

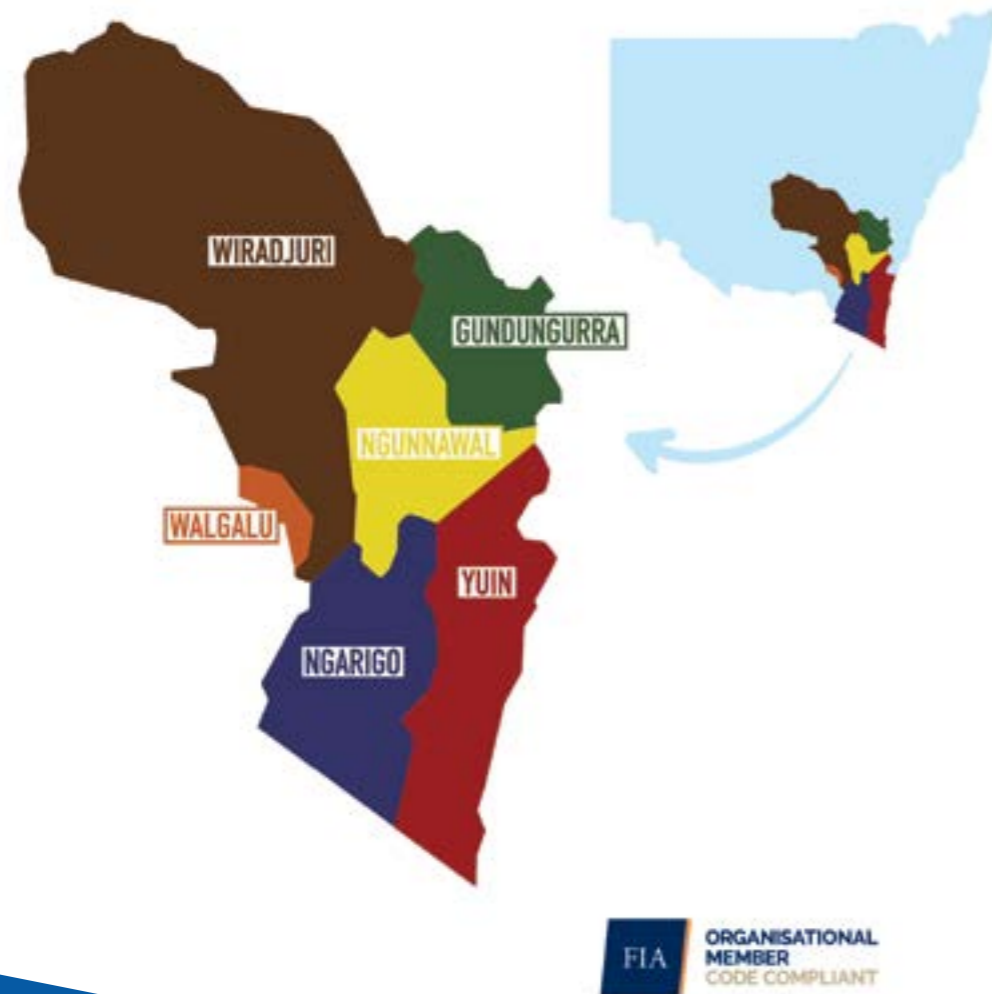


Impact

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Where we give a 'hand up'



St Vincent de Paul Society (Canberra/Goulburn) Limited

ACN 666 715 028 | ABN 16 732 852 554

Since 1833, the St Vincent de Paul Society has been at the forefront of service to those in need. Throughout another challenging year, the work of our members and volunteers has been even more important.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the Traditional Custodians of this land, with deep respect. May Elders, past, present and emerging, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, hope, faith, and reconciliation.

Privacy Statement

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn respects the privacy and dignity of the people it assists, our members, volunteers and employees. For more information about how the Society manages privacy information please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).

Contents

President's Message	4	National Overseas Partnerships Program	30
CEO's Report: Annual Review 2022–23	6	Advocacy and Social Justice	32
Spiritual Reflection	8	Special Works	34
Message from the Archbishop	9	Youth and Young Adults Programs	38
Who We Are	10	A Snapshot of Our Impact	40
Why We Help	11	Project Management	42
How We Help	12	Commercial Operations	46
Corporate Governance and Services	13	Volunteer Reflection	48
Business Operations	14	People and Culture	52
A Year in Review	16	Fundraising, Marketing and Communications	54
Board Structure and Conference Organisational Chart	18	2023 Vinnies CEO Sleepout	58
Entity Structure	19	Profit and Loss	60
Employee Structure	20	Financial Position	61
Conferences Across Canberra/Goulburn	22	In Our Prayers	62
Far South Coast Region	24	Thank you	63
Goulburn Region	25	Officers' Declaration	64
Molonglo Region	26	Fundraise for Vinnies	65
Tuggeranong & Monaro Region	27	Our Valued Supporters	66
North Canberra Region	28		
Western Region	29		



President's Message

John Feint

**President, St Vincent de Paul Society
Canberra/Goulburn**

In last year's annual report, I remarked on a year of consolidation and adaptation to a new operating environment. This theme continued in 2022–23, with the challenges of moving from COVID recovery to addressing **affordable housing** and **cost of living pressures**. These factors increased calls for assistance and added pressures on our conferences and Special Works programs.

The year saw members, volunteers and staff working hard together to meet the needs of our companions. We keep offering a hand-up to those in need and for many a hand-along as we journey together to address long-term complex needs.

Additional resources and support were provided to conferences during the year, especially in the Western and Far South Coast regions. Conference support officers were engaged, and in the Western Region, case workers were employed as part of a Western Hub at Young

to address companions with more complex needs. These initiatives were well received by conferences.

I was pleased to see the November 2022 annual general meeting successfully pass the proposal to establish the Society as a **Company Limited by Guarantee**. This was the culmination of years of work by Council and staff to deliver a better, fit-for-purpose governance structure that will enable growth and meet corporate governance responsibilities.

It was with a certain amount of pride that we saw out the formal completion of the Canberra/Goulburn **bushfire recovery program** at the end of December 2022. There was an unprecedented response from the Society through the three phases of the bushfires: emergency response, recovery and rebuilding. Society and staff members can be rightly proud of the support we provided fire-affected communities across our region over this extended period.

The year saw Canberra/Goulburn, as part of the state and territory Society organisations in Australia, reach out to support our Society members in Asia and Oceania. Canberra/Goulburn hosted the New Zealand President, Terry Jordan, to learn about our governance, retail centres, youth programs and support for conferences. We are also working to develop a twinning partnership with Indonesia for knowledge sharing, cultural exchange and support.

At the beginning of this year, the Society welcomed new CEO Lucy Hohnen. Our new executive team is highly skilled and committed to the mission of the Society. I have enjoyed a strong, positive, and open working relationship with this team.

Advocacy continued as a vital part of our work during the year. We continued to engage with new local members following the May 2022 Federal election, in the lead up to the March 2023 NSW election, and this work will continue in the lead up to the October 2024 ACT election. Our advocacy is supported by a strong Social Justice Committee and by the Caritas Christi conference, which supports and advocates for migrants and refugees.

It was with gratitude and admiration that I celebrated with volunteers and staff the 21st anniversary of our **Night Patrol in Canberra**. This everyday service that reaches out to the homeless and lonely in our community is a vital, recognised face of the Society alongside our Centres of Charity – our Vinnies shops. The Society brand is very well regarded, which is reflected in the strong sales and community engagement in our shops, with more sites coming on board. The major project to rebuild our Mitchell Warehouse will help us cope with more growth in donations and sales in a safer, more pleasant workplace.

Regular donors and bequests continue to be important to realising new opportunities. During the year this included the purchase of a new store site in Tumut to better suit the needs of the town and its growing population.

Presidents of the Territory Council are, by The Rule of the Society, meant to have four-year fixed terms. My term ended on 6 June 2023, but sadly

there were no nominations to take my role. With the permission of the National Council, my term was extended until 6 December 2023 pending a replacement being elected; something I am working hard to resolve.

It does lead me to reflect on the challenges for the Society for the future. Clearly, we need to continue to recruit new members, retain those we have, and support and encourage them to take on leadership roles. Members are at the heart of the Society, and I look forward to the National Congress 23+ in October 2023, which will address this important issue.

Finally, I would like to **thank all members, volunteers and staff** who give so much of themselves to the work of the Society. While we give, we are also richly rewarded by the companions, conferences members and colleagues we befriend. We are enriched by the stories we hear about our good works and know that every local action we take will return dividends.



John Feint, 2023 Community Spirit Awards All Star Winner (Photo credit: ABC Canberra, Greg Nelson).



Like so many organisations in our sector, we've experienced a significant surge in demand for support, in some instances over 30% on the previous financial year. We are seeing people come to us for the first time, people in employment who can't make ends meet, and those on the margins, our most vulnerable – all of whom would be in even more dire circumstances without our support.

We are one of the largest charities in our region and hold the trust of the community, which continues to support our work so generously with donations of all kinds. People do this because they know our focus is always on our companions, and that as an organisation we are efficient and targeted. To this end, we have further strengthened our corporate capabilities this year to grow our front-line work.

The data and insights we gather through the delivery of our wide range of front-line services enable us to be proactive and influential in our **advocacy work**. Guided by the Social Justice Committee and our strategy, we have raised our profile by making more submissions, engaging with decision makers at local and national level to shape key policy and budget decisions, and lending our voice to those who can't speak for themselves.

We are now regularly sought out by the media, and political and sector stakeholders, for our perspective on key issues affecting companions. As part of this agenda, we are active collaborators in migrant and refugee policy, working with kindred community groups and supporting rallies and submissions to government.

We have also expanded the delivery of services to the Far South Coast and Western NSW, introducing specialist case workers, conference support resources and the new Women's Return to Work Program. Now that we have transitioned to a Company Limited by Guarantee, we will look to secure NSW Government funding so that we can continue to expand our programs and services in the regions.

Our Vinnies centres performed incredibly well this year. We recently launched our wonderful new

Tumut centre, which has been warmly welcomed by the community. Plans are well advanced for the opening of our 28th centre on Lonsdale Street, Braddon in the heart of Canberra city later this year. Our stores are more than a revenue source for our good works; they also offer a place of **community connection and support** and simply would not exist without the incredible work of our volunteers.

Underpinning all our work is our commitment to minimising our environmental footprint. For almost 60 years our centres have been leaders in the recycling of donated goods, diverting items from landfill and raising essential funds for those in need. Programs including the home energy efficiency program, container deposit scheme, installation of solar power throughout our premises, and running a hybrid fleet demonstrate our ongoing commitment to walking lightly on our planet.

This report shares with you the financial aspects of our operations, but also reveals the breadth of the work we are doing to help improve lives. On behalf of us all here at the Society, thank you for your ongoing support.



Lucy Hohnen and Tim McKenna, President Caritas Christi conference at Palm Sunday Rally.



Lucy Hohnen speaking at the community sector NAIDOC Week event.



Alicia Payne MP and Lucy Hohnen discussing the work of our Night Patrol team.

CEO's Report: Annual Review 2022—23

Lucy Hohnen

**CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society
Canberra/Goulburn**

The theme for this annual report is **Impact**.

This report illustrates the depth and breadth of our work and how we've expanded our operations to respond to the ever-increasing need in our communities.

The past financial year has seen the Society respond effectively and with dedication to the rising demand on our services, driven by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and the dire lack of affordable housing impacting so many. Our member conferences, specialist teams, and dedicated volunteers have all risen to the increased call for help with **compassion and empathy**.



Spiritual Reflection

Patrick McGrath

Director, Community Engagement and Youth Programs

I do not have to remind you of the many financial hardships we as Vincentians have faced daily in the past 12 months. The increased cost of living, the war in Ukraine, the refugee crisis across the world and the impacts of homelessness in every town in our Archdiocese. These and many other issues have stretched the time, talent and resources of every conference.

When speaking of the poor, it is easy to fall into rhetorical excess. It is also an insidious temptation to remain at the level of statistics and numbers. The poor are persons; they have faces, stories, hearts and souls. They are our brothers and sisters, with good points and bad, like all of us, and it is important to enter into a personal relation with each of them.
— Pope Francis: World Day of the Poor Address, 13 June 2023

Earlier in the year, a colleague and I attended a call for help from a young family in financial troubles and unable to make it through each fortnight. They had never sought help from

anyone before and really didn't understand how St Vincent de Paul could help them. We spoke with them, helped them with some practical organisation and provided them with some food and fuel, which they gratefully accepted in a flood of tears.

A month later, the young mother appeared at the Yarralumla Support Office wishing to speak with me. She thanked me again for the help we gave her and passed me \$10, saying, 'This was left over from the budget you helped us with, and we want you to give it to another family in need.' This story doesn't stop here but for the moment I do want to pause. You see, this young mother gets it! The relationship we quickly developed, and the kindness shown along with the practical assistance, caused her to engage with others on the same road as her family.

I pray for this little family often. They taught me a very valuable lesson and that is yet another reason to stay close to the Vincentian family and the work of the Society.

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. — Frédéric Ozanam

God bless you all for the relationships you cultivate with those we serve.



Frédéric Ozanam, founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society.



Message from the Archbishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we all know the St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn gives wonderful Gospel service to those on the peripheries of life.

Practical assistance, in a particular way, has been given in recent times to the homeless, those impacted unduly by the cost-of-living crisis, and surprisingly, in the growing number of older women with limited financial resources seeking assistance. Incidences of domestic violence continue unabated and show an increase.

All our practical help is given as a response to your Christian commitment. The St Vincent de Paul Society is never to be seen as simply a philanthropic organisation. It is a way that a Catholic Agency can respond to the Lord's mandate, 'You did it for me.'

As always, I offer my every support and encouragement.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

Wednesday 16 August 2023

Who We Are

The St Vincent de Paul Society is an international lay Catholic organisation tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing assistance to anyone in need. The Society was founded in 1833 in France by a group of young men, led by the Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, who named it after the Patron Saint of Christian charity, St Vincent de Paul. Today, the St Vincent de Paul Society has more than 950,000 members in over 150 countries. All give freely of their time and are at the core of what the Society does. Volunteers and employees support the St Vincent de Paul Society in carrying out its good works.

VISION

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring, lay 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.

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 PEOPLE

Offering a hand up to the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society is at the heart of our good works. We are companion-centred. Members, volunteers and employees are the backbone of our organisation and work closely together to deliver person-centred care in the most efficient way possible. The passion and dedication of our members, volunteers and employees is evident in the many programs and services we operate, whether this be at local schools, parishes, centres, or outreach services like Vinnies Street to Home or Night Patrol.

526 Members

Our members are the backbone of the Society, providing support to companions, determining our strategic direction, and guiding the effective delivery of programs and services to those in need.

1,363 Volunteers

Our volunteers give freely of their skills and abilities across the breadth of the Society.

232 Employees

Our paid employees are kept to a minimum to allow resources to be directed to people in need. We acknowledge the expertise of our employees in supporting the good works of our members and volunteers.

Why We Help

More than 122,000 Australians are homeless on any given night. For every person living on the streets, 13 more experience other forms of homelessness.



