunity to get to know them on a personal level. Obtaining a genuine understanding of their unique circumstances and often meeting gives our members insight into the specific challenges being faced, and enables them to provide enhanced emotional and practical support.

Throughout 2017/18, conference members continued meeting requests for assistance with kindness, respect and dignity.

Assistance provided by our conference members included:

- Someone to listen with compassion and empathy
- Emergency food hampers, Foodbank and supermarket vouchers
- Gift cards for Vinnies shops to acquire clothing, shoes, manchester and homewares
- Furniture
- Subsidised rent and utility bill payments
- Money management education
- Financial counselling
- Referrals to professional services.

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

Vinnies home visit volunteers met with Carolyn and provided her with food and clothing, along with a phone with pre-paid credit.



Carolyn's Story

After the death of her father last year, Carolyn left her family and friends behind in Victoria to move interstate so she could live in his house in regional South Australia in order to look after her brother who lives with a disability.

Most of her income was needed to support her brother and his medical needs. Carolyn was also supporting her adult daughter interstate, who was looking for work after recently completing her degree.

With bills overdue and a washing machine in need of repair, the

accidental breakage of her mobile phone was the last straw.

"Some people see a phone as a luxury, but it was my only means of staying in contact with my daughter, family and friends," said Carolyn.

"I also did my banking, paid my bills and basically kept on top of things through my phone."

Carolyn approached Vinnies just before Christmas seeking help. Vinnies home visit volunteers met with Carolyn and provided her with

food and vouchers for clothing, along with a phone with pre-paid credit.

Most importantly, they supported her with friendliness and compassion, which was much needed with her support network so far away.

Carolyn was overwhelmed with the kindness, trust and practical support she received during her time of need. She was able to relax and enjoy the festive season as she settled into her new life in South Australia.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

We refer to the people we assist as our companions. Our companions may be served through our home visit service, our Fred's Van meals, our homeless accommodation or other services. Men, women or children, these people are all our respected companions.

The St Vincent de Paul Society SA established its Community Response Team (CRT) early in 2016 to specifically address enormous demand for the Society's assistance and services in Adelaide's northern suburbs. However, at the end of 2017, the Community Response Team ceased working in its current form.

The project has since evolved to a model of assistance that starts with a deep listening to our companions' stories and ends up with their more active participation in the wider community.

We engaged with companions in our Elizabeth conferences who had sought assistance regularly. Volunteers began to appreciate more deeply the poverty lived by our companions. Underneath the tip of the iceberg of the material and financial needs is a myriad of issues that complicate their lives.

In line with 2017–2022 Strategic Plan, beginning in February 2018, the Community Response Team project evolved into the Community Capacity Building project. It began in Elizabeth South in response to

analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 census data and the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) that identified Elizabeth South as the most disadvantaged metropolitan suburb. Some 10 per cent of the households in the area have had contact with Vinnies emergency assistance service.

The project started to visit these families and, in the first instance, listen to their stories of resilience and strength, pain, challenges and dreams, and to discover what they thought would improve their lives and the community.

It is envisaged that in 2019 community gatherings will be organised where residents will have the opportunity to share their concerns and dreams to plan how they could move forward. An important principle that informs the project is that companions must be involved in all phases of the project, from problem and strength identification, to analysis, to project design, to implementation and evaluation. It is a movement from 'hand out' to 'hand up' to 'hand in hand'.



Michael's Story



When you are down on your luck, sometimes things can seem hopeless. That's how it was for Michael, who lost his job through illness and was unable to work for several years.

"For a while I just sat around and thought, well, my life's over. Nothing's ever going to change; no-one's ever going to hire me."

That's when he found Vinnies.

The first thing our volunteer Amanda did was ensure Michael had help with food and clothing, as he was struggling to make ends meet on his small government benefit.

When Amanda visited Michael and gave him vouchers for groceries or clothing she also sat down and talked to him – providing a compassionate ear and a sounding board for his dreams and goals. He told her he wanted to work, to feel valued and useful again.

"Sitting here every day is not good for my mental health or my physical health," he confided.

Thanks to our donors and supporters, we were able to help Michael become job-ready.

First, he started volunteering with Vinnies, doing home visits. It was a great way for him to get out into his community, to see that other people were struggling too – and that he could help them.

Volunteering boosted Michael's confidence and his determination to work again, while Amanda continued to provide him with support.

With some job seeking support, he was successful in gaining a job in the construction industry, where he continues to work.

Michael still volunteers with Vinnies, as a way of giving back. He credits the support of Vinnies and our volunteer Amanda for helping him to see his worth.

"Amanda always had an uplifting word, she said to me: 'You are going to be a valuable part of the community.' I couldn't see that at the start, but after a while I believed her... and that was it!"



FRED'S VAN

The Society's 10 Fred's Van services provide comfort and a warm, nutritious meal for people experiencing disadvantage or homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness. Operating from eight sites across Adelaide and two regionally in Port Lincoln and Port Pirie, this emergency service is delivered by more than 650 committed volunteers. During 2017/18, our dedicated volunteers provided 40,000 meals.

Vinnies Fred's Van supports some of the most vulnerable people in the community who are experiencing a range of issues such as poverty, homelessness, social isolation or unemployment. Those forced to live rough are able to access Fred's Van for a hot meal, blankets, donated books and social connection.

Many people served by this key service are not homeless but struggling to make ends meet.





Over the year we saw continuing large increases in the attendance of families with children, reflecting increasing challenges felt in the South Australian community.

Our volunteers make an enormous difference to people experiencing disadvantage – not only through the meals provided but also the manner in which they assist, with kindness and respect. Fred's Van provides a tangible benefit to the whole community by reducing the impact of major disadvantage on people.

We value working in partnership with other agencies. Fred's Van is accompanied by Orange Sky Laundry at its Christie Downs, Elizabeth and Salisbury sites, with a view to expanding this to other sites in the future.

