



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NORTHERN TERRITORY  
*good works*

## OUR ORGANISATION

The St Vincent de Paul Society is an international, voluntary, Catholic organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing assistance to the poor.

Founded in France by a group of young men in 1833, the principal founder was Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Today the Society has more than 950,000 members in 150 countries. The first Australian Conference was established in Melbourne in 1854. The first Northern Territory Conference, St Mary's Star of the Sea Conference Darwin, was launched in September 1949 and is still assisting Territorians today.

## OUR VISION

The St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory is pursuing our goals of spirituality and membership, governance and leadership, financial sustainability within key areas of growth and service delivery in our advocacy of the poor.

## OUR MISSION

The Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope, and joy; to shape a more just and compassionate society.

## OUR VALUES

Commitment – be loyal in service to our mission, vision and values

Compassion – serving all with understanding, without judgement

Respect – serve all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions

Integrity – promote and follow our mission, vision and values

Empathy – foster relationships based on respect, trust and friendship

Advocacy – work to transform the causes of poverty and challenge the causes of human injustice

Courage – encourage spiritual growth, welcome innovation and give hope for the future

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to Elders past and present.





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## WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOCELYN CULL

With every year that passes, I become more convinced of the importance of working together to help shape a more just and compassionate society. There is no doubt that we continue to face challenging times. We are in the midst of a national housing crisis, and our community members face real hardships in meeting daily cost of living challenges. This is against a backdrop of high inflation, stagnating wages, insecure work and the threat of an imminent recession.

As a community, we have experienced a scourge of social disruption, domestic violence, family breakdown, substance abuse and a lack of essential social services. Community sentiment, on occasion, has understandably run to dismay, anger and fear. These are challenging times and an environment where we must continue to operate. Demand for our services continues to increase and shows no signs of dissipating.

As a Society, we offer a hand up to people in need. We do this by respecting a person's dignity, sharing our hope and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny. Catholic social teachings are fundamental to our work. We see the dignity of the human person, work for the common good, adhere to the principles of solidarity and self-direction, and believe that social and government orders should be set up

for the inclusion and benefit of all. As Vincentians, we believe that those most in need must come first, we strive to see the world through the eyes of the poor, standing in solidarity with them.

As a Society and wider community, we must urgently address the level of homelessness in the Northern Territory. We know there are approximately 13,717 Territorians without a home, which is 12 times the national average and the highest rate in Australia. We also continue to advocate for needs-based funding and positive government responsiveness to the unique needs of Territorians and the provision of essential services. Regrettably, we have a long way to go in this space.

For our part, the Society has recognised and begun to implement improvements in our service delivery. One substantial body of work has been the development of the Society's Housing Strategy, one element of which seeks to enhance our day services at Ozanam House by providing a purpose-built, culturally appropriate Interim Accommodation Facility with wrap-around support services. Key stakeholders, including our Bishop and Federal Government representatives, fully support our plans. We continue to negotiate with the NT Government in this area and call on the Minister for Housing



and the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities to work proactively with us in serving the community.

We also continue to work across our complete services suite, using our innovation and expertise to enhance and deliver crucial services to our companions and the community. Our administrative operations undergo continuous improvement through individual expertise, industry benchmarking and the generous shared knowledge of our fellow Societies nationally.

In terms of people, we are indebted to our staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of the people we serve. It takes a special type of person to work and volunteer with us, and on behalf of the Society, thank you for everything.

Our Society members are also incredible and are united in a shared spirit of community, friendship and service. Our members work together to benefit others, giving their time, talent and themselves. They work to relieve suffering for love alone, without thinking of any reward. Few in number, they punch above their weight with their concern and service for our Companions. Some Vincentians have served for many years, while others are just beginning their journey. Thank you for your goodness and ongoing inspiration in serving the poor and the

most marginalised in our society.

Finally, it is fitting to acknowledge the efforts and hard work of our Territory Council, Housing Company, Committees and Rob Lutter, our CEO. You are truly amazing people!

And our Companions, long may we serve you, offering love, hope and support – you are at the centre of everything we do.