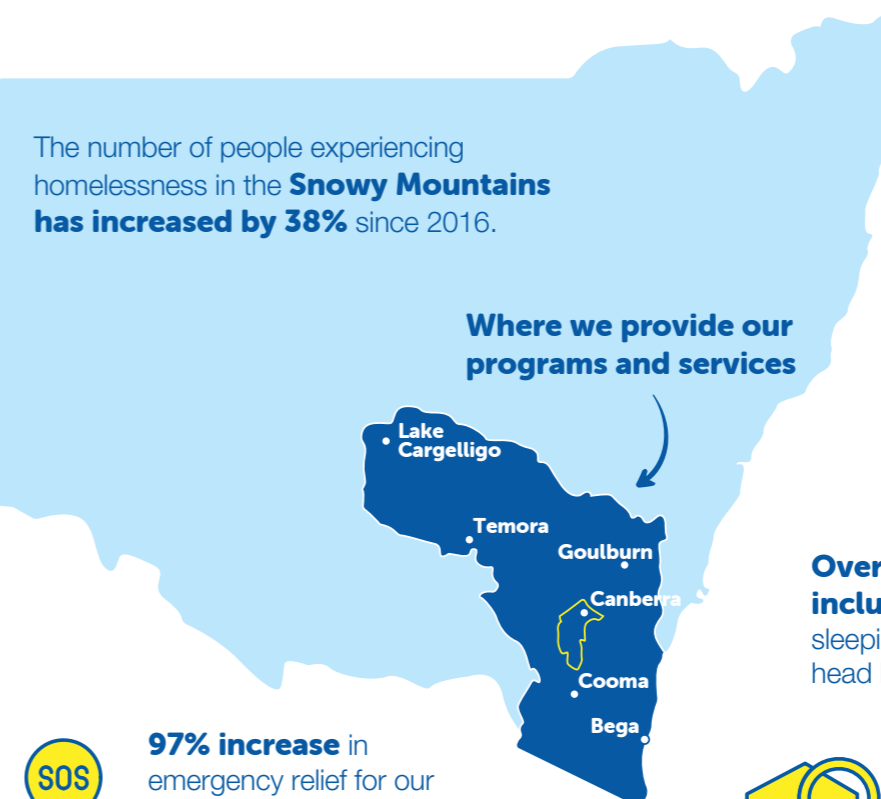
1 in 5 people experiencing homelessness identify as **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander** in Australia.

23% of Australians experiencing homelessness are aged from 12 to 24 years.



447 Canberrans live in severely crowded dwellings.

Up to 38,000 Canberrans are estimated to be living below the poverty line, including **9,000 children**.



The number of people experiencing homelessness in the **Snowy Mountains** has increased by **38%** since 2016.

The number of people experiencing homelessness in **Queanbeyan** has increased by **57%** since 2016.



Where we provide our programs and services

Over 50 people including children sleeping rough in North head Moruya campground.



97% increase in emergency relief for our Western Region, since 2021–22.



1,777 people are experiencing homelessness in the ACT.

SOURCES:

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021), Estimating Homelessness: Census, ABS website, accessed 21 September 2023, available at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release>

ACT Council of Social Services Inc (2022), ACT Cost of Living Report, available at <https://actcoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022-report-ACT-Cost-of-Living.pdf>

Eurobodalla Shire Council (2023), Crisis Accommodation Needed Now, ESC website, available at <https://esc.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/latest-news/2023/crisis-accommodation-needed-now>

How We Help

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/ Goulburn gives people in need a 'hand up' to make life-changing decisions. Support differs from situation to situation, but our conferences remain central to the Society's good works and governance.

The Special Works of the Society focus on services that require professional staff and full-time support, with most reliant on the generous donation of time from volunteers.



HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Samaritan House
Street to Home
Blue Door



CLOTHING AND OTHER MATERIAL GOODS

Vinnies Retail Centres
Thread Together Clothing Hub



YOUTH PROGRAMS

St Joe's Youth Program
St Nick's Young Carers Program
School Engagement (Primary and Secondary)
Migrant and Refugee Program



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Inclusion Program at Oaks Estate
Night Patrol
Compeer



EMERGENCY RELIEF HELPLINE (13 18 12)

Home Visitation and Support



EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Clemente
Home Energy Efficiency Program



FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Services Program
Young Parents Program

Corporate Governance and Services

Tony Allen

Chief Operating Officer

On 6 June 2023, Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn was provided notice from the Australian Securities and Investment Commission that St Vincent de Paul Society (Canberra/Goulburn) Limited had been registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee. This changed legal structure operates under federal legislation, the *Corporations ACT 2001*, and will allow funds to be accessed and used more broadly across regional NSW as well as the ACT. Additionally, it will provide improved governance through a new Board, focusing on the strategic direction, business risk and operations of the Society. The Territory Council will continue to be governed by The Rule, as approved by the International Council General of The Society in Paris and the National Council of Australia. The Territory Council's focus will remain 'Serviens in Spe' or 'Service in Hope'.

Electorally, John Feint's term as Territory President was due to end in June 2023, however, there were no nominations for this role. Subsequently, National Council approved the extension of John Feint's term until December 2023. This, in turn, extended the term of the nominated roles on Territory Council.

St Vincent de Paul Society (Canberra/Goulburn) Limited is governed by a board of directors that comprises five Territory Council members, including the Territory Council President as Chair and two independents. As of 30 June 2023, the two independent director positions are vacant, subject to a competitive selection process. The Board manages the corporate responsibilities of Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn, while the Territory Council oversees and manages spirituality, social justice, twinning and conference support.

The core of the Society is, and will remain, the **conferences**. Conference members will continue to provide foundational support and a



'hand up' to our companions or people in need. As of 30 June 2023, there were 500 members in 48 conferences. Comparatively, in 2022, there were 543 members across 49 conferences.

Conference members work at a grassroots level to support companions through the provision of assistance and wellbeing support, such as visiting them in their homes, hospitals, institutions or wherever else they may be found needing aid or comfort.

Conferences are established within communities, such as a parish, town, suburb, school, university, workplace, ethnic or social group. Special conferences are formed to address particular needs, including issues impacting youth and young adults, migrants and refugees, and spirituality.

Structurally, each conference elects a president, and these presidents together form a regional council. Each regional council elects a president from their conference presidents. There are six regional councils in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese.

The CEO manages the business operations of the Society and reports to the Board and Territory Council. The CEO is responsible for providing input to, and implementing, the strategic direction of Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn. The Company Secretary of St Vincent de Paul Society (Canberra/Goulburn) Limited is responsible for the Society's governance framework.



Business Operations

George Kadmos

Chief Financial Officer

SharePoint Greenfield Project

Last year we reported the Society commenced a review into the Society's existing ICT arrangements. Work continued with several deliverables completed during the year, including an ICT Strategic Plan and an Information Management and Governance Plan (IMGP). The IMGP defines how organisational content is stored, classified, protected, and governed while supporting authorised users in locating current and authoritative content regardless of their role or function. On the back of this work, the Society has commenced the SharePoint Greenfield Project that involves the creation of a separate tenancy for SharePoint, allowing for a clean slate for St Vincent de Paul Canberra/Goulburn to build a new and more effective SharePoint structure that aligns with our objectives.

Human Resource Information System

To enhance the Society's ability to support and manage its human resources, we are in the process of commissioning the SAGE People Human Resource Information System (HRIS). This is a first for the Society. The implementation

of the new platform will provide full employee lifecycle management from recruitment, onboarding, learning management, payroll, performance and retention through to exit.

EFTPOS Cards

The Society is trialing a new EFTPOS card system to support the good work being carried out by conferences. As reported previously, a significant part of the good works the Society does across the region is the distribution of food and fuel vouchers, helping with pharmaceutical expenses and other emergency assistance. Food and fuel vouchers enable our companions to purchase food and other necessities directly from local supermarket and/or fuel suppliers. The scheme provides recipients with immediate financial assistance, via a voucher, to purchase food and fuel requirements at participating suppliers. The EFTPOS cards are an alternative to the existing Coles and Woolworths vouchers and the Blue Book system with IGA. The cards provide our companions with a wider choice on where to purchase their essential goods and services.

Rosterspace

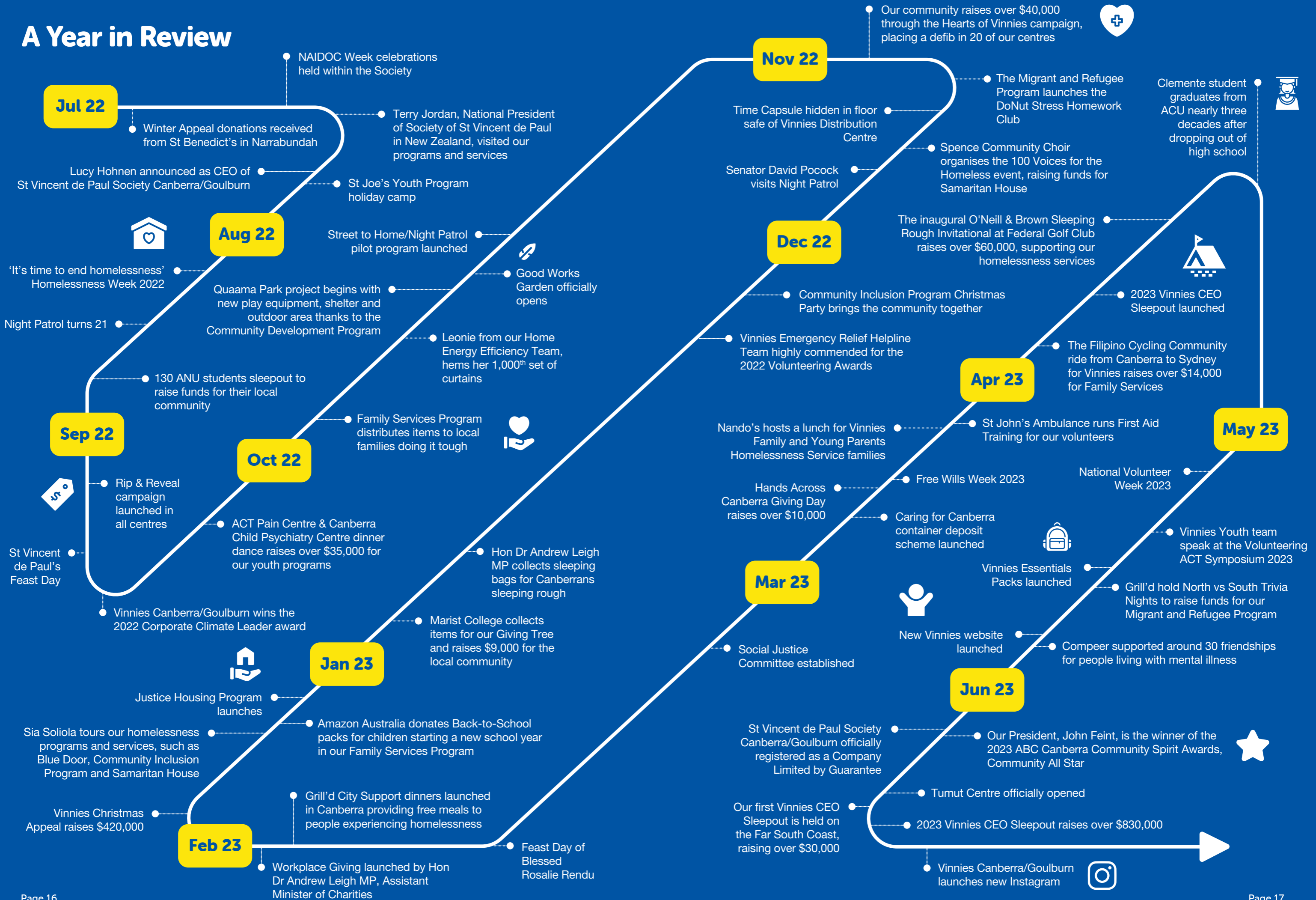
During the reporting period, we successfully implemented a new rostering, time and attendance system called Rosterspace. The new platform stores roster information, captures staff attendance, manages leave, replaces vacant shifts, calculates employee payments, and facilitates manager timesheet approvals. Rosterspace manages the rostering, award interpretation, timesheet approval and labour management reporting for Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn.

Quality Improvement Innovation

In October 2022, the Society successfully passed its 18-month Quality Improvement Innovation review. Maintaining our compliance provides assurance and confidence to our participants that the Society is providing core services to the highest quality standards expected by industry. It also improves our competitive advantage, particularly with respect to the rewarding of grants and applying for tenders. Now that the 18-month review is complete, work is underway for re-accreditation to the standards, which will take place in the next year.