Food rescue agency partnerships are also a high priority for us. By utilising products collected from agencies such as OzHarvest and SecondBite, we are able to provide take home produce as well as a hot cooked evening meal to our companions, whilst at the same time reducing landfill and helping our environment.

We are grateful to our generous Fred's Van supporters including Concubine Restaurant, National Wine Centre of Australia, Fasta Pasta, Lions Club and many more.

Elizabeth Fred's Van gets a makeover

Our Vinnies Fred's Van at Elizabeth underwent a dramatic renovation at the end of the year. Already featuring comfortable indoor dining through a cafe attached to the Elizabeth Vinnies shop, an increasing number of guests meant many were dining under the outdoor pergola.

With balmy evenings on the way, we enlisted the help of the City of Playford and keen volunteers from Deloitte and St Patrick's Technical College to transform the outdoor area into a vibrant alfresco space. Complete with additional seating, plants, and decorations, the renovations were completed just in time for the Elizabeth Christmas dinner.

Our service in the northern suburbs expanded in 2018 to provide Fred's Van's first lunch time service at Elizabeth. It is planned that an additional service day will be added by the end of 2018.

How We Help

VINNIES YOUTH

Vinnies Youth is made up of 100 young volunteers aged between 16–35 who share their talents and skills volunteering in services and programs across South Australia, including Fred’s Van, home visits and Buddy Days.

The last 12 months saw us collaborate further with the University of South Australia Community Engagement Program and Aquinas College. These partnerships continue to strengthen to provide young people with a variety of volunteering opportunities.

The Buddy Day program is largely funded by fundraising undertaken by our dedicated Youth Team members including an annual quiz night and participation in the City-Bay events. We are also grateful for donations made directly to this program.

Youth members engage and “buddy up” with children aged 6–14 years old as role models and mentors. Children involved are often facing disadvantage, isolation or hardship in their lives and Vinnies Youth hosts activities and excursions tailored to provide a safe, fun and rewarding learning experience.

The focus for Vinnies Youth this year has been to build relationships by facilitating opportunities for young people to grow in confidence

and experience situations which may be challenging, within a supportive network. In building these relationships, the children have had the opportunity to challenge their thinking by working together and sharing in experiences that may otherwise be out of reach.

This year also saw the successful expansion of the Buddy Day program. Following a trial of separate Buddy Day outings with children referred by the Migrant and Refugee Centre, we were able to host combined outings with all the children together. This provided the children with the chance to develop relationships and spend time with children from outside their familiar networks.

The program continues to expand its reach through a collaborative approach with our conferences.

Some Vinnies Youth volunteers have had the privilege of spending time with a small number of children experiencing family violence, through referrals from conferences. Simple outings with these children mean they were able to have an enjoyable experience, whilst rebuilding conversation and confidence skills in a safe and fun environment.



A special Christmas gift

This year the week before Christmas, the National Wine Centre (NWC) provided a special Christmas meal and celebration for 100 people at our Kilburn Fred's Van.

The NWC served a four-course meal with fully waited table service, they also decorated the dining room with table cloths, chair covers, place settings, table decorations, background music, bon bons, beautifully printed table menus as well as full cutlery and crockery.

The children who attended were given a Christmas present from Santa and his helper provided through the Motorcycle Riders' Associations SA's Toy Run. All the guests were also given an IGA food hamper to take home with them to make their Christmas day extra special.

"It is a magical evening for everyone involved."

Teresa Branch, Fred's Van Co-ordinator



VINNIES IN SCHOOLS

The St Vincent de Paul Society has long relationships with many schools and values these partnerships. The School and Community Engagement Coordinator remains an important role in the Society that engages schools and children in social justice issues and broadens the understanding of poverty in the community. The Society works with Catholic, government and independent schools and colleges and has also expanded its reach to universities, child care centres and kindergartens.

Social Justice

The Society seeks to help young people understand that their actions, big or small, can make a valuable difference in other people's lives. The program works in partnership with educational organisations and the wider St Vincent de Paul Society conference network.

Young people are often strong believers of equality and keen to bring new ideas to help alleviate suffering or deprivation. The Society works with educators, developing channels for leadership in young people and challenging them to think of others. During the year the Society presented to schools, child care centres and kindergartens on over 200 occasions and continued

to provide guest speakers at school events to engage children with social justice and support the work of our volunteers in their local schools.

School support

Students embrace the concept that small donations or volunteering efforts combine to make an enormous impact on the community. Many students are motivated to hold fundraising activities, collect non-perishable food, toiletries, blankets and clothing together with cooking

food for distribution via the Society's Fred's Van services and Men's and Women's Crisis Centres.

This year students from many schools have been attending the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre to cook a BBQ breakfast or lunch for the guests, providing a unique way to connect with and serve the people we assist. In addition, many schools held sleepouts over the colder months, providing another valuable opportunity for students to learn about the issue of homelessness, while raising vital funds for the Society.





Some of our supporters

- Nazareth Catholic College Primary Campus students were involved in the Wakakirri Story Dance competition – using the work of Vinnies in the community as the theme for their performance. They were committed to telling the story and paying tribute to the St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers. The 2018 Nazareth Wakakirri Team are Division One State Winners of the Best Community Story Award and have also been nominated for National Story of the Year.
- St Patrick's Technical College Year 12 Building and Construction students have undertaken a major building project at the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre to update the animal enclosure. The work they did was assessed by the SACE Board, and was designed, built

and installed by the students under the supervision of their teachers and a builder. Improvements included a roof over the animal enclosures, raised dog beds, new gates and a seating area.

- Wilderness School installed a giant six metre fresh Christmas 'giving tree' in November and collected hundreds of gifts for the Society. This has been a wonderful partnership that will continue this Christmas.
- Highgate Primary and Adelaide High School held very successful winter Sleepouts this year raising over \$23,000 between them. Such an amazing effort for two schools who hadn't hosted a Sleepout previously.

Young people are often strong believers of equality and are keen to bring new ideas to help alleviate suffering or deprivation.