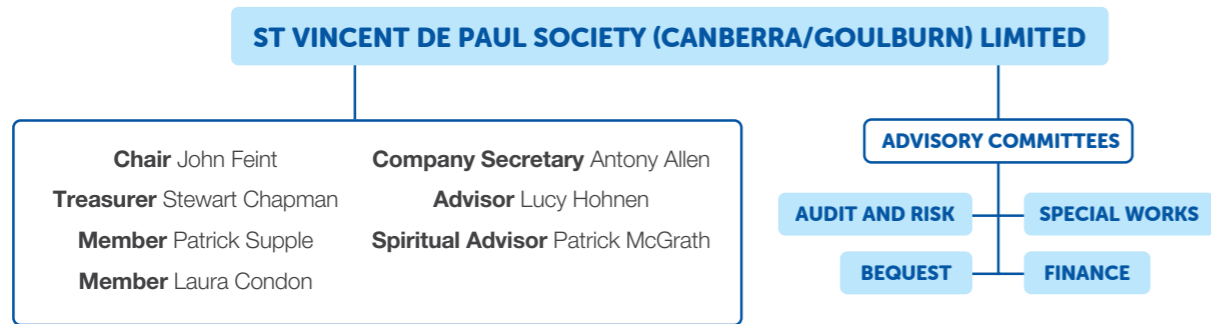


A Year in Review



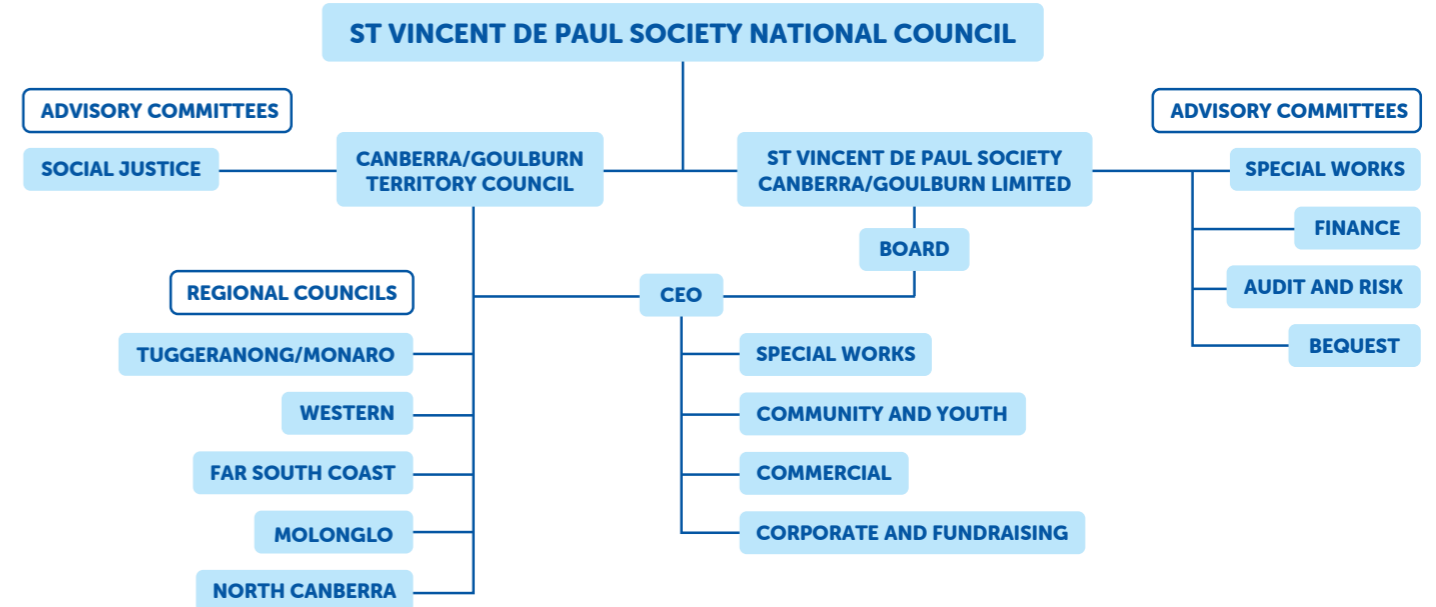
Board Structure

as of 30 June 2023



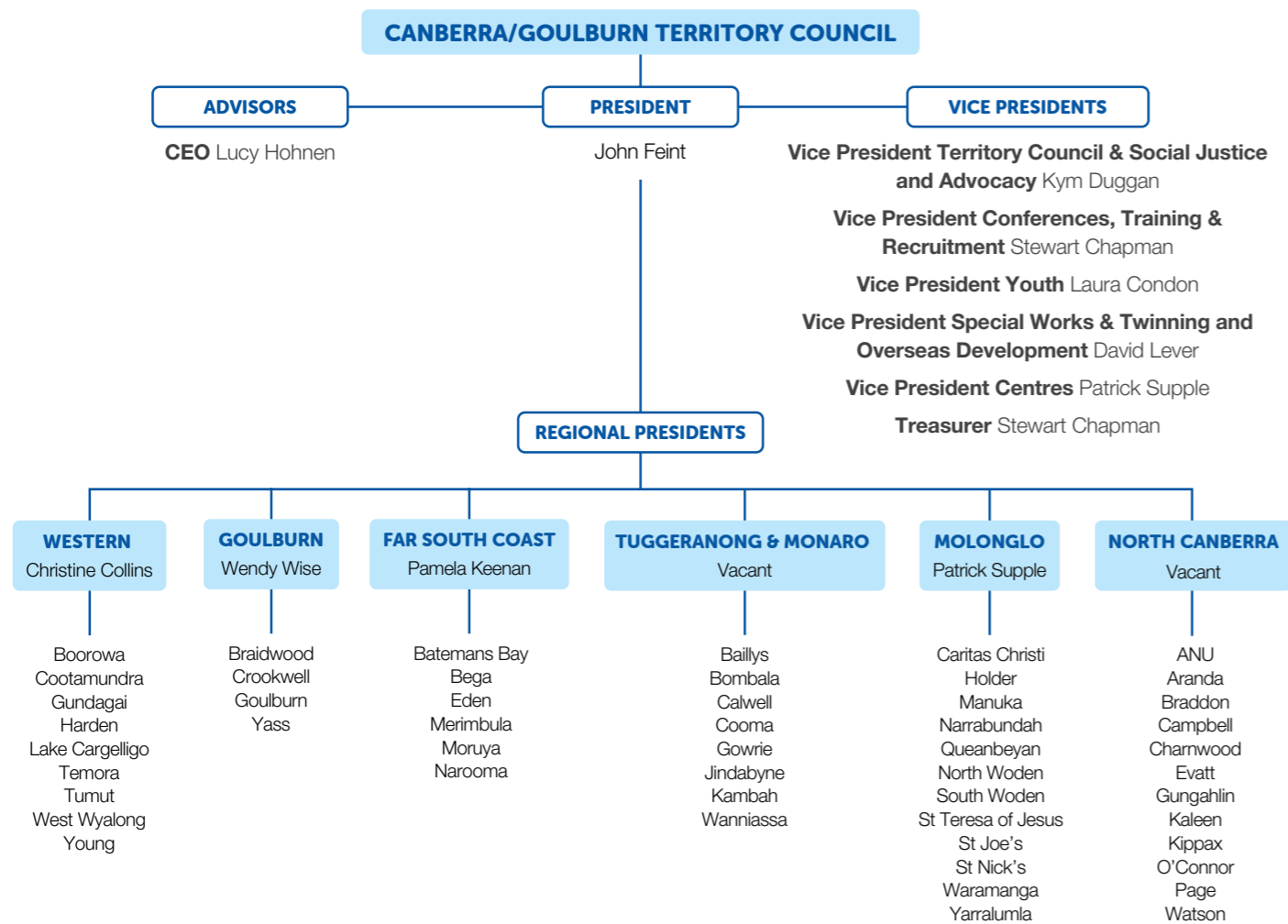
Entity Structure

as of 30 June 2023



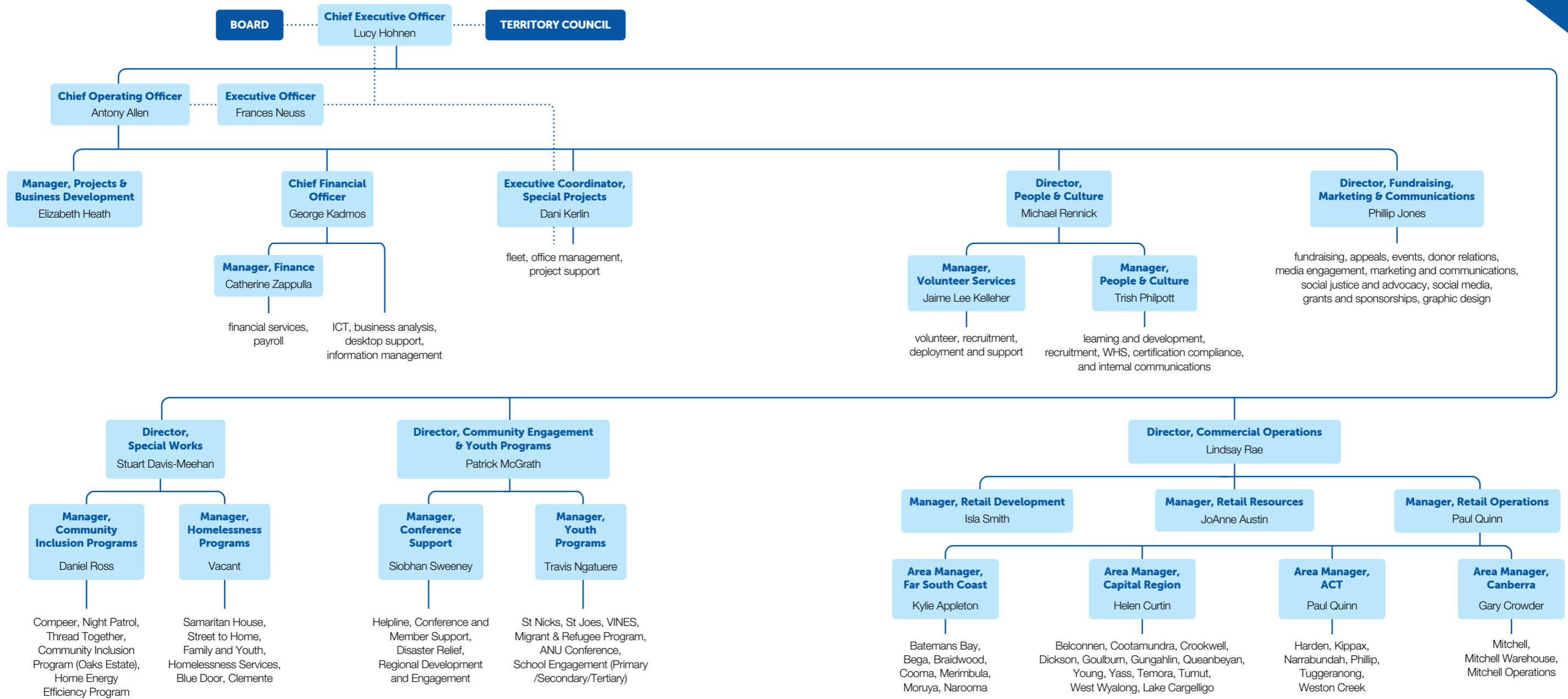
Conference Organisational Chart

as of 30 June 2023



Employee Structure

as of 30 June 2023



Conferences Across Canberra/Goulburn

Stewart Chapman

Vice President Conferences, Training & Recruitment

The Society's work across the regions showed an ever-growing demand for assistance and services during 2022–23. This became clearly apparent as the impact of the COVID-19 period eased. We moved into a new period, noting the increase in the cost of living along with the pressing need to address homelessness and rent increases. This was particularly evident in both the Western Region and the Far South Coast. Indeed, there has been a very significant increase in the demand for broader services delivery in both regions.

As mentioned in previous reports, there continues to be an increase in the complexity of needs for our companions. There are of course a variety of reasons for this development, such as domestic violence, lack of resources, homelessness, unemployment and mental health, to name a few. Governments are tending to rely on the Society to provide significant emergency support.

The regional hub initiative is now well in operation in the Western Region, based at Young, and can provide a more coordinated approach to the provision and range of services. The Society is endeavouring to provide similar outreach and support to the Far South Coast in the near future. This model is proving a successful way forward as the demand for assistance increases and becomes more complex.

Many conferences are looking at innovative ways to do their work and meet, while the need for volunteer recruitment is an ongoing matter.

The work of conferences across the regions could not be done without the practical, strategic and 'hands on' approach of the Conference Support Team and Helpline. The support team has travelled across the regions providing backup support to conferences, including IT services. Our regional coverage of support has never been more comprehensive as this year.

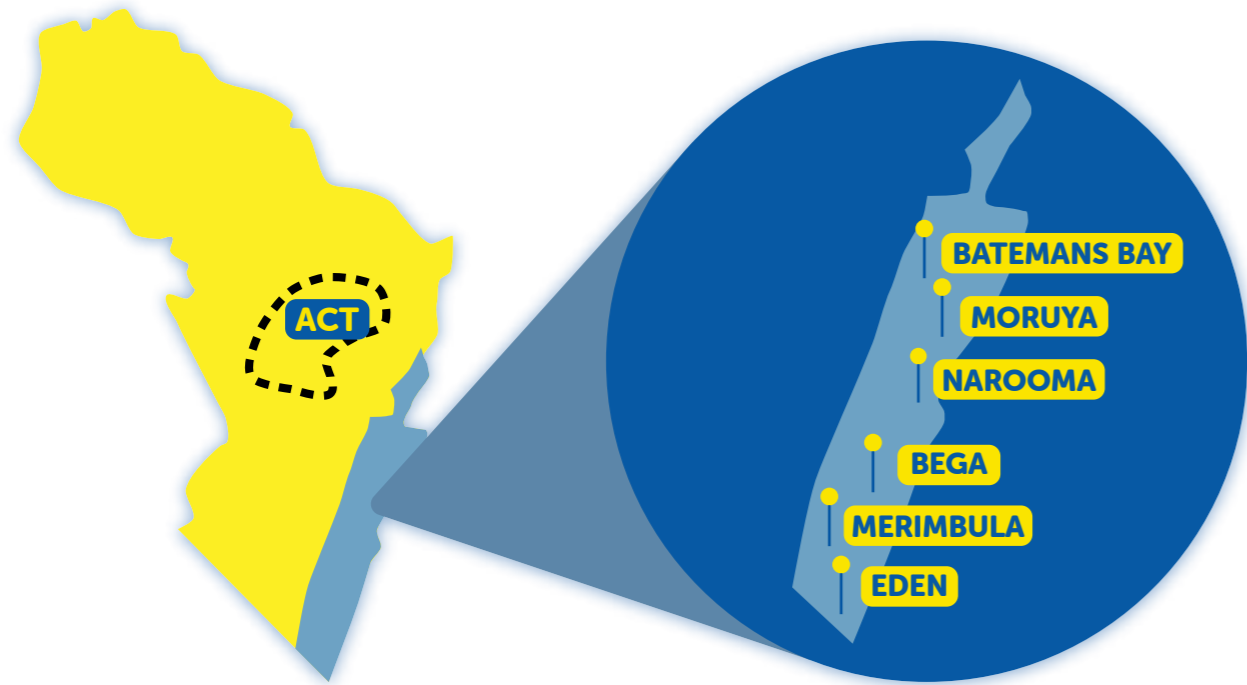
Finally, a huge thank you to all conference members and volunteers who provide a massive contribution to the work of the Society. Our work is often very challenging, however, members and volunteers again continue to make a difference to the lives of our companions each and every day.



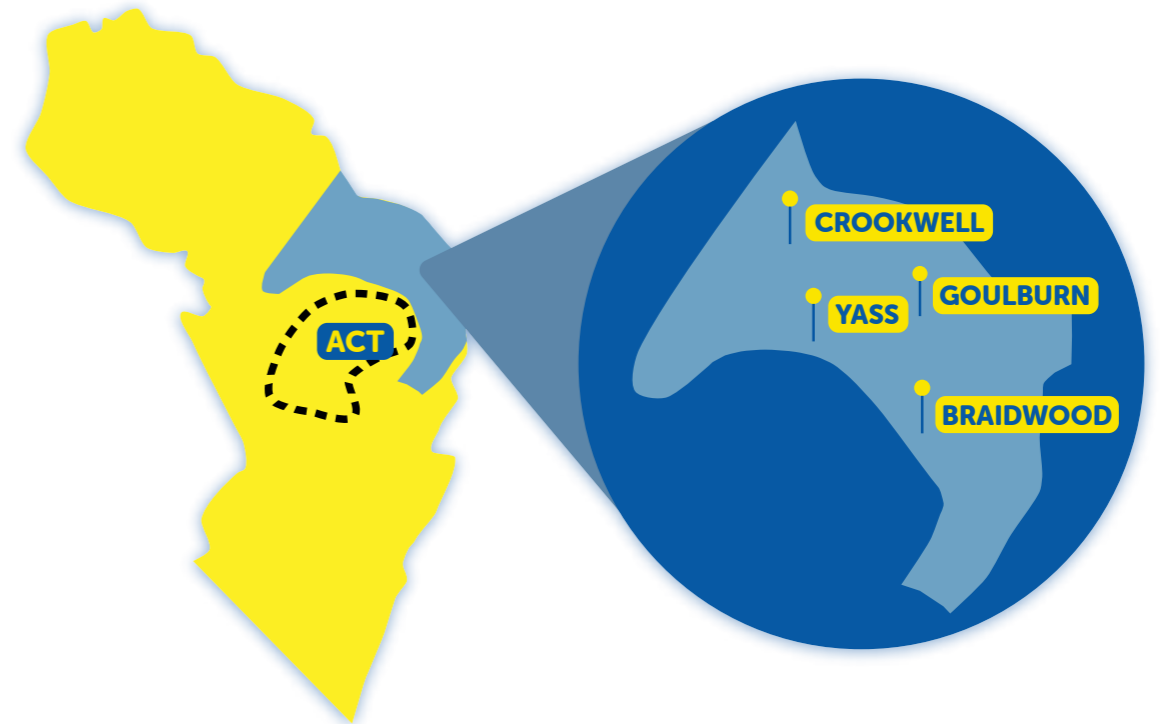
L-R: Patrick, Siobhan, Omar, Kate, Kati, Lian and Fran.