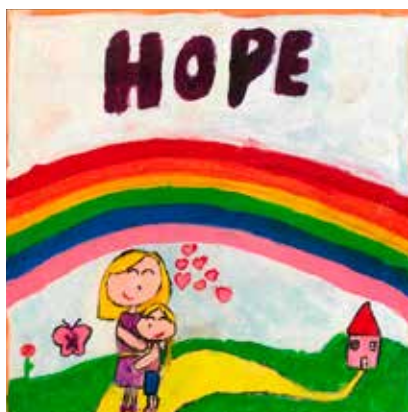


How
We Help



VINNIES SCHOOL GROUPS

Twenty primary and high schools ran formal 'Mini' and 'High School' Vinnies groups located all over the state from Port Lincoln to the Riverland, Yorke Peninsula, the Southern suburbs and everywhere in between. Their focus on the Vincentian values helped them to understand the work of the Society while holding fundraising activities and collections in their schools.



Restoring hope through art

In 2018, we held a special Vinnies Primary School Art Competition – ‘Hope Through Art’. Over 450 entries were received, with 33 of the entries chosen to be hung on the walls of the Vinnies Women’s Crisis Centre creating hope and happiness for the women and children who stay there. The quality of the entries were a high standard and the judges certainly had a tough time picking the winners.



Some of the amazing entries we received as part of the ‘Hope Through Art’ competition. Bottom left - Nazareth Catholic College Primary Campus students’ Wakakirri Story Dance competition performance.



VINNIES CRISIS CENTRES

Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre (VWCC)

Since its opening in November, the Centre has provided shelter to 236 women and 213 children with a 92 per cent occupancy rate. The VWCC was established with the primary purpose to provide a nurturing environment with caring support workers in a safe and secure facility. We achieved these goals and are actively working to expand the number of services at the Centre. Currently the Centre has partnerships with Centrelink, Northern Women's Legal Service, a Financial Counsellor from CareWorks SA and Together 4 Kids.

A unique service provided by the VWCC is catering for pets. Since opening, we identified that the current pet enclosures provided insufficient shelter. In partnership with St Patrick's Technical College, the pet runs have been upgraded and now provide outstanding accommodation for the animals. Since opening we have catered for 28 pets.





Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre (VMCC)

The VMCC continues to provide much needed accommodation for our homeless male companions in South Australia. Occupancy consistently remains at 90 per cent demonstrating the ongoing need for this service.

Case management support was provided by the Hutt Street Centre and since commencement in October 2016, there has been a steady improvement in reducing the number of companions returning to the VMCC. It is testament to the work of our staff, volunteers, and the key partnership with Hutt Street Centre that long term accommodation improvements have reduced the number of companions cycling through the homelessness system.

These changes have defied the homelessness sector trends where there have been increases in the amount of people experiencing homelessness.



A range of additional services are provided including the Orange Sky Laundry which now attends three times a week and whose services have been warmly embraced by our companions. Plans are also in place for building modifications to provide additional single rooms and a games room.

How We Help

Rebuilding Lives

This message was written from one of our VWCC guests to Penny Ogden, Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre Manager.

The woman who wrote this message has endured a horrific domestic violence relationship which left her with injuries requiring long term medical care. She has consistent nightmares and post-traumatic stress disorder. She is an amazing smart and resilient woman.



Last night I awoke from yet another sleepless night.

*This is a time when usually inside my mind
there's not even a glimmer of light!*

*But this time I felt something different than
I've ever experienced before.*

*It was like finally I wasn't there alone trying to work
out how I was going to cope anymore.*

It felt really weird But I needed to know more.

What was this feeling that had instantly soothed me to my core?

*Then it came to me, it's because of you and the remarkable
woman that you are my dearest Miss Penny.*

*And of course I can't forget your amazing staff like
the beautiful and dependable Miss Jenny.*

*That now as dark as times may seem, I'm finally witnessing
first hand a gift like unconditional love can actually be.*

*Because now in the darkest places of my mind I can trust,
I can simply look up and it's you holding a light I will find.*

*Now gone are the thoughts I'll die and no-one will care
to come find me! Because it was only sadness I see.*

*Now gone are spending days feeling like
it was me life truly disowned.*

*Or trying to dampen the screams in my head each day
I'm alive, it's only my lonely death being postponed.*

*So I wrote this poem to say thank you for being that one
true anchor and for all the little things that you do.*

*Thank you for helping me see I hadn't yet become
the amazing woman I once set out to be!*

And there's so much more left in me the world is yet to see.

*But most importantly thank you for carrying my shell whilst I
begin the now achievable task of rebuilding the inside of this hell.*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Frederic Ozanam Housing Association (FOHA) provides low cost housing to South Australians in need. Increasing demand for low cost housing in South Australia has set the Association's growth strategy, with the 2017/18 year seeing progression of our plans to merge with other housing cooperatives. Opportunities were also investigated to build on vacant church land, which would provide future development opportunities.

House Movements

Housing affordability is a key issue for South Australians. The demand for housing throughout 2017/2018 once again outstripped supply.

FOHA received 36 new housing registrations last year, however this figure does not include the number of enquiries from people experiencing housing stress. Many registrations and enquiries were received from refugees, families, youth and women escaping domestic violence.



Frederic Ozanam Housing Association Inc

Number of Properties	259
Number of people Housed	499
Number of Registrations received	36
Number of Vacancies	30

MONEY MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

The Society's Money Management Education services are provided by trained counsellors who have a 'hand up' focus. They not only look to provide guidance to individuals and families experiencing financial hardship, but they also provide education to help our companions gain knowledge and confidence in managing their personal finances. During the last twelve months we had a much stronger focus on the education piece of our assistance.

As such we amended the title and job description of our Budget Counsellors to Money Management Educators (MMEs).

Our volunteer MMEs, who are trained within Vinnies, work with people who have debts of less than \$4,000 whilst our Financial Counsellors work with people who have an upper limit of \$10,000. Our Financial Counsellors are required to have completed a Diploma of Community Service (Financial Counselling) and work within the Financial Counsellors of Australia's National Standards.