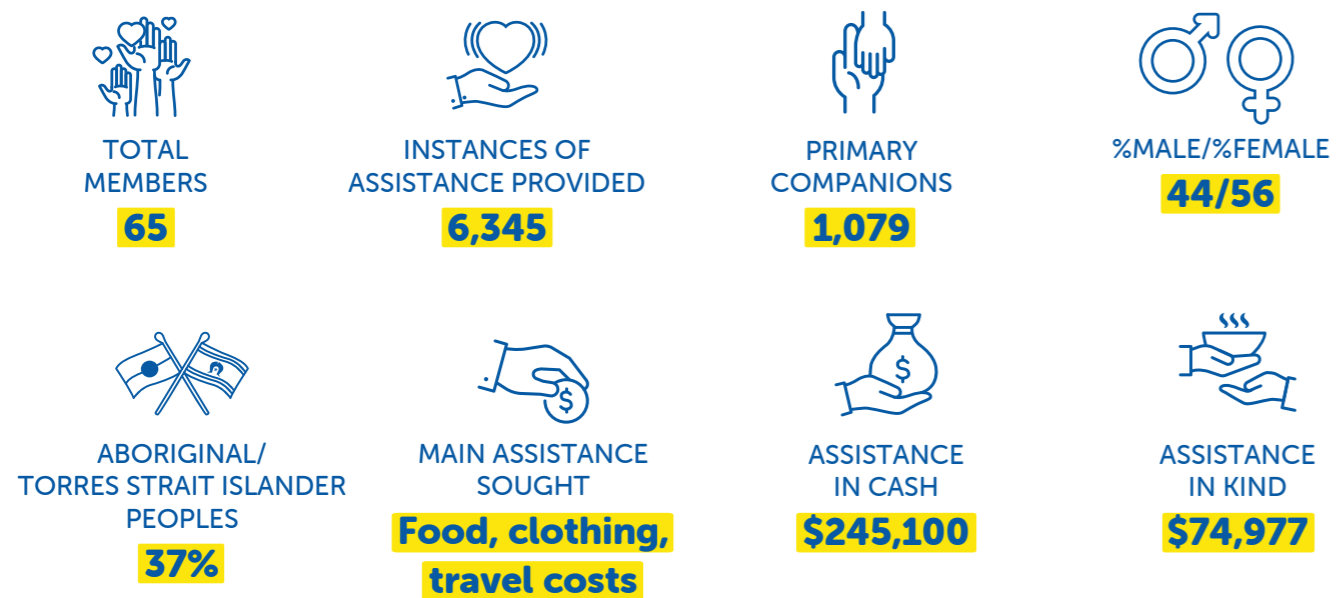
Far South Coast Region



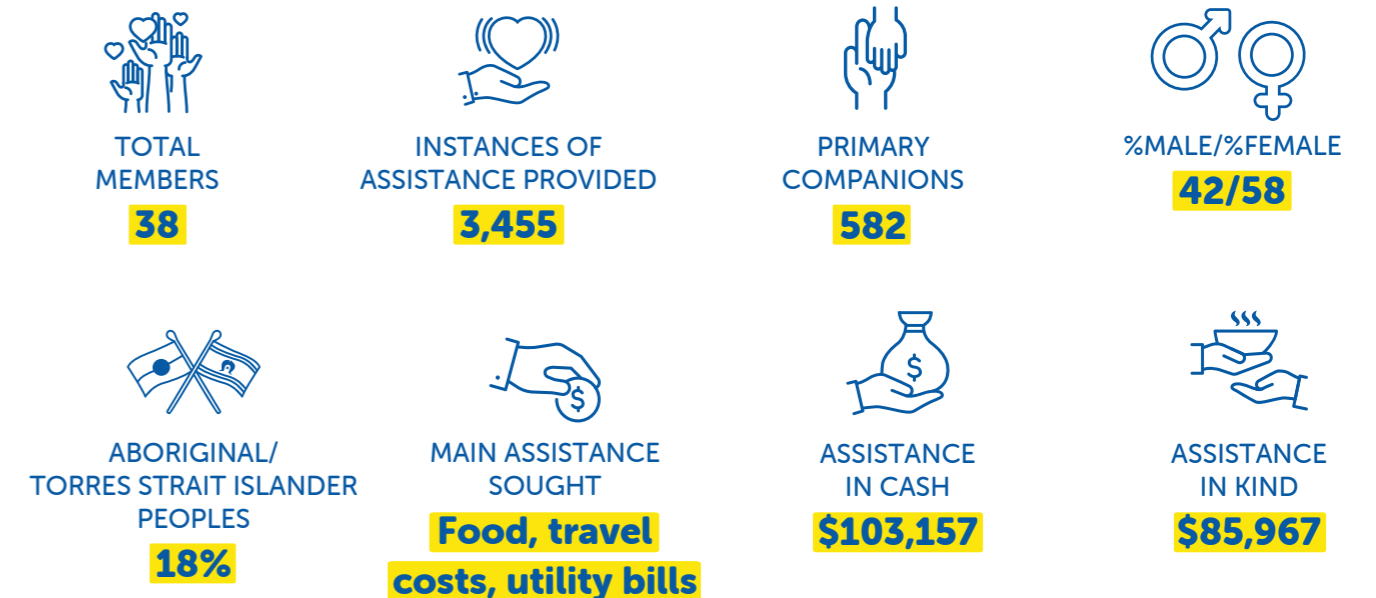
Goulburn Region



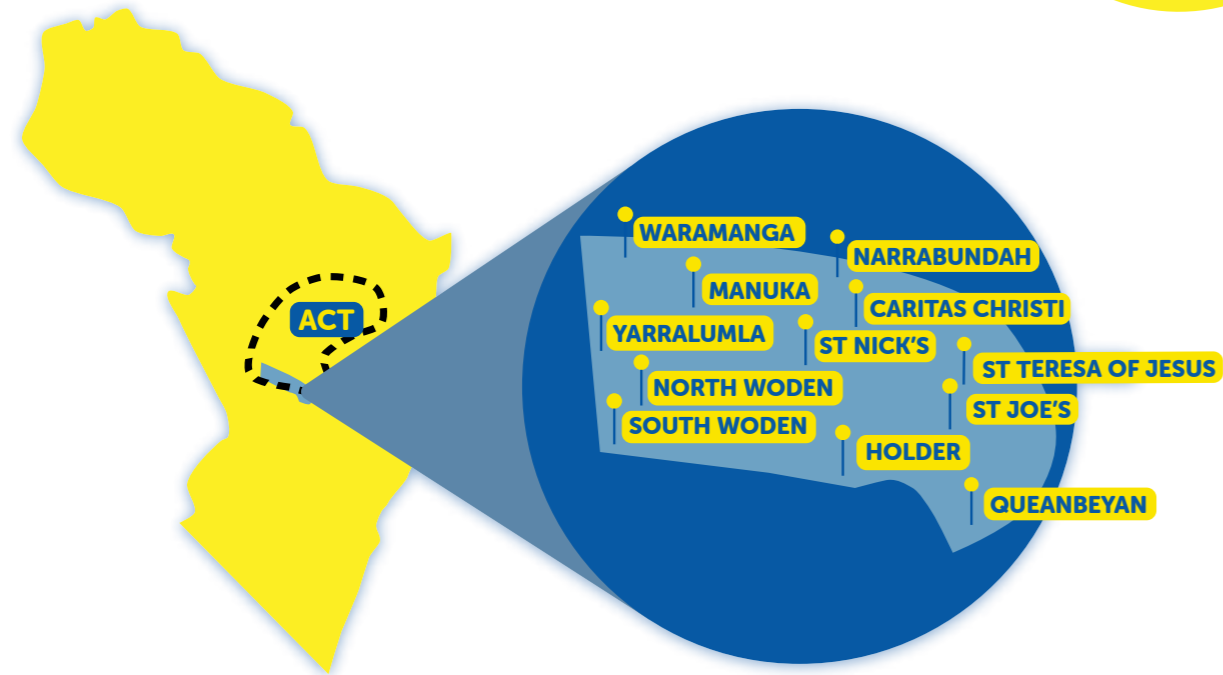
The numbers...



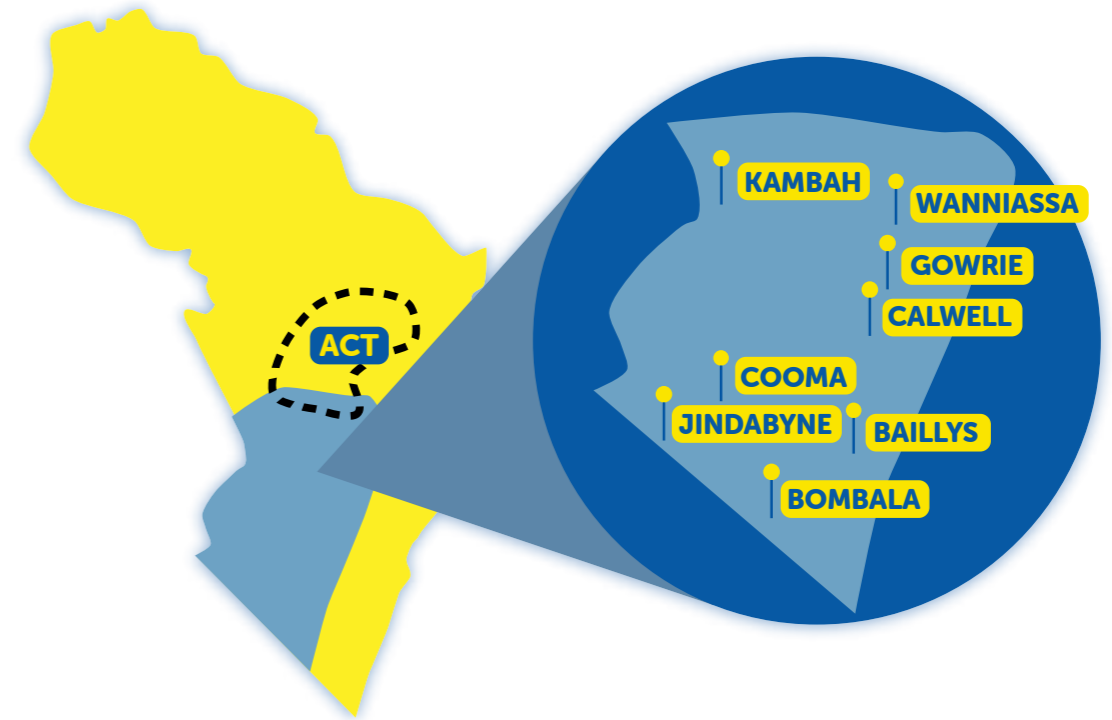
The numbers...



Molonglo Region



Tuggeranong & Monaro Region



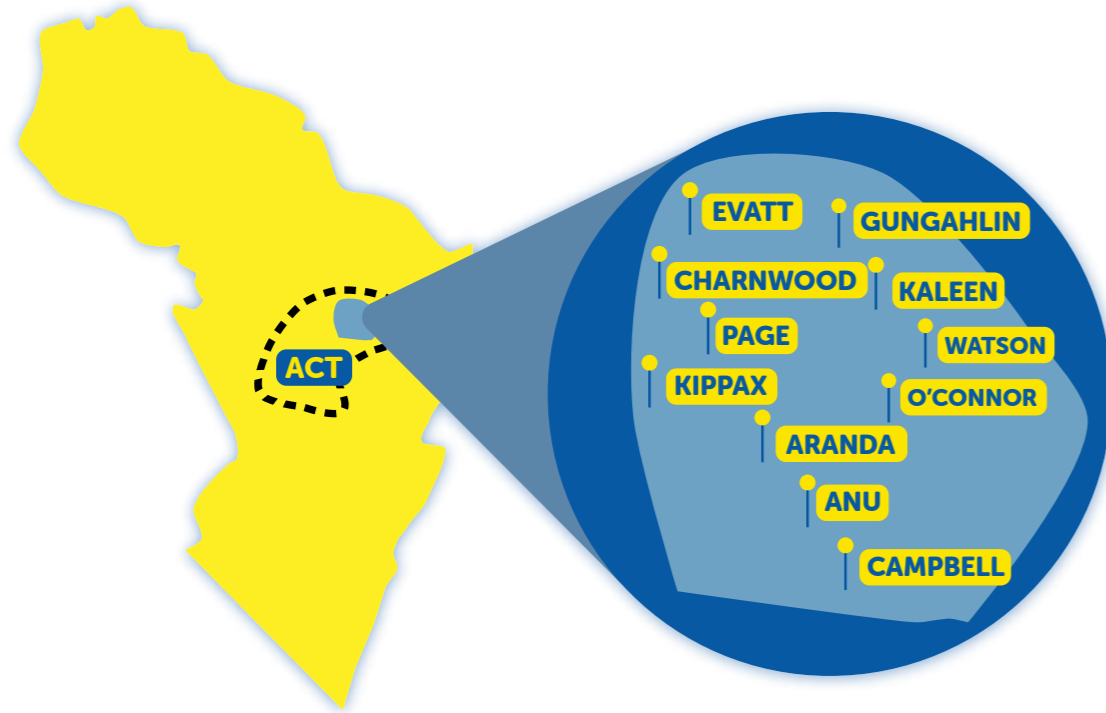
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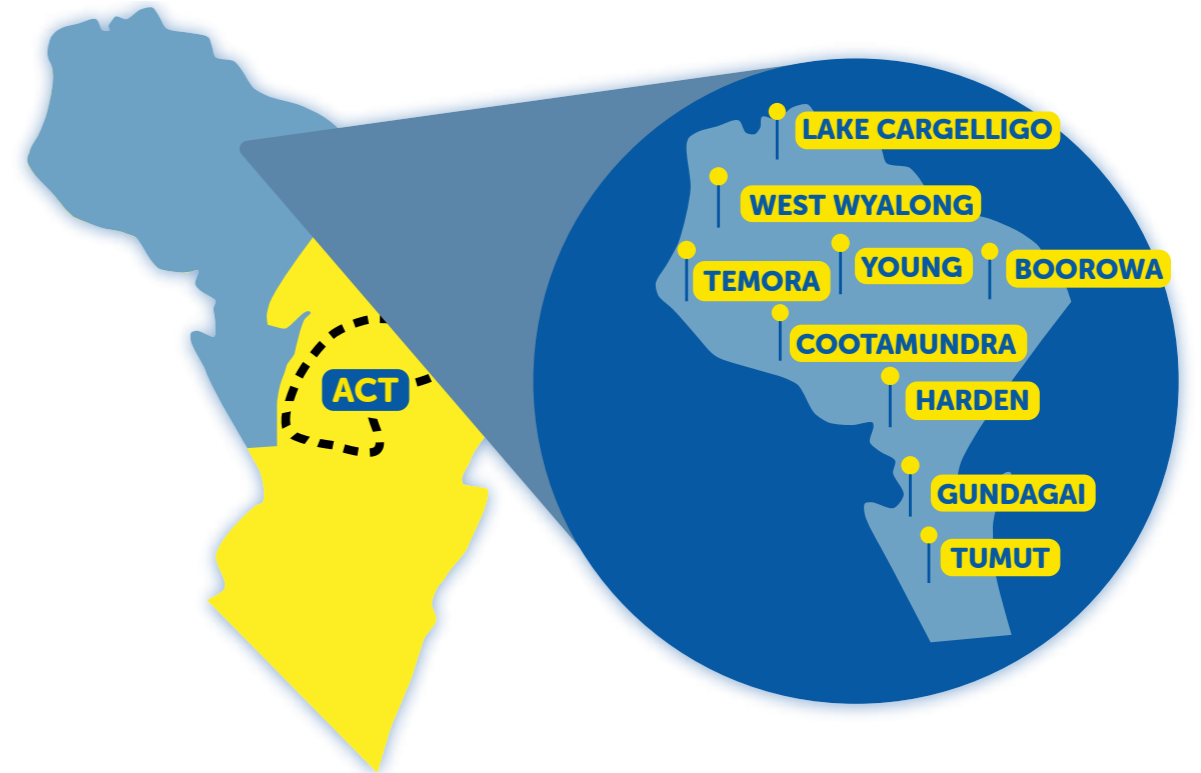
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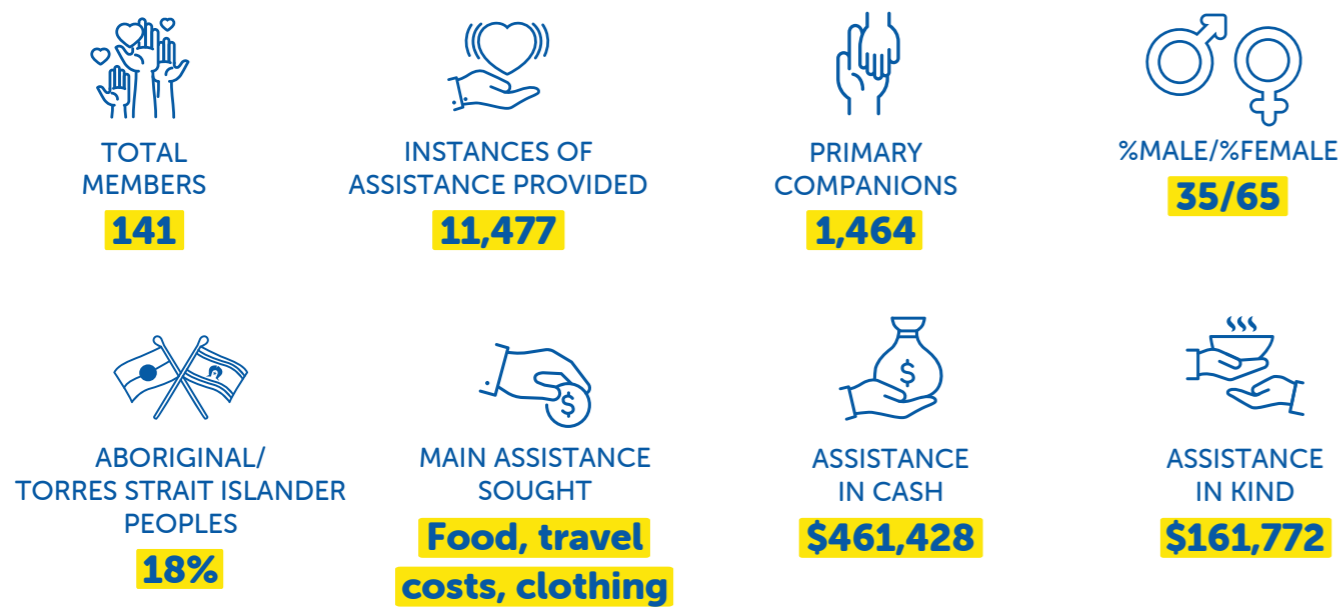
North Canberra Region