Our Financial Counsellors, who are all volunteers, are audited for compliance once each year. The recent audit conducted confirmed they meet the required standards.

The service provides vital support, tools and knowledge for managing a variety of financial situations such as difficulty with phone payments, utility payments, rental arrears, loan default, hardship cases, repossessions and repayment programs. Utility repayment programs have increased substantially over the last 12 months, as have rental arrears due to the increasing level of unemployment, under-employment and lack of affordable housing.

Waiting times for a detailed financial counselling appointment can sometimes be longer than four weeks. To ease the pressure for our companions and volunteers we worked to form relationships with external agencies including Uniting Communities, Anglicare, UnitingCare Wesley Bowden and Lutheran Community Care.





Whilst the level of financial counselling requests continued to grow, the requests for budgeting advice and education only marginally increased from 340 requests to just under 400 (10 per week on average). One of our main priorities next year will be to continue to maintain the knowledge of our 55 educators and continue to increase their ability to use technology in their role. We will also focus on strategies to engage our companions to embrace the educational aspect of our assistance.

This year we reinvigorated the Open Meetings and were delighted with the number of people who have taken the time to attend. Guest speakers have come from Centrelink, UnitingCare Wesley Bowden, and our Secretary Jess Stimson delivered a session on the use of smart phones, relevant apps

and legal services when working with our companions. We will continue the quarterly Open Meeting/training sessions and look forward to even more conference members, Financial Counsellors and MMEs attending.

As we move into 2019, the Special Works Committee will work closely with our volunteers to deliver the best possible service which is both beneficial for our companions and satisfying for everyone involved. By focusing on the 'hand up' approach we feel confident we can make a difference and improve the lives of those we assist.

The service provides vital support, tools and knowledge for managing a variety of financial situations.

How
We Help

VINNIES SHOPS



Vinnies is one of the largest recycling organisations in Australia and is staffed primarily by volunteers. The 36 Vinnies shops across metropolitan and regional South Australia are a valuable resource for people on low incomes, providing quality clothing, household goods and furniture, often free of charge.

Vinnies shops are a place that people in need can come, secure in the knowledge that they will be treated with dignity and respect. They are also a great option for the savvy shopper, with a treasure trove of surprises, selling quirky collectables, retro clothing and vintage delights.

This year saw the Port Augusta shop relocate to an improved premises and location. The Semaphore shop underwent a complete renovation and is looking fantastic.

All the profits from our Vinnies shops go directly to providing assistance to those in need. For this reason we were thrilled to see continued improvement and growth in our shops over the 2017/18 financial year. An overall increase in sales for the financial year of over five per cent meant our services could expand where they are needed most.

Uniform Sales

Vinnies' provision of new school uniforms continues to grow with selected Vinnies Shops supplying a number of local Catholic schools with their uniform requirements. In 2017/18 St Brigid's Kilburn, St Thomas, Goodwood; St Joseph's, Kingswood; St Therese, Colonel Light Gardens and St Joseph's school at Hindmarsh purchased uniforms valued at more than \$260,000 from these shops. This initiative not only gives the schools a whole new look, but raises much needed funds to support Vinnies services.





Vinnies Shops Bring Joy

Sales from our 36 shops are vital to support the people we help through our meal services, homelessness accommodation, home visits, financial counselling and other services.

However, it is also lovely to receive feedback from customers who benefit from our quality, low priced goods. One of our regular customers has a grandson with autism. He did not speak until he was seven and often had violent outbursts stemming from his communication frustrations.

On his 12th birthday, our customer gave her grandson an eight-set volume of factual books she had purchased from one of our shops. With wonderful imagery and topics on weather, water

environments and outer space among others, they were in fantastic condition and, she said, completely unaffordable had they been new.

The grandson was thrilled with the gift and claimed it was the best present he had ever received.

His grandmother told us the books opened up a whole new world for the boy and gave him confidence and knowledge, helping establish him on a path that saw him top the NAPLAN test for his level in his school region.



MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CENTRE

Currently located at 252 Port Road Hindmarsh (behind the Sacred Heart Church), the Migrant and Refugee Centre provides assistance to asylum seekers, as well as to those officially declared to be refugees, along with a small number of skilled and student migrants unable to find work. This assistance takes the form of food vouchers, clothing vouchers, furniture, and payments towards gas, electricity and water accounts.

The Centre also provides budget and financial counselling, information on how to reduce utility bills, assistance with work skills, free English language lessons, referrals to other agencies and, importantly, acts as an advocate in whatever capacity our companions require.

One of the distinguishing features of the Migrant and Refugee Centre is that our volunteers attempt to engage on a personal level with companions, rather than just providing 'hand-outs' and sending people on their way. Our decision process is based on need, equity, life events and compassion.

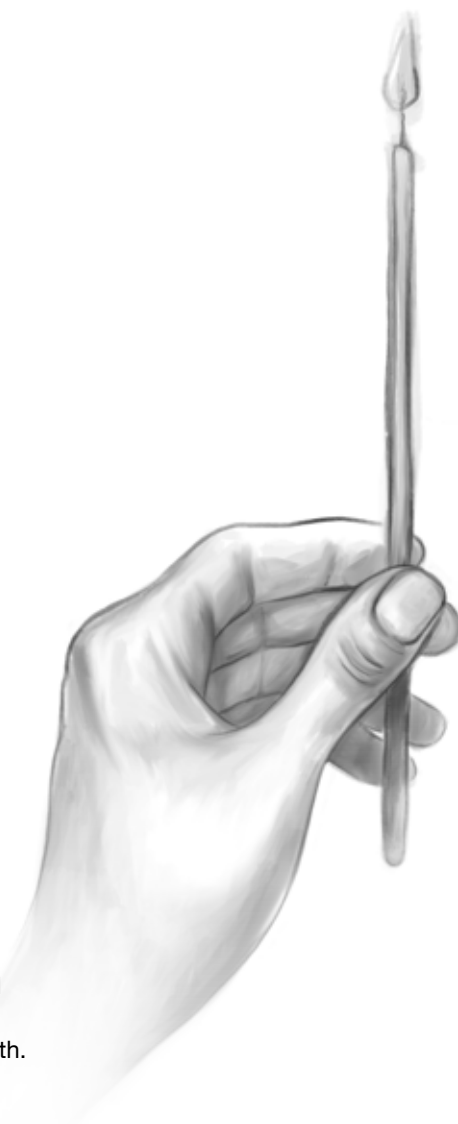
In addition to the provision of emergency relief, the intention of the Centre is to help people to work towards self-sufficiency and integration into the community.

In 2017/18 there were 2,444 visits and our companions came from 44 countries with the highest cohorts coming from Afghanistan, Syria, Iran and India. People travelled from all over the state to the Centre with representation from many local government areas from Playford in the north to Onkaparinga in the south.

Approximately 75 per cent of our companions are refugees, a person who is outside their own country and is unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted due to race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. They have official refugee status and are provided with a range of services and support on their arrival in Australia. The majority are in receipt of full Centrelink benefits.

Nearly a quarter of our companions are people seeking asylum who arrived in Australia on or after 13 August 2012 and before 1 January 2014 and have sought to be recognised as refugees.

Over the last 12 months the Migrant and Refugee Centre has witnessed a number of different obstacles faced by the current cohort of asylum seekers, making them one of the most vulnerable groups in our community.



To assist asylum seekers in this position, with the support of the State Council, the Migrant and Refugee Centre established an Asylum Seeker Allowance Fund. This fund provides limited assistance - initially for a period of six months - and is reviewed on a monthly basis. We also received additional funding from the SA Council of Churches to support the program.

In this financial year 40 people have been supported by Vinnies and we were successful in obtaining another grant from the Daughters of Charity to continue the program into the new financial year.

Over the financial year, 10,256 people were assisted with over \$46,000 of food, over \$165,000 of clothing, manchester and other goods, furniture to the value of \$155,000 and other assistance of \$80,000. The assistance provided is made possible through a portion of funds raised by the Society at community events and annual appeals, a contribution made from goods sold at Vinnies Centres, the Centre's own fundraising events and generous support from schools, community organisations and individual donors.



Over the financial year, 10,256 people were assisted with over \$46,000 of food; more than \$165,000 of clothing, manchester and other goods, furniture to the value of \$155,000 and other assistance of \$80,000.

Advocacy for Social Justice

WHITE RIBBON



The Society has partnered with White Ribbon Australia, which is part of a global movement to create a society where all women can live safely, free from violence and abuse. The Society shares White Ribbon's belief that this can be achieved through education, awareness raising, preventative programs, partnerships, creative campaigns and an active stand against violence and disrespect.

In 2016, the Society was inspired to be part of this important social change and become accredited as a White Ribbon organisation. The people we assist are often suffering from violence, abuse and disadvantage and the link between ending domestic and family violence and better community outcomes is very clear.

The White Ribbon Project Team worked through the accreditation standards and criteria to gain accreditation. During the first year, an initial organisation wide survey was implemented, White Ribbon Champions were established at our worksites, policies were created and updated, people were trained and resources prepared to assist those suffering violence or assisting others in these circumstances.

The Society's risk management model was appropriately updated and awareness events held.

The Society has successfully engaged staff, volunteers and external supporters to embed this important cultural change and as such we have now been awarded the certificate of accreditation by White Ribbon.

Accreditation marks the Society as an organisation that has the policies, resources, training, values and practices to demonstrate violence free and respectful treatment of all people, especially women.

Key objectives of the White Ribbon Accreditation Program for the Society are:

- Increase the knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers to be aware of and address violence against women in the workplace
- Enhance our capacity to respond to issues of violence against women
- Demonstrate our active and effective steps to stop violence against women
- Change attitudes and behaviours that allow violence against women to occur

The Society being awarded White Ribbon Accreditation.

1 in 6 women

have experienced physical violence by a partner

Almost 8 women

across Australia are hospitalised each day after being assaulted by their spouse or partner

Domestic violence

is a leading cause of homelessness for women with children

Source:
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia, 2018

Overseas Partnership and Development

The Society in Australia is in partnership with the St Vincent de Paul Society 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 belief that by their own efforts they can live and grow in dignity.

The South Australian Overseas Partnership Committee had eight active members this year. This year we farewelled our Assist a Student Co-ordinator and Hills/Murray Regional Representative, Babs Snook, who retired from our committee after 10 years, for which we offer her our sincere thanks. This year we also welcomed Margaret Kayser as the Riverland/Yorke Regional representative.

South Australian conferences were in twinning partnerships with 132 conferences across India, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines and provided twinning grants totalling \$46,240. We continue to request status checks for conferences from which no communication has been received and are seeking to ensure all twins have good communication.

Two projects with a combined value of \$3,030 were funded during the year:

- A cow bank project in India, initially supporting 5 families by providing them each with a cow
- A rice farming and goat project in Indonesia

Projects like these provide the beneficiaries with food and an opportunity to generate more sustainable incomes to help them break out of poverty, and they also encourage local parishioners to become involved.

The Assist-A-Student program has helped children and young adults to receive an education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. This helps to fight poverty by enabling individuals to support themselves, their families and their communities in the future. The program sponsored 289 students across our neighbours including India, Thailand and Kiribati.

The State Council has continued to support the administration of the Kanjirappally Central Council in India and the Udon Thani Diocesan Council in Thailand.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Fundraising

We are grateful to the thousands of people and organisations across South Australia who provide the Society with the funds we need to support the most disadvantaged and marginalised people in our community.

On behalf of the recipients of our assistance, the Society offers our sincere thanks to the generous supporters who gifted \$2.5 million for our work in the community throughout the 2017/18 financial year.

Assistance comes in a variety of forms including regular donations, gifts in Wills, organising community fundraising events, responding to direct or emergency appeals and workplace giving.