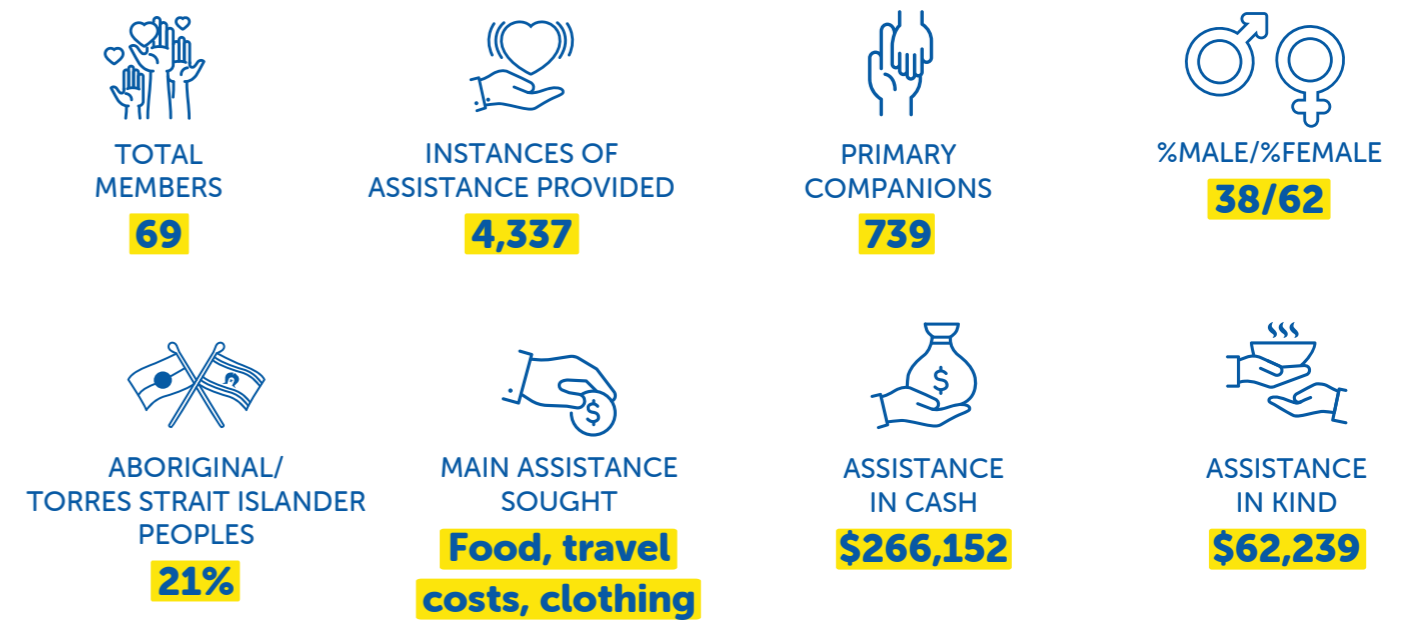
Western Region



The numbers...



The numbers...





National Overseas Partnerships Program

David Lever
Vice President Twinning

Vinnies National Council coordinates the National Overseas Partnerships Program (NOPP), in which most states and territories participate. Canberra/Goulburn diocese participates as an amalgam of ACT and NSW conferences. The NOPP comprises the Twinning and Assist-A-Student sub-programs. This is the first report on the NOPP in our annual report for some years.

Twinning has traditionally occurred between local and overseas conferences. Under The Rule, there are three components of Twinning:

- Spiritual (sharing of faith and prayer)
- Communication (learning about one another and friendship)
- Financial (regular contributions to the overseas twin, including Christmas and Easter grants).

At end June 2023, we had 59 twinned conferences: 26 in India, 24 in Indonesia,

six in Thailand and three in the Solomon Islands. Financial support to Vincentians in these countries totalled \$34,516 for 2022–23, comprising \$19,040 in mandatory quarterly remittances of \$80 per twin, \$3,450 in grants and \$12,026 for 'projects'. Projects have historically been proposed by the overseas twins and constitute activities that raise funds for the local community. In 2022–23, projects also included \$7,500 given by us to the Indonesian National Council to help fund its periodic National Assembly, held from 29 June to 2 July 2023.

Where a local conference has been unable to support its twin financially, as required, we make up for the deficit. It was pleasing that conferences were better able to raise funds to support their own twins in 2022–23, as their chief fundraising event, on 'Ozanam Sunday', was then less affected by COVID-19.

One of the main challenges facing the Twinning and Projects sub-program continues to be the difficulty of maintaining communication with an overseas twin. Twinning relationships commonly exceed 25 years in duration, over which period, conference members in each country 'come and go', exacerbating the difficulty of maintaining a non-face-to-face relationship. Where communication from a twin falls away, the program first seeks to re-establish

communications, but permits termination of the relationship if that attempt fails. The number of our overseas twins decreased slightly from 60 to 59 over 2022–23 as a result.

A wide-ranging assessment of the Twinning program in Canberra/Goulburn was undertaken from July to December 2022, involving a survey of all local conferences with twins, to seek their views on various aspects of the program. The survey provided suggestions for reform of the program, with implementation recognising National Council's overall control. Where possible, these suggestions have been implemented.

A significant development in Twinning during 2022–23 was the move towards new council-to-council twinning relationships, adding to conference-to-conference twinning. State and territory councils in Australia may twin with the National Council of a country with which their conferences are twinned. Territory Council agreed

in May 2023 to Canberra/Goulburn seeking to twin with the Indonesian National Council. This twinning relationship has been supported by our National Council and the Overseas Partnerships Advisory Committee, and requisite steps pursued to that end. We would derive significant benefits from such a twinning, given our long-standing connection with Indonesian Vincentians. At end June 2023, we were also considering the possibility of twinning with a National Council of Timor-Leste, when established, given Canberra/Goulburn's significant involvement in that country over recent years.

Canberra/Goulburn's involvement in the Vinnies Assist-A-Student program, entailing financial support for individual students' education in twinned countries for one year, has continued in 2022–23. The commitment of the Goulburn and Cootamundra conferences is to be applauded.



Advocacy and Social Justice

Kym Duggan

Chair of Social Justice Committee and Vice President of the Territory Council

The year has been challenging for many of the companions we serve. Characterised by rising cost-of-living issues, the Society in its advocacy work has been reminded daily of the exemplary life and words of our patron St Vincent de Paul, when He says:

We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.

The Society finalised and reported on the implementation of its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to key stakeholders inclusive of the Territory Council and Reconciliation Australia. In October 2022, Kwadwo Owusu joined the Society in a full-time capacity as the Social

Justice and Policy Coordinator. Since then, the Society has reconstituted its Social Justice Committee, and developed a Social Justice Advocacy Strategy (2022–24). The strategy identifies issues on housing and homelessness, Indigenous justice, refugees, and people seeking asylum, cost of living, and climate justice as the advocacy priorities of the Society.

The strategy introduced the CEO's advocacy statements, which have been used as an avenue to highlight and amplify the voices of those we serve and to offer policy recommendations on a range of topics to policy makers in our region through our social media channels. This same approach – of amplifying the voices of those we serve – has been reflected in all the policy submissions made in response to the:

- Queanbeyan-Palerang Affordable Housing Strategy
- ACT Women's Plan 2016–26
- ACT Government Budget 2023–24 Consultation
- Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism
- Legislative Assembly's Inquiry into Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT.



As a highlight to our submissions, the Territory President, John Feint, represented the Society and gave evidence at a Public Hearing, conducted by the Select Committee on Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT in April 2023.

The Society has been active in our partnerships with the sector, and this has seen our staff, members and volunteers participate in ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) advocacy events, campaigns and rallies that are relevant to our work. Key initiatives of such partnerships have seen us:

- highlight the impact of Origin's gas price increment in a media statement, read at the media event held by ACTCOSS to launch the *ACT GAS Transition Report* on 1 February 2023
- prepare and deliver a briefing paper in response to the 2023–24 ACT Government Budget Consultation, organised by ACTCOSS and the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate on 6 March 2023
- participate in the Palm Sunday rally supporting the call for permanent residency for refugees
- continue to partner with Companion House and Canberra Refugee Support to provide coordinated response to the housing needs for refugees and people seeking asylum in the ACT

- play a lead role in coordinating the community sector NAIDOC Week event, providing an opportunity for our staff and volunteers to reflect on our own reconciliatory journeys and on the need to walk in respect with the First Nations communities we serve.

In the media, the Society's advocacy work received some great attention. This included:

- a local ABC evening news report on the destitution of asylum seekers (Sunday 23 April 2023)
- a report in the *Canberra Times* highlighting the coordinated partnership with Companion House and Canberra Refugee Support (Monday 19 June 2023).

To further our commitment to reconciliation, a RAP Working Group has been formed and is taking leadership in the development of the Society's second RAP. We anticipate building on many significant steps taken towards building a working relationship and partnership with our First Nations brothers and sisters through this RAP.



Special Works

Stuart Davis-Meehan

Director, Special Works

Special Works may be established where a conference or council identifies a specific need which cannot be satisfied within the normal scope of the conference or council activity. Special Works are established by, and responsible to, the state or territory council under which they operate.
– The Rule

Our Special Works directorate is divided into two areas:

- homelessness
- community inclusion.

We have seen a significant increase in the range of programs we provide and also in the demand for our services in 2022–23. We added the following programs to our stable of Special Works programs: Good Works Garden, Justice Housing Program, Western Region Case Management Team Pilot, Night Patrol/Street to Home Pilot, Energy Assistance Community Partnership Program, and we were selected as a preferred respondent on the ACT Home Energy Efficiency Service Panel.

I would like to recognise the significant contribution made by Terri Stiller to the Street to Home Program in the role of coordinator, retiring after almost seven years in the role. I would also like to recognise the contribution made by Zoe Gilrain, our inaugural Manager Homelessness Programs.

HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS

Street to Home

Street to Home is funded by the ACT Government. It supports people who are 'sleeping rough' and/or experiencing long-term chronic homelessness through case management and assertive outreach. The program has provided case management to 75 rough sleepers and outreach to 144 more.

Street to Home has continued to provide 'in reach' support to the Early Morning Centre and Red Cross Roadhouse once a week. This has allowed companions without means of being contacted to meet with case managers and address case plans, establish contact and stay connected with the service. Street to Home has also begun in reach support to Housing/Onelink once a week and the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy once a fortnight.

Family Services and Young Parents Programs

Our Family Services Program is funded by the ACT Government. It provides outreach and case management support services to families and young parents in the ACT who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness to enable them to access and maintain safe, secure, independent and affordable housing. The Family Services Program supported 69 families – encompassing 115 children aged under 18, and 16 children aged between 18 and 25. The Young Parents Accommodation Program supported 14 families, with 18 children under the age of 18 years.

With higher inflation, families are making more 'curveball' material aid requests, such as financial aid for car maintenance, replacing carpet or supporting Onelink with co-payment plans for families staying in hotel accommodation. We continue to struggle to furnish transitional properties when families have nothing.

The program established a Families Outreach Program at ACT Housing in conjunction with Onelink and organised for a community services officer from Services Australia to attend Rheinberger offices fortnightly.

Samaritan House

Samaritan House is funded by the ACT Government. It is a 13-bed, crisis residential

service located in Canberra, providing crisis accommodation and casework support for men experiencing primary homelessness. Through referral, advocacy and a person-centred approach, Samaritan House aims to break the cycle of chronic and acute homelessness with a focus on the development of living skills, social engagement and the ability to maintain a tenancy.

The service supported 63 men throughout the year, with an average stay of 52.7 days. Forty-two of them transitioned into more permanent accommodation.

Samaritan House has also seen a significant reduction in repeat presentations, indicating that companions leaving the program are maintaining their tenancies with only 1% of companions being re-referred.

Blue Door

Blue Door is funded by the ACT Government. It is a drop-in centre located in Ainslie Village in Canberra. It provides support to those living in the village and beyond in the form of meals, emergency relief, material aid, information, referral and support. The service had about 1,800 drop-ins per month and provided some 30,000 meals throughout the year.

Justice Housing

The Justice Housing Program is funded by the ACT Government. It aims to support efforts to reduce reoffending and overcrowding at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), the ACT's correctional centre. Vinnies was successful in securing this new program, which commenced on 1 January 2023.

The program provides case management support services to up to 30 clients across 10 three-bedroom units located across Canberra. Throughout the year, we have supported 52 people, either exiting AMC or on bail or parole. Clients are supported to reintegrate into the community and reduce reoffending behaviour.

Western Region Case Management Team Pilot

The Western Region Case Management Team Pilot commenced in March 2023. Based in Young, the team covers our Western Region of NSW (Boorowa, Cootamundra, Harden, Lake

Cargelligo, Temora, Tumut, West Wyalong, Yass and Young). The program was developed to support conferences in the Western Region to assist companions with complex needs requiring additional support.

In the first five months, the program received 38 referrals and provided navigation for companions to access necessary services and support through intensive case management. The most common reasons for referrals have been tenancy issues and the impacts of cost-of-living increases.

Eighty-five per cent of referred companions receive government benefits and the remainder are low-income earners. Most referrals are single mothers and single men. We assisted 34 companions with rent and emergency accommodation through our conferences, to a total amount of \$10,534.

Street to Home/Night Patrol Pilot

Between October 2022 and April 2023, we ran a pilot program to provide case management support to the Night Patrol and Street to Home programs. Due to staffing issues, the pilot ran for only six months of the intended 12 months. A major learning from the pilot is the difficulty in finding rough sleepers in the early evenings and on Saturdays.

The pilot provided additional capacity to the Street to Home Program and identified the value in having access to a generalist team with the ability to respond flexibly to the needs of companions, regardless of where the referral came from. It informed the establishment of the Western Region Case Management Team in March, and the ACT Case Management Team (which will commence in 2023–24).

Amelie Housing

We leased 95 properties from the ACT Government for transitional accommodation. We then sub-contracted Amelie Housing to provide the necessary tenancy management for those properties. Our Family Services and Street to Home programs provided case management support to the tenants of 21 properties and six properties, respectively.



COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAMS

Night Patrol

Night Patrol operates two vans that stop at three locations in Canberra every night, as well as one location in Queanbeyan. With the help of over 330 volunteers, the program provides food, bedding, toiletries and warm clothing to anyone who attends the vans. Most importantly, Night Patrol aims to provide a social setting where our companions feel comfortable, heard and connected. In 2022–23, Night Patrol saw between 40 and 50 people each night, on average. Our volunteers recorded 11,978 food serves throughout the year, which is an increase of 50% on last year. Night Patrol provided 8,114 material items, which is an increase of 55% on last year. This outcome would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers, generous donations, wider community involvement in item drives, and ongoing partnerships.