During economically challenging times, our individual supporters, parishes, schools and businesses responded to both our Winter and Christmas appeals with enormous generosity. Winter Appeal donations were strengthened by contributions of blankets, winter coats and food items and the festive season was a time for extended giving.

Many people opened their hearts to donate or facilitate collections of children's Christmas gifts and food hampers for distribution to those experiencing disadvantage. These donations ensured the most marginalised people within our community could enjoy the season and participate in giving and sharing with their loved ones.

The Saint

Our biannual The Saint newsletter is a valuable communication method to update our donors on the Society's activities and our news, helping people understand where their money is spent and how it changes lives.

Bequests

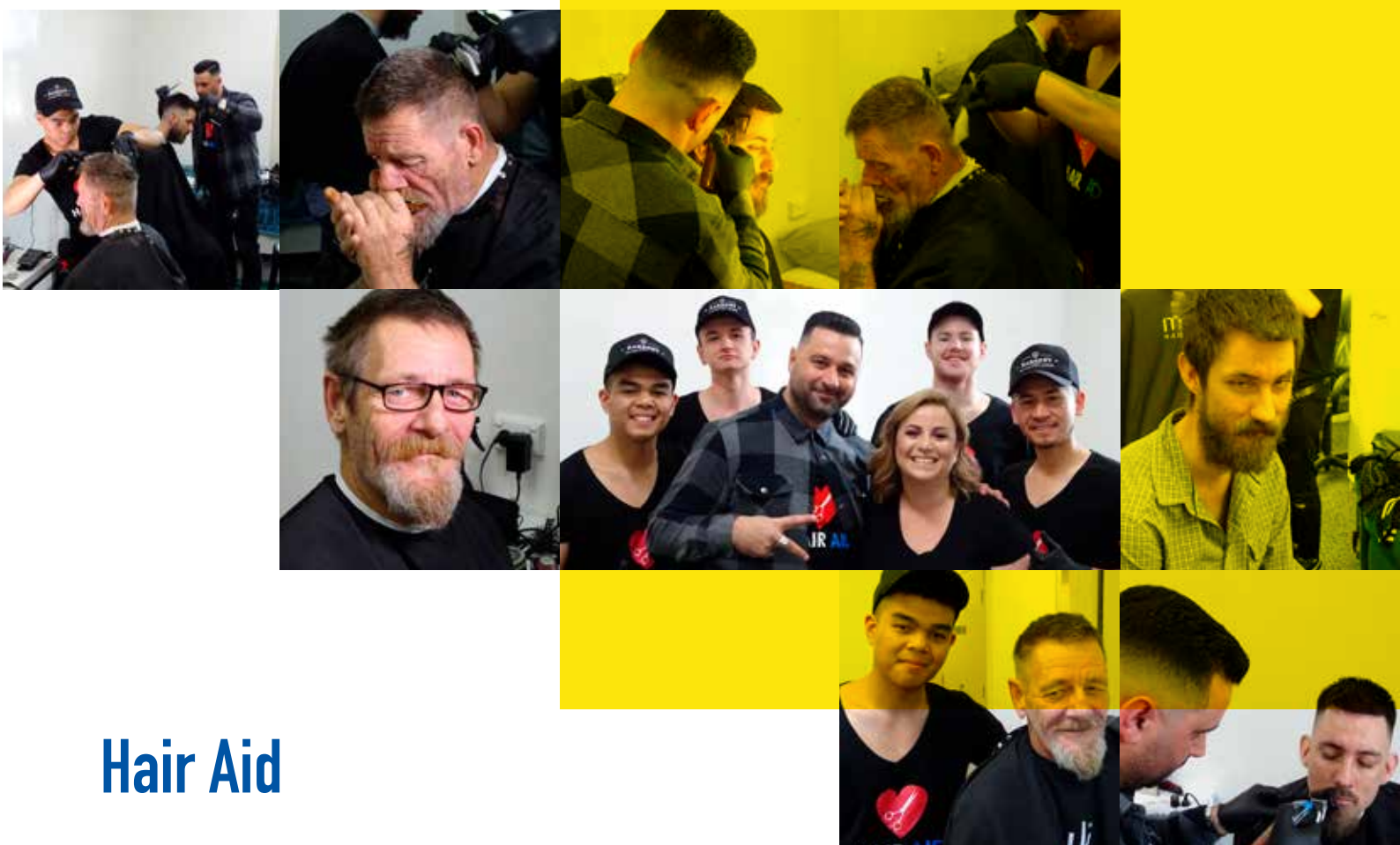
Bequest funds are vital to ensuring the Society will be able to continue to support, assist and most importantly provide a hand up to those at greatest risk of experiencing social exclusion, disadvantage or homelessness in our community. We are very grateful to

those who have made a gift to us in their Will. These gifts will have a long-lasting impact for many years to come.

The St Vincent de Paul Society SA is humbled to have recently received one of its largest ever bequests. This significant gift will be used to support and extend the Society's wide range of services; including the Vinnies Men's and Women's Crisis Centres, the Migrant and Refugee Centre, Fred's Van services across the state and importantly the Society's core work in visiting homes to provide material, financial and emotional support to the state's most disadvantaged.

Cathy Beaton, State President of the St Vincent de Paul Society SA, said "We are so very grateful that those who leave a gift in their Will are willing to place their trust in Vinnies to ensure that the legacy they leave will transform lives every day. Not everyone who wants to help today is in a position to donate, so many now choose to leave a legacy gift after they have looked after their loved ones. They will never meet the people their gift will assist, but the impact of their generosity on the lives of those who need Vinnies should never be underestimated."





Hair Aid

We all know how good we feel after a visit to the hairdresser, but sadly for many a haircut is a luxury they simply can't afford. Hair Aid is a community of hairdressers and barbers who are committed to providing services and training to those in need.

Not only do they provide free haircuts to the disadvantaged across Australia, they also teach people in critical poverty how to cut hair so they have employment pathways.

Our Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre was lucky enough to have a visit from this amazing team, who provided cuts and barbering services to its guests. The men were quite literally transformed and said they felt

"confident" and "better than they had felt in many years".

The Hair Aid team plans to offer this as an ongoing service to both the Women's and Men's Crisis Centres in the future.



The men were quite literally transformed and said they felt "confident" and "better than they had felt in many years".

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Contributions from the wider community form a vital income stream for the Society. In many cases, these require dedicated community members to not only donate, but also participate in, or coordinate engaging events.

In addition to the support from many school groups, a number of clubs, workplaces and groups either held their own event or worked with us to participate in community fundraising events. These included Team Vinnies participating in the City-Bay and Bay-City fun runs, UniSA holding their annual Community Sleepout along with the Port Augusta Community Sleepout – with the funds raised staying in the local community to assist the work of the conference. Other conferences and Special Works of the Society also held their own movie nights and fundraisers to support their activities.

The Toy Run

Each December the Motorcycle Riders' Association SA organises the iconic Toy Run event which once again brought excited spectators out to see around 6,000 motorcycle riders ride from Victoria Park to Callington with their cargo of toys and Christmas cheer. More than 4,000 toys were collected by the Society to be given to children.



The team from Employers Mutual Limited enjoyed their time being honorary fire fighters for the day after successfully bidding for the prize at the CEO Sleepout.





CEO Sleepout

It was a clear crisp night at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout at Adelaide Oval on 21 June, and a chilly nine degrees didn't discourage 132 of Adelaide's senior leaders and executives from sleeping outside in the cold. Together, they raised over \$715,000 for vital Vinnies services such as Fred's Van, and the Women's and Men's Crisis Centres.

It was songstress Kate Ceberano's third time emceeing the Sleepout, and this year saw some unique auction items going under the hammer of Sharon Gray, such as the chance to sleep in the iconic old Adelaide Oval scoreboard. In addition to the auction, activities on the night included a presentation

from State Council Vice President, Bradley Hocking on 'Tackling Poverty Holistically', an update on the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre, as well as video case studies of our volunteers and companions. The event gave participants a good understanding of the diverse and valuable ways the Society impacts our community.

This year's Sleepout has been the most successful yet, with the highest number of participants and fundraising since the event's inception in 2010. We are extremely grateful for the unwavering support that the Vinnies CEO Sleepout has from the corporate and media community, and sincerely thank all participants, sponsors and donors.



Top fundraiser for the event in SA and nationally was again BankSA Chief Executive Nick Reade.

Financials

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,600,952	2,512,402
Trade and other receivables	230,022	168,179
Available for Sale Financial Assets	1,642,821	–
Inventories	48,514	72,585
Other current assets	284,313	199,301
Total Current Assets	4,806,622	2,952,467
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	12,437,978	10,360,966
Total Non-Current Assets	12,437,978	10,360,966
Total Assets	17,244,600	13,313,433
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	585,005	769,760
Provisions	1,071,735	901,685
Other current liabilities	4,652	27,676
Borrowings	2,179,561	–
Total Current Liabilities	3,840,953	1,699,121
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	108,397	135,423
Total Non-Current Liabilities	108,397	135,423
Total Liabilities	3,949,350	1,834,544
Net Assets	13,295,250	11,478,889
EQUITY		
Reserves	307,042	1,154,244
Accumulated Funds	12,988,208	10,324,645
Total Equity	13,295,250	11,478,889

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Sales	8,240,905	7,855,201
Government Funding	1,503,416	1,414,361
Donations	2,567,961	2,385,222
Bequests	2,875,499	489,313
Companion Contributions - Accommodation	867,543	210,727
Interest	28,697	51,877
Other	948,760	1,706,163
	17,032,781	14,112,864
EXPENSES		
Administration	461,069	437,459
Assistance	2,168,065	2,064,760
Companion/Resident Services	103,995	70,743
Depreciation and Amortisation	450,296	398,487
Interest Paid	51,860	142
Fundraising Expenses	266,811	351,239
Motor Vehicle Expenses	257,526	248,339
Personnel	6,970,118	5,896,900
Professional Fees	114,383	233,620
Loss on Sale of Assets	3,264	–
Property Expenses	2,329,521	1,950,996
Purchases for Sales	202,330	247,735
Repairs and Maintenance	85,024	107,288
Telecommunications	167,095	204,470
Travel and Accommodation	61,370	42,111
Waste Disposal	194,446	181,620
Youth Projects	–	617
Other	1,364,893	1,381,878
	15,252,066	13,818,404
OPERATING SURPLUS	1,780,715	294,460
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Fair value gains on available for sale financial assets	35,647	–
Total Other Comprehensive Income	35,647	–
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	1,816,362	294,460

Financials

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from customers	9,629,559	8,649,758
Government funding	1,503,416	1,414,361
Donations, bequests and sundry income	4,775,046	4,568,299
Interest received	28,697	51,877
Payments to suppliers and employees	(15,507,158)	(14,283,133)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	429,560	401,162
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	–	16,364
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(341,011)	(951,845)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(341,011)	(935,481)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	88,550	(534,316)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	2,512,402	3,046,718
Cash at the end of the financial year	2,600,952	2,512,402



Tel: +61 8 7324 6000
Fax: +61 8 7324 6111
www.bdo.com.au

BDO Centre
Level 7, 420 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 2018 Adelaide SA 5001
Australia

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SA) INC.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for qualified opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial report of St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for qualified opinion

Donations are a significant source of fundraising revenue for St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc. The St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of donations prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding fundraising revenue from this source was limited, our audit procedures with respect to donations had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records amounting to \$2,567,961. We therefore are unable to express an opinion whether donations the St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc has recorded are complete.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.