Home Energy Efficiency Program

Our Home Energy Efficiency Program (HEEP) is funded by the ACT Government. HEEP supports vulnerable households in the ACT with practical ways to reduce their energy bills. This is done by educating people about energy usage and assisting them to reduce usage by providing draught-proofing and hanging thermally efficient curtains in their homes.

This year the program assisted 675 households with energy efficiency support. This included providing 262 homes with thermally efficient curtains and 618 families with draught-proofing. Ten quilts and 617 heated throw rugs were also provided. We completed Scorecard Assessments for 24 houses.

During the year, we successfully obtained an additional contract. The energy contract involves being on a panel to deliver National Scorecard Assessments and curtain contracts. Under this panel contract, we have assisted 48 rental (Housing ACT) households with curtains and completed 17 Scorecard Assessments for families with chronic health conditions.

Our Energy Assistance Community Partnership Program, also funded by the ACT Government

and provided in partnership with Care Financial, organised 47 presentations and workshops to reach out to community organisations and vulnerable people to provide energy literacy.

Clemente

Clemente offers free-of-charge adult education, in partnership with the Australian Catholic University, for people experiencing disadvantage and social isolation. The program provides resources and opportunities to support vulnerable people to make positive changes in their lives through supported access to higher education, helping them re-engage with their community. Clemente aims to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social injustice for people experiencing complex life challenges through access to university education. Throughout the financial year, 30 students were supported by the Clemente program and four of these students graduated with a Certificate in Liberal Arts.

Compeer

Compeer is a program funded by the ACT Health Directorate. It supports connections between adults living with a mental illness and an adult volunteer. At the core of the program is the one-on-one connection where the two people regularly catch up for social activities. In addition to one-on-one connection, the program offers group events or community outings for companions. The program aims to improve companions' connectedness to the community, reduce their social isolation and feelings of loneliness. Over 2022–23, the program supported about 30 friendships.

Community Inclusion Program

The Community Inclusion Program (CIP), located in Oaks Estate, Canberra is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services through an Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Grant. It exists to build innovative ways to increase the independence, social and community participation of people with a psychosocial disability who are ineligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The program provides advocacy, support, information, referral case management, peer



L-R: Colette, Zoe, Leonie, Samantha, Felicity, Peter, Linda, Stuart, Amon and Udaya.

support networks and the development of activities in response to identified needs.

The program supported 341 companions throughout the year, a 24% increase on 2021–22.

In December 2022, CIP was a finalist for the ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards for Excellence in Inclusive Services and Disability Support.

Good Works Garden

The Good Works Garden project, which we run in partnership with Argyle Housing and Dirty Janes, located in the Long Paddock adjacent to Dirty Janes in Fyshwick, was officially opened on 20 October 2022. The garden aims to provide a pleasing visual aesthetic, a place for people to gather, to grow fresh produce for our Blue Door program, and an opportunity for a small number of volunteers and companions to tend it. The Queen's Jubilee Living Tree Pergola creates shade and adds to the greening of Fyshwick. Lead volunteer gardeners have been John and Marianne O'Connor.

Thread Together

Thread Together collects new unsold clothing from clothing retailers all around the country, saving it from landfill. As their charity partner, we then distribute these items to those who are doing it tough in our local community, by creating

an intentionally friendly and engaging shopping experience.

We have two centres in our region, in Phillip and Eden, both run by volunteers. In 2022–23 through Thread Together, Vinnies assisted over 500 companions and distributed over 7,500 items of brand-new clothing to some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Team members have also been actively involved in the Who's New on the Streets network, Oaks Estate Working Group, Joint Pathways and ACTCOSS members forums, ACT Government Commissioning, Queanbeyan Homelessness Collaboration and the Peer Network Program.

In addition to the strong commitment of our staff, all our Special Works rely on either government funding, volunteers or the financial or material support of local sponsors and individual supporters. We would like to thank them all for their continuing support.



Youth and Young Adults Programs

Travis Ngatuere

Manager, Youth and Young Adults

The Rose that Grew from the Concrete.

A poem of hope written by a young Tupac Shakur explores the determination of a rose in its quest to blossom despite its environment holding it back. I view this poem as a perfect description of the work our Youth and Young Adults Team do every day. Empowering young people to realise their potential and continue to grow regardless of the disadvantages that limit them.

This has been a year of change, progression and development for our Youth and Young Adults programs. In 2022–23, we experienced a change in leadership, farewelled three valued team members, while continuing to develop, innovate and promote program services. Successful recruitment in April enabled continuity of service without lasting impact on program development.

A primary focus for this year is building, consolidating and strengthening our relationships with schools and conferences. We connect

students to community through education, social justice and action. Programs are designed to be additional teaching resources that empower students and inspire them to create positive change in themselves and their wider community.

We have been actively engaged in over 40 ACT public and Catholic schools through our schools engagement and Migrant and Refugee Program.

Our schools engagement included Mini Vinnies, fundraisers, annual winter and Xmas appeals, and tailored Social Justice and Wellbeing workshops across schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn.

Our growing presence in regional NSW has facilitated greater access to the South Coast and Western region. This has greatly improved our impact in local schools and strengthened our connections with community, staff and students.

During this period, we undertook 19 regional visits:

- Wiradjuri – Adelong, Tumut, Boorowa, West Wyalong, Lake Cargelligo, Young and Yass
- Walgalu – Tumut
- Ngarigo – Bombala, Cooma
- Yuin – Pambula
- Gundungurra – Murrumburrah.

Our migrant and refugee education and engagement programs have continued to develop with diverse opportunities available for students both in schools and on weekends. Eighteen volunteers visit six ACT schools on a weekly basis, offering culturally safe tutoring for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) students. Unique short-term workshops, such as January and April's three-day trauma-informed art therapy programs and our 10-week hip-hop dance program, promote social inclusion and positive community engagement with migrant and refugee communities.

Our overnight camps and monthly respite activities continue to thrive with numbers being consistent. During 2022–23, St Nicholas Young Carers Group has seen 22 new referrals and St Joes took on 79 newcomers.

Meaningful and ongoing engagement between our Youth Team and our service users has enabled us to develop our programs to accurately reflect the strengths, passions and desires of the young people we support. This has been effective in convincing new families to join our program as it outlines our commitment to design services with their child in mind. A focus on upskilling and capacity building within activities and camps has been well-received based on post-event feedback and anecdotal responses provided by families.

Reporting data showed an increasing number of incidences being reported on camps in late-afternoon and evening time slots, in particular for our youngest cohorts (ages 6–9). As a result, our Youth Liaison Officer elected to trial a four-day holiday program in lieu of the typical July holiday

overnight camp. This yielded overwhelmingly positive results, with anecdotal feedback from staff and volunteers reporting improved wellbeing and stronger relationships between service users in group activities.

During this time, we have organised a total of 30 weekend activities, eight overnight camps and one four-day holiday program.

Our tertiary engagement focuses on building relationships, recruiting volunteers and strengthening our connections with students across ACT's four major tertiary institutions:

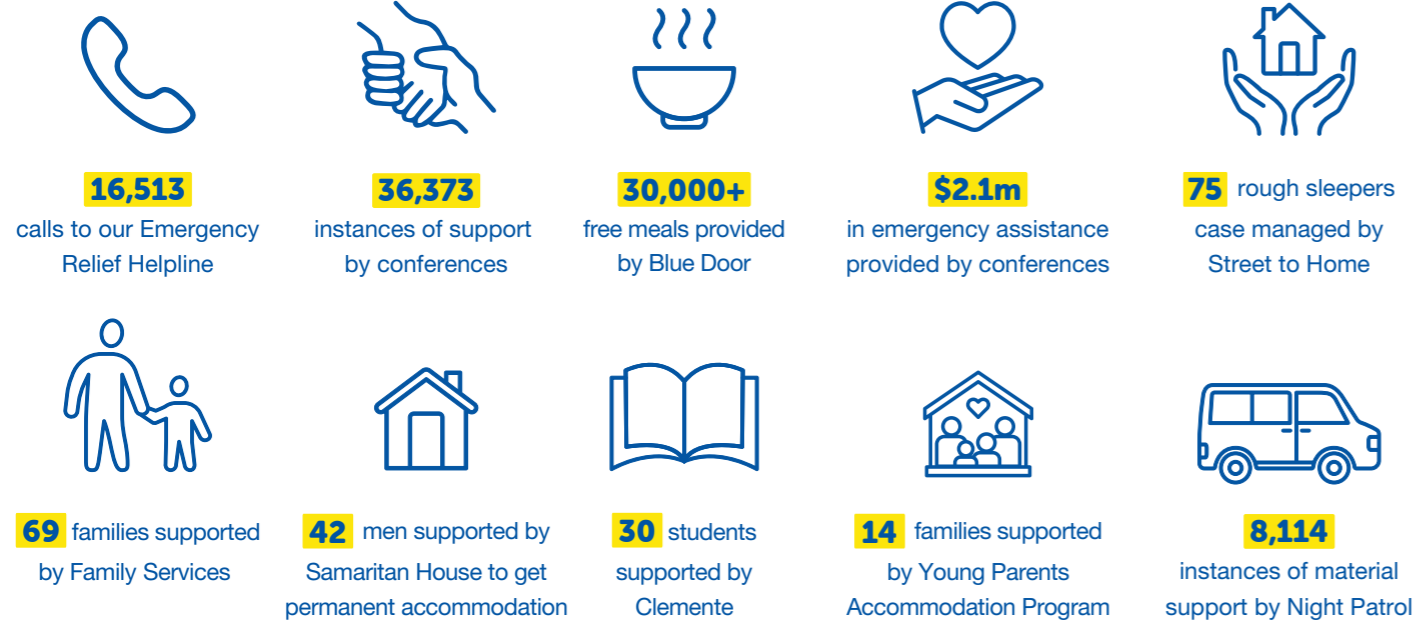
- Australian National University (ANU)
- Australian Catholic University (ACU)
- University of Canberra (UC)
- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT).

Engaging students in social issues important to them and providing pathways of support that turns their passion into action is at the core of our engagement. Surveys show that homelessness, sustainability, housing crisis and climate change trend as the most important issues to those studying in the ACT. Our annual ANU Sleepout raised over \$20,000 in 2022, supporting programs targeted at reducing impacts of youth homelessness, with students braving the cold in solidarity with rough sleepers in our community.

The Youth and Young Adults Team continues to walk alongside young people, providing a strong network of support while striving to improve outcomes through empowerment, compassion and collaboration.



A Snapshot of Our Impact



Programs and Services Highlights

- Migrant and Refugee Program ran **424 sessions across six schools**, which supported 50 students with tutoring on a weekly basis.
- Vinnies on Campus (university engagement) had **16 volunteers** engage in crisis support home visits every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, supporting over 100 members of their local community.
- Youth and Young Adults Programs ran **7 overnight camps**, hosted **24 weekend activities** and ran **one July Holiday Program**.
- Throughout the year **30 students** were supported by the Clemente Program and four of these students graduated with a Certificate in Liberal Arts.
- Compeer supported **30 connections or friendships**.
- Blue Door had about **1,800 drop-ins per month** and provided some 30,000 meals throughout the year.
- The Community Inclusion Program supported **341 companions** throughout the year.
- Thread Together assisted over **500 companions** and distributed over 7,500 items of brand-new clothing to some of the most vulnerable members of our society.
- **3,000 tonnes** of donations were sorted and diverted from landfill, supported by over **230,000 hours** of volunteer time.
- Night Patrol volunteers gave over **5,000 hours of service**, which included seeing almost 12,000 companions and distributing over 8,000 material items (jackets, sleeping bags, hygiene packs, etc.).



Project Management

Elizabeth Heath

Manager, Projects and Business Development

MITCHELL WAREHOUSE

Stage 1 – Internal Fit Out

Our head contractor took possession of the warehouse in August 2022 to complete the internal refurbishment. Works performed included demolishing the existing interior of the warehouse and building out the new space while the Vinnies team was relocated to Hoskins and Lysaght Streets.

The entire interior of the warehouse was demolished, and the existing slab was cut away in the bathroom areas (including the new accessible bathroom) to allow for the creation and plumbing of the new wet areas and construction of interior walls.

The electrical systems within the warehouse were completely upgraded from the point at which they accessed the building, bringing the electrical systems in line with the relevant codes and providing additional redundancy for future requirements. This upgrade provided power for a new air conditioning system for the office and sorting areas, and for a significant lighting upgrade.

The sorting area was consolidated and extended into a single space of approximately 400 sqm, which has direct access to the new donations drop-off, and to the warehouse proper, through automatic double doors. The doors through the donation drop-off were upgraded to allow forklift egress, which is required during Stage 2, when we will not have access to the rear of the warehouse and all materials for sorting will be brought in through the front car park.

The new staff break area is larger to accommodate increased staff numbers, and includes a new kitchenette, which is wheelchair accessible. It now includes an external access door which, upon completion of the construction phase, will lead to a new external seating area for staff.

New offices include a waiting area for visitors, and an extended administration area with a hot desk for use by warehouse staff. An additional multi-purpose room has been added which can be used as office space, meeting space, a first aid room and/or prayer room as required.

The fire safety system has been upgraded to improve the physical safety of the warehouse, and new fire and safety signage and equipment has been installed within the new environment.

The existing roof of the warehouse included Laserlite (clear) panels to allow natural light to enter the building. Over time, these had deteriorated and become unsafe. While the internal renovation was taking place, we replaced all these panels and installed a roof safety system including access point to the existing building.

Works were largely completed in 2022, with certification and final reviews occurring in January 2023. Workers returned to their new premises in February 2023.

In addition to the refurbishment and extension of the warehouse, the project will replace much of the old warehouse equipment with new, safer and more ergonomic items, designed to reduce risk to workers. In early 2022–23, we received our 300 new stillages, which have added to the safety and efficiency of our operations. The stillages store flat when not in use, creating a great space saving. The caged sides improve safety and can be lowered during use for easy access to goods.

Stage 2 – Construction

Site preparation for the construction phase was completed in March 2023, with the large shed at Mitchell emptied and ready for demolition. However, delays in the approval of our DA delayed the commencement of this stage until the 2023–24 financial year.

GOOD WORKS GARDEN

In July 2022, our partner in the Good Works Garden project, Nikias Diamond, created the hard-standing access ramp and fencing for our Good Works Garden at Dirty Janes, Fyshwick. Following completion of this work, a dedicated

team of staff, volunteers and conference members, under the sure direction of John O'Connor, worked to set up the wicking beds, paint the sheds, and plant the initial plants to get the garden ready for handover to our Special Works team.

A massive thanks to all who gave up their weekends to complete this very special project.

SOLAR

In 2022–23, we were finally able to declare the first stage of our solar project closed, with the connection of the systems at Belconnen and Tuggeranong centres. Our solar profile now looks like this:

Site Location	System Size	Annual Solar Output kWh	Annual Self Consumption Rate	Annual Self Consumption kWh	Annual Exportable kWh
Belconnen	10kW	14,589	72%	10,504	4,085
Narrabundah	6.6kW	9,629	58%	5,585	4,044
Tuggeranong	20kW	29,179	74%	21,592	7,587
Yarralumla	30kW	50,000	74%	37,000	13,000
Batemans Bay	10kW	13,513	86%	11,621	1,892
Bega	15kW	20,272	69%	3,988	6,284
Cooma	10kW	14,685	71%	10,426	4,259
Crookwell	10kW	14,546	31%	4,509	10,037
Harden	6.6kW	10,454	36%	3,763	6,691
Merimbula	20kW	27,029	62%	16,758	10,271
Moruya	10kW	13,514	81%	10,946	2,568
Yass	6.6kW	9,601	73%	7,009	2,592
Cootamundra	10kW	15,839	62%	9,820	6,019
Lake Cargellico	6.6kW	10,111	27%	2,730	7,381
Temora	10kW	15,099	55%	8,304	6,795
West Wyalong	6.6kW	9,965	58%	5,780	4,185
TOTAL	188kW	278,025		180,337	97,688



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Tenders

During 2022–23, the business development team submitted three successful tender responses to the ACT Government.

National Residential Efficiency Scorecard (NRES) Assessments

This tender led to our completing 50 NRES assessments on behalf of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The assessments were completed by qualified assessors from our Home Energy Efficiency Team and were undertaken for householders with chronic health conditions. The outcomes of these assessments are used to determine individually appropriate upgrades to electric appliances and ceiling insulation for these residences.

Window Insulation

This tender led to the supply and delivery of window insulation to 100 selected low-income rental households and was funded by the Renters' Home Energy Program. Again, this work was completed for EPSDD by our Home Energy Efficiency Team, further adding to the breadth of services they undertake, and following on from our successful renewal of the Home Energy Efficiency for Low Income Households program in 2021–22.

Justice Housing Program

The Justice Housing Program (JHP) provides accommodation and support services for persons exiting custody, to assist with their reintegration into the community and contribute towards the ACT Government's commitment to reduce recidivism by 25% by 2025, under the *Justice Reinvestment Strategy: Building Communities Not Prisons*. This tender saw us assume responsibility for delivery of JHP support services for the first time and is our first contract with ACT Corrective Services. A new team has been created within Special Works to deliver this important program.

Collectively, these new programs have added about \$1 million to the Society's gross annual income.

MAJOR GRANTS

Women's Return to Work Programs

During 2022–23, we submitted two successful major grant applications, in partnership with Empowered Learning, to deliver women's return to work programs in regional NSW.

These programs are in four locations:

- Batemans Bay and Merimbula on the Far South Coast in the second half of 2023
- Young and Goulburn in the first six months of 2024.

Under these joint ventures, program delivery is undertaken by Empowered Learning and includes a set of three group workshops followed by a series of one-on-one mentoring sessions for each participant. Local conferences and our regional support officers are involved in recruiting program participants and local workshop organisation, while our Thread Together partnership provides a set of interview clothes for each participant. Our corporate services areas provide financial, marketing and project management support for the program.

Commercial Operations

Lindsay Rae

Director, Commercial Operations

This was the first full year that centres have operated without the interruption of COVID-19 shutdowns. While the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided, there were still the consequences of the virus impacting the operation. It was good to take stock of the situation and see how our numbers compared to prior to the pandemic. Volunteer numbers improved as the year progressed but remained below pre-COVID-19 levels. When compared to pre-COVID-19 times, employee numbers have increased by 50%, donations have increased by 10% and sales were up by 70%. Comparing to corresponding previous years, all monthly sales have increased.

With the decrease in volunteers, increase in donations and the increased demand, it was necessary to increase the number of employees to do the work. This coincided with a national shortage of workers which made recruitment very difficult. For most of the year, the centres were well understaffed which made conditions difficult for those who were there.

The new Tumut Centre was fitted out during the year and opened in April 2023. This beautiful, spacious, state-of-the-art facility was greeted with great enthusiasm by volunteers and customers alike. Customers and companions feel proud when shopping at Vinnies.

The major expansion of the Mitchell Warehouse facility began in August 2022. The first stage was completed in February 2023. This meant that the majority of the sorting was moved from the new Mitchell Centre into the newly expanded sorting facility by March. The second and final stage will begin in August 2023 and is expected to be completed by April 2024.



Volunteer Reflection

Jaime Lee Kelleher

Volunteer Services Manager

Over the COVID period, the Society saw a reduction in volunteering numbers of nearly 43% (2,164 in June 2020 to 1,236 in June 2022). As of 30 June 2023, the Society had 1,544 active volunteers, which is a 25% increase from the previous financial year. These numbers are consistent with volunteering trends seen nationally during the COVID period.

To reverse this trend, the Society has **invested additional resources** into the Volunteer Services Team and committed to a Volunteer Strategy as part of the overall People Strategy. In September 2022, Archana Guduru joined the Society as the Volunteer Services Officer, and in January 2023, Brittany Campbell joined our team as the Volunteer Services Business Partner. Jaime Lee Kelleher moved into the role of Volunteer Services Manager from another position within the Society.

Between January and June 2023, our Volunteer Services Team has focused on community engagement, attending more than 10 expos and events, and presenting to members of the community on volunteering at Vinnies. In addition, the team has supported four corporate groups to volunteer with the Society across a range of our functions.

The Volunteer Services Team has also been focused on establishing and building relationships with the peak bodies for volunteering in the ACT, NSW and nationally. Jaime Lee and Brittany currently sit on advisory groups with **Volunteering ACT**, while Archana represents the Society at the **Centre for Volunteering, Remote and Regional Committee**.

Earlier in the year, we sent four of our people to attend the **National Volunteering Conference** in Canberra to gain national insights into the volunteering sector, learn from other organisations about new and innovative

approaches, and network with other people within the volunteering ecosystem. The conference was also the launch of the National Strategy for Volunteering, which has paved the way for state-based volunteering strategies which are currently in the works.

This year, the Volunteer Services Team formed the Volunteer Manager Network of all Special Works and Youth and Young Adult programs to have regular ongoing conversations about matters that directly impact and matter to our volunteer managers, while gaining insights from the people on the ground. Next financial year, we hope to replicate this model into our Commercial Operations Team to create a network for centre managers to come together. The Volunteer Services Team has also started to build a national network of volunteer managers across the Society nationally and will hold the first meeting in the new financial year with plans to make this an ongoing regular meeting.

VOLUNTEER STRATEGY

There is a strong demand to increase volunteer numbers in retail shops and Special Works, and the Volunteer Strategy has the primary target of **building the volunteer workforce to 2,500** as soon as possible. To do this, the Volunteer Services Team is focused on:

- increasing promotion of volunteering opportunities and improving pathways to volunteering
- improving the skills of the volunteer manager cohort to enhance the volunteer experience
- improving 'volunteer services' within the Society to create efficient, centralised volunteer management practices (attraction and retention) as well as improving data collection and use for better volunteer management insights
- ensuring best practice is maintained through active engagement with volunteer peak bodies and sharing volunteer strategies with other St Vincent de Paul entities.

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY AWARDS

A number of our people have been recognised over the past year for their contributions to community, including:

Vinnies Emergency Relief Helpline – Highly Commended – Senior Volunteer of the Year Award (Volunteering ACT)

Our Emergency Relief Helpline Team supports vulnerable members of the community who are seeking Emergency Relief assistance. The help provided can include assistance with food, rent, utility bills, clothing, education support, or connection to services. The six helpline volunteers have over 45 years of combined experience and take calls from people in need five days a week.



L-R: Lian, Maureen (volunteer), Kate, Paula (volunteer) and Cathy (volunteer).

Sue Hill – Recognition Award – Volunteer Manager of the Year Award (Volunteering ACT)

As our Weston Creek Centre Manager, Sue was nominated for this award but narrowly missed out, receiving a Recognition Award instead. Earlier in the year, Sue received an award from the Rotary Club of Canberra Weston for her service to the community.



L-R: Sue being presented her recognition award from Susan Heylar, CEO, Volunteering ACT.

John Feint – Winner in the Community All-Star category (ABC Canberra Community Awards)

John has been a volunteer with the Society since 2007 and is the current Territory Council President. Over the years, John has held many roles, including member, Conference President, Tuggeranong and Monaro Regional Council President, and in 2019, he became the Territory Council President. John has led us through some of the most challenging times, including bush fires, drought and more recently a pandemic. This award recognises his outstanding leadership, vision and passion for supporting the community.



John Feint (Photo credit: ABC News, Geo Donaldson).

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Centres	984
Thread Together	9
Night Patrol	248
Helpline	7
Rheinberger Office	4
Blue Door	12
Community Inclusion Program	1
Clemente	1
Compeer	30
Home Energy Efficiency Program	2
Street to Home	1
Migrant and Refugee Program	23
Youth and Young Adults	218
Samaritan House	4
TOTAL	1,363*

*To represent the complete contribution of our volunteers, they have been counted at a program level. The total number of volunteers has had all duplicates removed to represent the number of volunteers we have involved rather than the number of volunteering opportunities filled by volunteers. These numbers were correct as of 30 June 2023.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week (NVW) 2023 was held from Monday 15 May to Sunday 21 May 2023. NVW is the major annual event for recognising the contribution made by our volunteer workforce to the Society. During National Volunteer Week, we distributed over 1,400 Vinnies Thank You Cookies, gave out over 250 Volunteer Service Badges, which celebrated collectively 1,414 years of service from our volunteers in our Vinnies shops. During NVW, our youth team was also invited to present at the Volunteering Symposium as subject matter experts on youth volunteering.

Feedback was sought from volunteer managers and centre managers across the Society to ask how successful they felt NVW 2023 was and provide an opportunity for feedback on what worked, what didn't and suggest ideas for future events:

- 100% of respondents said their expectations of NVW celebrations were either met or exceeded.
- 71% of respondents rated their satisfaction with the Vinnies NVW celebrations between 4 and 5 (with 5 representing extremely satisfied).
- Aspects respondents liked about the NVW celebrations, included local celebrations, our Thank You video, communications over the week, and our Thank You card.

The Volunteer Services Team will use the feedback for improvements and additional activities for the event next year.

CORPORATE AND GROUP VOLUNTEERING

- Sukyo Mahikari
- Hardwickes Accounting
- Capital Markets
- Wisdom Learning

EVENTS AND TALKS

- Narrabundah College Volunteer Expo
- National Multicultural Festival
- ANU Careers Fair
- COTA Seniors Expo
- ANU Community Day
- LDK and Vinnies Presentation
- Campbell High School Expo
- Marist College Service Expo
- Gum Tree Cottage and Vinnies Presentation
- Volunteering ACT Expo
- Symposium Guest Speakers



People and Culture

Michael Rennick

Director, People and Culture

OUR PEOPLE

Over the past year, the major priority of the People and Culture Team has been to continue implementation of the Workforce Strategy. Key workforce priorities of the strategy are:

1. Know our workforce
2. One Vinnies team
3. Build a sustainable and resilient workforce
4. Attract and select quality, best fit talent
5. Enable career and growth opportunities.

Workforce Snapshot

	June 2020	June 2022	June 2023 Current	Change % June 2020 to Current
Total Workforce	2,966 (100%)	1,994 (100%)	2,121 (100%)	-29%
Members	638 (22%)	543 (27%)	526 (25%)	-15%
Volunteers	2,164 (73%)	1,236 (62%)	1,363 (64%)	-37%
Employees	164 (6%)	215 (11%)	232 (11%)	+41%

At 30 June 2023, we had:

- 526 members
- 1,363 volunteers
- 232 employees.

Aligned with pillars 3, 4 and 5 of the People Strategy, the Society commenced bargaining on a new Enterprise Agreement (EA) in 2022, to help:

- build a sustainable and resilient workforce
- attract and select quality, best fit talent
- enable career and growth opportunities.

The Society's new EA was approved by the Fair Work Commission and came into effect on 6 June 2023. The new EA provides employees with a number of upgraded benefits and conditions, such as superannuation 3% higher than standard rates, additional paid leave, including for NAIDOC Week and natural disasters, a wellbeing day program, and paid parental leave. The Society is proud to provide these conditions and benefits to recognise and reward the hard work of valued employees.

Aligned with pillar 5 of the People Strategy, *Enable career and growth opportunities*, the Society initiated a pilot People Manager Program in 2022 to build manager competency and confidence, and to boost innovation and productivity.

The program has now been delivered to two cohorts of our people managers through fortnightly workshops. Workshop topics covered:

- The Vinnies Manager
- Effective communication
- Create a positive work environment
- Managing performance
- Maintaining a safe and healthy work environment.

A post-program survey provided the following feedback:

- 61% of program attendees rated the workshops overall as either 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'
- 93% of program attendees either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, 'I can apply what I have learned in the workshops in my role at Vinnies'.

Vinnies will continue with the development and delivery of this program to new cohorts of our people managers in the future.

Aligned with pillar 1 of the People Strategy, *Know our workforce*, the People and Culture Team commenced a series of pulse surveys over the last year, including a Diversity and Inclusion Pulse

Survey in March. This pulse survey is the first time the Society has been able to gain a clear picture of the diversity in our workforce and get insight into the attitudes of our personnel to inclusion.

Respondents told us that they were born in 23 different countries, and that they speak 12 different languages at home. About 66% of respondents identified as being of faith, and they listed 18 different faiths. Nearly 88% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that everyone is treated the same regardless of their religious beliefs, gender or sexuality, racial, ethnic or cultural background, age, or ability or disability. While this is a great response overall, we'd love to see that positive response increased even further in future years, so we can be confident that everyone feels equally valued and respected in our Vinnies team.

Communication is a key component of pillar 2 of the People Strategy, *One Vinnies team*, and a number of initiatives have been undertaken during 2022–23 to support this:

- A Town Hall was held on Tuesday 6 June with Senator David Pocock delivering the keynote speech to 101 members, volunteers and employees attending in person and another 70 joining online. The Town Hall provided an opportunity to meet and connect with people from different areas and learn about

the latest achievements and projects for the coming year. In 2023–24, we're hoping to add smaller regional Town Hall events to our calendar too.

- We launched a new communications initiative with members of the Executive Leadership Team recording monthly video updates. The short videos provided a different forum for senior leaders to explain major developments to the workforce and build their recognition.
- The People and Culture Team has been on the road and had the pleasure of meeting members, volunteers and employees at 26 of our 35 worksites across the region. We're sorry that we didn't get to visit all sites, and we hope to see you on our travels in the next 12 months!

Over the past 12 months, we've been working with our personnel to make sure everyone has a safe and healthy workplace, and we've reduced the number of reported incidents by 48% compared to the previous year.

Social Club

Thanks to our Rheinberger Social Club for hosting events across the year to bring our people together. From regular Tuesday Walking Club to potluck lunches celebrating feast days and Harmony Day, to the Christmas party at the RUC.





Fundraising, Marketing and Communications

Phillip Jones

Director, Fundraising, Marketing and Communications

The period covered in this report was a tremendously busy time for the team.

Continuing the work to build a full spectrum of high-quality fundraising and communications activities and resources, we not only met or exceeded our targets, we expanded our audience reach considerably to inform them about our wide range of services and impact across our region.

Of particular focus was **sharing news** about our regional operations with those in Canberra. This involved a proactive media strategy with local outlets and targeted social media. Our proactive media strategy included numerous features and articles about the Society each month across the full spectrum of media, including national

channels. We have established good, positive working relationships with journalists and are frequently asked to comment on social justice, advocacy and other issues.

As part of a national initiative that has taken several years, we debuted a **new website** that for the first time has dedicated pages and content for ACT and surrounds, enabling us to better engage companions and supporters. This was a substantial project and it will evolve over time to meet the information needs of our audiences as new programs and services arise.

We also produced a full suite of **short videos** about our programs and services. These are published on the respective pages on the website and a new YouTube channel.

As part of a systematic content strategy, we published stories and information each day across our social media channels on LinkedIn, Twitter (X) and Facebook. We have **grown our audiences** substantially with excellent levels of engagement compared to our competitors and best practice benchmarks, with quarterly social media and media performance reports produced for the Executive. In June 2023, we debuted a new channel on Instagram dedicated to

promoting our shop network. Within weeks it had nearly 1,000 followers and will be used to market promotions, news and volunteer opportunities.

As part of a strategy to develop more sustainable 'always on' sources of revenue, we launched a **Workplace Giving Program** in March 2023. The Minister for Charities, the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh, officially introduced the program at the Canberra Southern Cross Club. Organisations like ActewAGL and the National Museum of Australia have already signed up, with several more large entities in the pipeline. The engagement with the various participants also opens doors for other activities such as volunteering and fundraising events.

Another fundraising channel introduced was the **Caring for Canberra Program**, based on the container deposit scheme run by the ACT Government. We engaged schools, community groups, small and large businesses, like the National Convention Centre, and had a positive media launch event in March.

Also in March, we debuted a revamped **Bequest / Gift in Wills pathway** both internally and for the wider community, partnering with a best practice

online will provider, SafeWill. This resulted in several confirmed new bequests and will be part of our ongoing community engagement. As part of this initiative, work was done with our finance team to firm up the arrangements regarding bequests. A new bequest sub-committee was established to consider business cases across the Society to determine the most strategic and impactful use of untied bequest funds.