Responsibilities of responsible entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit (SA) Pty Ltd

Geoff Edwards
Director

Adelaide, 8 October 2018

Governance

Members In Office As At 30 June 2018

State President	Cathy Beaton
Vice President	Damien Lloyd
Vice President	Sandy Canale
Vice President	Bradley Hocking
Vice President & Indigenous Representative	John Lochowiak
Treasurer	Lucia Walsh
Spiritual Advisor	Sr Meredith Evans
Youth Representative	Laura Beres

Regional Presidents

Central	Jose Hernandez
Eastern	Moiria Lugg
Eyre Region	Vacant
Fleurieu	Christine Jones
Hills Murray	Margaret Inglis
Northern	Peter Knowling
Riverland/Yorke	Margaret Kayser
South East	John D'Souza
Southern	Steve Kelton
Western	Adrian Paech

Ex Officio

Chief Executive Officer	David Wark
Minute Secretary	Jenny Papps

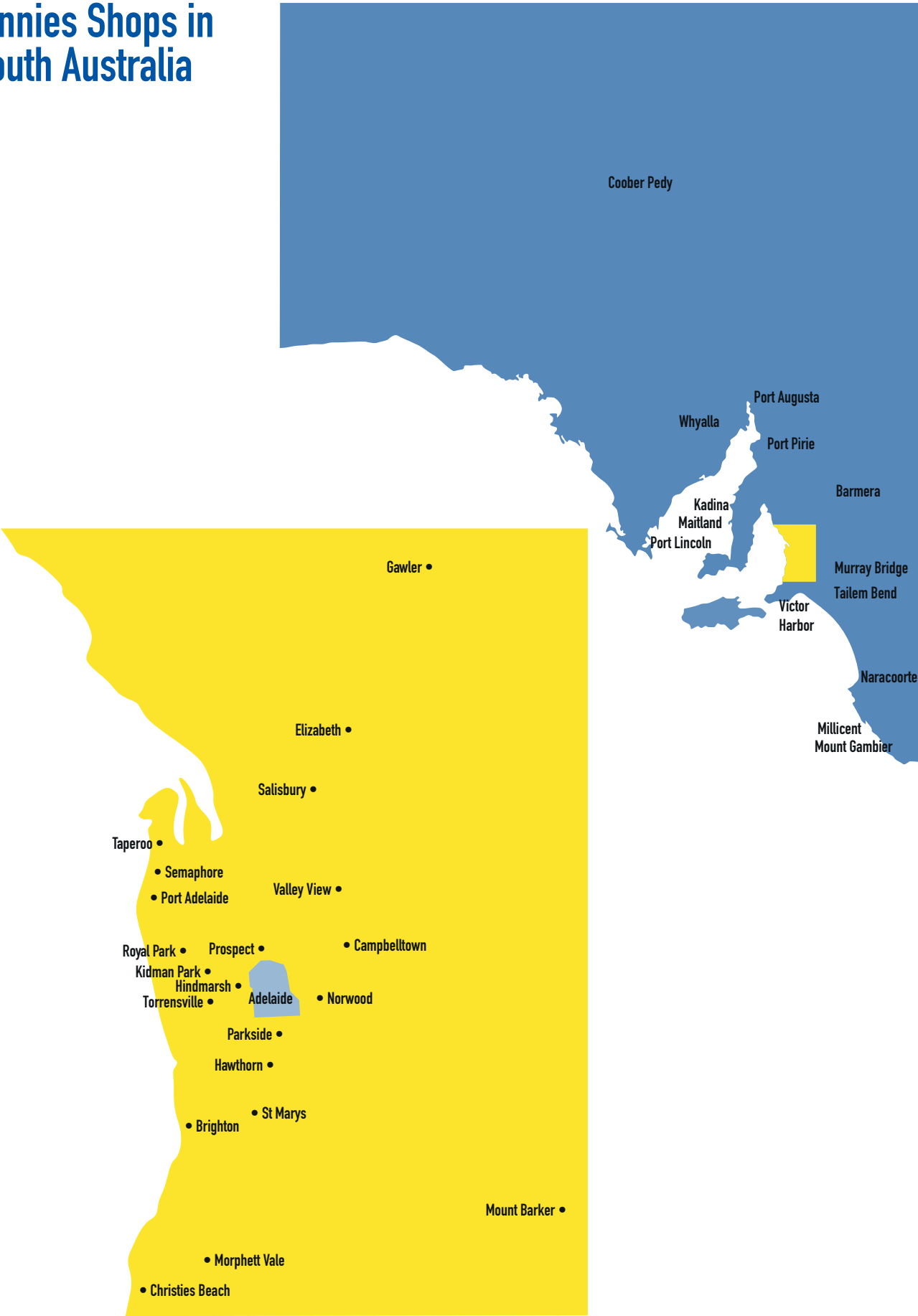
Committees

Business Advisory Panel
Centres Advisory Committee
Finance Audit and Risk Committee
Work Health and Safety Committee
Vinnies Crisis Centres Committee

Special Works Committees

Migrant and Refugee Committee	Budget and Financial Counsellors Working Group
Overseas Partnership and Development Committee	Vinnies Youth

Vinnies Shops in South Australia



Vinnies Shops Locations

Adelaide, Waymouth St	Parkside	Kadina
Brighton	Port Adelaide	Maitland
Campbelltown	Prospect	Millicent
Christies Beach	Royal Park	Mount Gambier
Elizabeth	St Marys	Murray Bridge
Gawler	Salisbury	Naracoorte
Hawthorn	Semaphore	Port Augusta
Hindmarsh	Taperoo	Port Lincoln
Kidman Park	Torrensville	Port Pirie
Morphett Vale	Valley View	Tailem Bend
Mount Barker	Barmera	Victor Harbor
Norwood	Coober Pedy	Whyalla

Conference Locations

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

How to get involved

The St Vincent de Paul Society 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

Make a financial donation

Credit card donations can be made by visiting our website or calling the donation hotline. 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

For those who are looking to make a direct impact to people in need, you can become a member of a conference or volunteer your time to assist people in your community through any of the Society's services or shops.

Donate goods

Donations of quality clothing, furniture 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.

GPO Box 1804, Adelaide, SA 5001
202 Franklin Street, Adelaide, SA 5000
(08) 8112 8700 Fax: (08) 8112 8799
svdp@svdpsa.org.au

ABN 73 591 401 592

Donations 13 18 12 or www.vinnies.org.au