In addition, lots of work was done to maintain and foster **sponsorships** for the Society's programs and services, including in-kind, financial and goods, resulting in a significant increase in the number of organisations donating to us in various ways. This also included several major fundraising events and of note was the inaugural **Sleeping Rough Golf Invitational** hosted by Federal Golf Club in April, which raised over \$60,000 for our homelessness services. It attracted wide publicity and was a great success, and is planned to be an annual event.

Another fundraising initiative was the 'Hearts of Vinnies' campaign, which involved a partnership with St John Ambulance ACT to purchase **defibrillators** for each of our shops, Night Patrol and elsewhere using a local crowdfunding model.



With a special rate from St Johns, including free training, nearly every location now has a lifesaving unit installed, with just a few to get theirs before the end of 2023.

Noting that conferences and service teams were often seeking and purchasing similar goods for companions, such as food or clothing, the team developed the Essentials Pack concept, which simplified lists of commonly needed items, such as food or hygiene. The response from the corporate sector, with minimal promotion, was immediate, and we received over \$10,000 in funds to purchase items. Thousands of items of food and clothing then became a shared resource that teams and conferences can draw on. This will be an ongoing program that will save time and offset costs that would otherwise be incurred by the Society.

We fostered **corporate partnerships** that resulted in significant gifts for volunteering events, and goods such as furniture and whitegoods, as well as negotiated special rates for the Society. We also proactively managed sponsorships such as with the Canberra Centre and restaurant chain Grill'd, which introduced **monthly free dining nights** for our companions, which now sees over 100 companions enjoy a meal with dignity

in a friendly and welcoming environment with the support of our specialist teams.

The team also designed a streamlined grant application process to support the Society gain additional funds for specific new initiatives. We were successful in receiving several new grants, including from the Australian Government.

Beyond fundraising and communications, the team managed numerous events such as the celebrations to mark Night Patrol's 21st anniversary, and the opening of the Good Works Garden (whose name and branding was developed by the team), a joint community inclusion project with Dirty Janes and Argyle Housing. We also managed the opening of the new Tumut shop in June, with significant community involvement to mark the occasion.

As part of the evolution of our **branding**, all the publications were refreshed and new resources produced, such as a corporate support guide, and new banners and signage to reflect elements of our RAP artwork. We developed vibrant livery for one of our cars, the warehouse truck and the community inclusion bus to help keep Vinnies visible in the community. Each vehicle is now named after one of our values.

In September 2022 we introduced 'My Vinnies: what's your story?' as part of a social media and in-shop engagement activity to invite the community to share some good news about something that Vinnies may have done for them or someone they knew. We received dozens of heartwarming statements that we could use through social media or elsewhere to remind the community of the power of our good works.

Social Justice and Advocacy is part of the Fundraising, Marketing and Communications team and this ensures that this key focus is embedded in our external facing communications and engagement. The Director is responsible for the RAP as its internal champion, and this was debuted in late-2022. The production of submissions, advocacy statements and engagement in various forums was also an important part of the work that the team supported.

Then there is the business-as-usual work, such as enhancing our donor care program and database management, the development of hundreds of designs for the Society such as posters and advertising copy, issues management, ensuring the brand is respected, and supporting the CEO in her public statements. We work across the Society to ensure the community understands and values who we are, what we do, and the impact of all our work.

Finally, the team exceeded fundraising targets even in a challenging year for the Winter Appeal, Christmas Appeal and the Vinnies CEO Sleepout. The Vinnies CEO Sleepout is a particularly large and challenging project that takes almost a year to develop and deliver.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

Total Reach: 713,312
 Total Likes: 6,991
 Total Followers: 7,329

LinkedIn

Page Views: 3,186
 Unique Visitors: 1,217
 Total Followers: 780
 Total Reactions: 3,910

Twitter

Total Impressions: 21.3k

TOTAL MEDIA STORIES

from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

102

DESIGNS CREATED

from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

400+

NEW VINNIES WEBSITE LAUNCHED

MAY 2023

2023 Vinnies CEO Sleepout

Each year, we spend several months developing and then running the largest fundraising and community engagement event of the year – the Vinnies CEO Sleepout in June. The Sleepout involves all teams and many volunteers of the Society to make the event possible, not to mention the many sponsors, and of course the participants themselves.

Though part of a national campaign with events held around the country on the same night, the event is designed and managed by the local team. This was the 14th Vinnies CEO Sleepout in the ACT and the fourth held with the generous support of the **National Museum of Australia** and its caterer, **Broadbean Catering**, which donated the venue and the food.

The Sleepout is a very immersive experience and each year the team work hard to make the event fresh, inspiring and impactful. MCed by local ABC journalist Adrienne Francis, who also donates her time and expertise, the evening included an interactive experience and a chance to meet all our specialist teams, hear moving companion stories, learn from our CEO about the wider issues and need in the community that we address, and then network with other participants. Everyone then bedded down on three pieces of cardboard with only a sleeping bag on what was a cold and rainy night.

This year's **immersive experience** was a budget challenge; participants were given a real companion persona and a budget of \$150 to survive a week. The expenses needed to survive showed participants it was impossible to make ends meet on \$150, so they met one of our Vinnies team members about how we might help them.

Later, two from the Vinnies team stayed awake all night to ensure participant safety and wellbeing, and then participants were awoken at 5 am, given a quick breakfast and farewelled.

While it is called the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, locally we invite community and business leaders to lend their professional networks to the cause. We attracted over 130 participants, including first

responders, politicians, including the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, small business owners, teachers, senior public servants, and this year, the Chief Justice of the ACT who came second on the fundraising ladder for her first event!

During the months leading up to the night, our senior coordinator ensures each participant is informed, supported and set up for fundraising success.

The Sleepout featured several **ambassadors** who speak in the lead up to the event and encourage others to support it through the media and social media. There was a lot of media interest, and we ensured a diverse range of stories were possible so the community understood the nature of the issue around homelessness in our region and how the Sleepout makes a positive impact.

This year there were several new features:

- a personalised journey of information for participants that reflected how many times they had taken part before
- we streamed via social media on the night for a behind-the-scenes look at the experience
- we staged a Sleepout in Merimbula for the first time, with local people including a policeman and local business owners, which raised over \$30,000 that will be used in the local community, with plans to expand it next year.

TOP 3 FUNDRAISERS

1. Neville Tomkins
2. Lucy McCallum
3. Mirko Milic

TOP FUNDRAISING TEAM

Canberra Toyota 2023

This year we **raised \$837,435**, smashing our \$800,000 target. The funds raised will:

- create additional Street to Home specialist positions to help those sleeping rough transition back into society and wellbeing
- keep the Night Patrol and its new vans on the road, connecting more people than ever before to immediate support with food, clothing, and other essentials including referral services
- expand the work of our new specialist services in our neighbouring region to address chronic homelessness in those communities, including the Far South Coast for the first time
- support the work of Samaritan House that provides transition accommodation for men who have been sleeping rough in Canberra
- provide additional emergency funds to people coming to us for life's essentials to help prevent them from ending up homeless, through our helpline, specialist services and conference network.

DEEP SLEEPER CLUB

The Deep Sleeper Club members committed to **raising \$12,000** by the event.

Neville Tomkins	Scouts ACT
Lucy McCallum	ACT Supreme Court
Mirko Milic	Canberra Toyota
Christine Shaw	Blackshaw Manuka
David Austin	Good Shepherd Primary School
Stephen Cenatiempo	Radio Canberra Pty Ltd
Stephen Lising	Preventive Dentistry
Catherine Rey	St John Paul II College Nicholls
Noor Blumer	Blumers Personal Injury Lawyers
Michael Thomson	Canberra Airport
Lucy Hohnen	St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn
Alex Piris	Fox & Bow
Sehida Frawley	SAP Australia
Brendon Bobbin	Bobbin Transport Pty Ltd
Robert Kennedy	Synergy Group



Profit and Loss

Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Government grants	6,771,802	5,799,989
Sale of goods	18,013,573	13,032,604
Client contributions	54,393	52,677
Fundraising	2,465,021	2,508,580
Other revenue	706,485	113,782
Total revenue	28,011,274	21,507,632
Other income	16,369	139,753
	28,027,643	21,647,385
Operating expenses		
Centres of charity	(12,065,178)	(9,612,212)
Administration	(5,169,468)	(4,509,266)
Fundraising	(1,100,642)	(774,716)
	(18,335,288)	(14,896,194)
Total funds available for community services	9,692,355	6,751,191
Community services expenses		
People in need services	(5,784,931)	(4,539,302)
Homeless and mental health services	(3,913,508)	(3,273,522)
Migrants, refugees and overseas	(152,334)	(52,768)
Natural disaster relief	(1,171,881)	(1,082,650)
	(11,022,654)	(8,948,242)
Levies paid to the National Council - related party	(190,165)	(190,019)
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(1,520,464)	(2,387,070)
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Gain on revaluation of land and buildings	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(1,520,464)	(2,387,070)

Financial Position

Consolidated statement of financial position As at 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and short-term deposits	11,414,344	14,491,562
Trade and other receivables	342,154	204,449
Inventory	424,090	220,297
Investment in shares	2,360	1,803
Other assets	386,791	282,757
Total current assets	12,569,739	15,200,868
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	20,800,802	20,182,443
Total non-current assets	20,800,802	20,182,443
Total assets	33,370,541	35,383,311
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	2,078,668	1,816,118
Provisions and employee benefit liabilities	1,396,260	1,015,936
Lease liability	1,450,728	1,093,244
Equipment loan	81,252	67,757
Total current liabilities	5,006,908	3,993,055
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions and employee benefit liabilities	30,588	38,397
Lease liability	3,724,554	5,141,652
Equipment loan	185,072	266,324
Total non-current liabilities	3,940,214	5,446,373
Total liabilities	8,947,122	9,439,428
Net assets	24,423,419	25,943,883
Funds		
Accumulated funds	18,638,573	20,159,037
Reserves	5,784,846	5,784,846
Total funds	24,423,419	25,943,883

In Our Prayers

During this year several of our members and volunteers passed away or have been struggling with illness.

We remember with love and respect those who are no longer with us and we give thanks for their lives and contribution to the Mission of the Society.

We pray for their families that they will be comforted by the knowledge that they now have eternal comfort, one with the Father.

We pray for those who are ill in our Society and that through the Lord's grace their suffering may be eased.



Thank you

We could not do what we do without the help and support of our loyal donors. Even when the task seems great, their generosity enables us to continue assisting our companions. Our donors help by providing financial support and material goods; by participating in fundraising events and appeals; and by leaving a gift to the Society in their Will, which is a powerful way to make a difference in improving the lives of future generations. All of these vital contributions ensure

the Society can 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.

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/ Goulburn is grateful for the ongoing financial and in-kind support from the following corporate partners.

MAJOR SPONSORS:



GOVERNMENT SPONSORS:



NATIONAL SPONSORS:



CEO SLEEPOUT LOCAL SPONSORS:



Officers' Declaration

The officers of the Board of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn declare that the financial statements:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. At the end date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Territory Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Territory Council: Dated this the 24th day of September 2023.

John Feint
President

Stewart Chapman
Treasurer



Fundraise for Vinnies

The more funds raised on our behalf, the more we can help the families and individuals who turn to St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn every single day.

There are all kinds of ways you, your organisation or your school can fundraise for Vinnies, from participating in our annual sleepouts and appeals to hosting your own event.



VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT

As our headline event, the Vinnies CEO Sleepout aims to get some of Australia's highest profile businesspeople involved in raising funds for Vinnies and raising awareness about homelessness.



VINNIES ANNUAL APPEALS

Every dollar raised during our appeals makes a difference to provide urgent and practical support to families and individuals who are experiencing disadvantage in our community.



HOST AN EVENT

Organisations of any size can fundraise for us. Whether for a particular program or service that resonates with your values, or for Vinnies generally, we can work with you to stage a fundraising event, such as a sports day, trivia night, ball or other activity.

Our Valued Supporters:

Organisations

2CC

ACT Emergency Services Agency

Alexander Watson

Alive Health and Fitness

Attorney General's Department Graduate Fundraising Committee

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Australian Communications & Media Authority

Back In Strength Physiotherapy and Pilates

Belconnen Raiders Club

Beyond Bank

Bluerydge

Bosom Buddies Canberra

Bunnings Batemans Bay

Bunnings CBR Airport

Bunnings Fyshwick

Bunnings Gungahlin

Bunnings Tuggeranong

Canberra Centre

Canberra Circle of Women

Canberra CityCare

Canberra Malayalee Association

Canberra Mar Thoma Church

Capital Chiropractic Centre

Capital Markets

CIT Bruce Canteen

Club Sapphire Merimbula

Cockington Green

Cooleman Court

Cooma Car Club

Cooma Lions Club

Cootamundra Ex-Servicemens & Citizens Memorial Club

Crowne Plaza Canberra

Department of Home Affairs

Dickson Tradies

Dinners Ready

Dominos

Federal Golf Club

Filipino Cycling Community

Flipout

Floriade Community

FTI Group

Fyshwick Fresh Food Markets

Geoscience Australia

GIVIT

Goodwin Aged Care

Goulburn Mulwaree Library

Grace Records Management (Australia) Pty Ltd

Griffin Legal

Gungahlin Lion's Club

Hardwicks Accounting

Health Product Regulation Group, Department of Health and Aged Care

Helen Pope and Amy Cooper

Home.byHolly

Hoyts Woden

Hoyts Belconnen

Ichi Café

iCognition PTY LTD

IGA Narrabundah Friendly Grocer

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

Jamison Probus Club

KingPin

KPMG Sydney

LDK Seniors' Living

Lions Club

Maliganis Edwards Johnson

Marketplace Gungahlin

Merimbula Netball/Basketball Courts

Merimbula RSL Club

Mills Oakley

National Convention Centre

National Portrait Gallery (Social Club)

New Zealand High Commission Canberra

Nexia Australia

OzHarvest

Pentalym

Queanbeyan Leagues Club

Queanbeyan Roos Club

Questacon

Raiders

Ray White Rural Canberra | Yass

ReCollect

ReturnIt

Riverside Plaza

Rotary Club of Belconnen

Rotary Club of Canberra Sundowners

Rotary Club of Gungahlin

Rotary Ginninderra

Royal Canberra Golf Club (Women's Golf Committee)

Royal Thai Embassy

RRT

Sri Sathya SAI Global Council

SC1

Sheridan

Sheridan SleepSafe

Snedden Hall & Gallop Lawyers

South Canberra Seventh-day Adventist Church (Canberra Christian School)

St John Ambulance ACT

St John Care Ainslie

Stromlo Leisure Centre

Style Liberation

Sukyo Mahikari

Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association

The Italian Place

The Canberra Ionian Club

Transit Graphics

Turbans for Australia

Walk-In Aviary

Watson Blinds

Westfield Woden

White Rhino Real Estate

Wisdom Learning

With Friends Initiative

Woolies Charnwood

Woolies Dunlop

XTM Heat The Homeless

Yellow Hat Consulting

Za's Coffee Van

Schools

Brindabella Christian College

Cranley House Nursery School and ELC

Curtin Primary School

Daramalan College

Deakin School for Early Learning

Dickson College

Franklin School

Good Shepherd Primary School, Amaroo

Goodstart Early Learning Centre

Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie

Holy Spirit Primary School, Nicholls

Holy Trinity Primary School, Curtin

Lake Tuggeranong College

Marist College Canberra

Marist College Canberra Junior School

Merici College

Mother Teresa School, Harrison

North Ainslie Primary School

Possum Magic Day Care Centre

Radford College

Sacred Heart Primary School, Pearce

St Bede's Primary School, Red Hill

St Benedict's Primary School, Narrabundah

St Clare's College

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St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga

St Joseph's Primary School, Adelong

St Joseph's Primary School, O'Connor

St Mary's Primary School, Young

St Matthew's Primary School, Page

St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen

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