To echo the guidance of Frederick Ozanam,

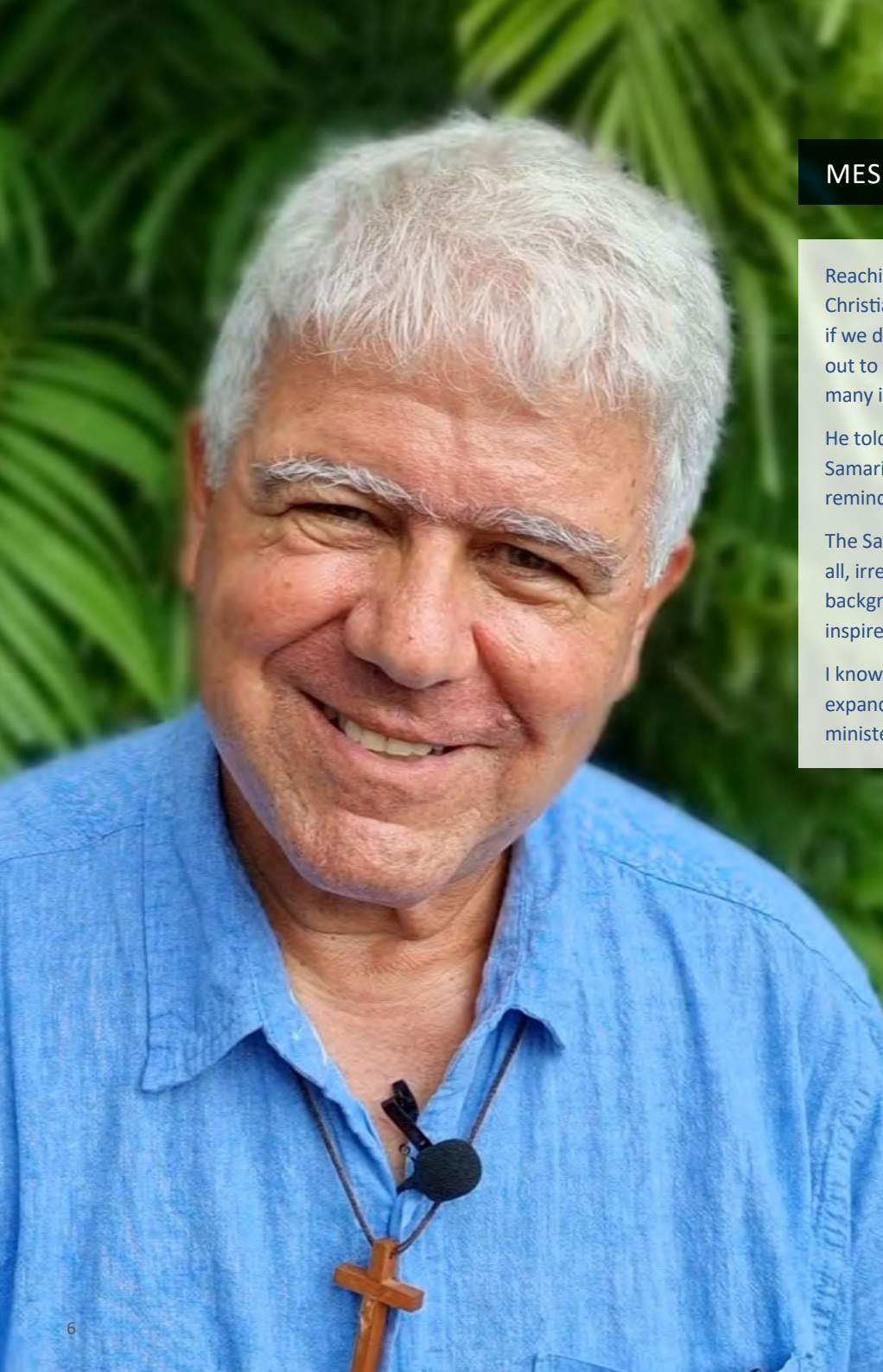
*"It is our vocation to set people's hearts ablaze, to do what the Son of God did, who came to light a fire on earth in order to set it ablaze with His love."* - (Frédéric Ozanam)



President  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
Northern Territory

Ozanam House, a place to reunite families coming from rural communities





## MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

### BISHOP CHARLES GAUCI

Reaching out to those in need is central to Christian living. We cannot say that we love God if we do not love our neighbour. Jesus reached out to those considered to be on the outer by many in the times that He lived in.

He told stories such as that of the Good Samaritan or of the rich man and Lazarus which remind us to keep reaching out to all in need.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society reaches out to all, irrespective of creed, social or ethnic background. Its ethos, however, is very much inspired by Christian teachings and principles.

I know that the Society has great plans to expand its mission in the NT. I look forward to ministering with them.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to all the many Members, Volunteers and Staff for their great commitment and loving service.

The Most Reverend  
Charles Gauci  
Bishop of Darwin



COMMBANK Community Grant Ozanam House Hot Food Bar

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

### FATHER ADAM CROUCH

Jesus told a story about two men praying in the temple.

One a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

We hear that the tax collector was the one who went home at rights with God.

The tax collector asked for God's mercy and did not give up struggling.

I sense that the Lord is asking us to keep up our good works even if it means that we struggle.

With faith in Jesus' mercy for us, knowing our weakness, like the tax collector, we can find God's favour and look towards him with hope.

Blessings,

Father Adam Crouch  
Spiritual Advisor  
St Vincent de Paul Society



Vinnies Bakhita Centre and Warehouse Bitumen thanks to BMD Group



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

ROB LUTTER

*"The more you know, the less you need."* – Aboriginal saying.

Amidst the challenges we face, our organisation remains dedicated to making decisions that will sustain the Society for the long term and lay the groundwork for a resilient future.

A particularly positive outcome has been seen through the transformation of our amazing management team. Throughout this year, our team embraced new roles and responsibilities with remarkable enthusiasm. To each one of you, your unparalleled commitment and dedication are deeply appreciated. It's both an honour and a privilege to work alongside such exceptional people.

Across various fronts, our teams have been diligently engaged in elevating our software and databases across areas such as Housing, Aged Care, Fundraising, and Memberships. This tireless work is upheld by robust ICT systems that not only safeguard data quality but also provide cybersecurity measures.

As we invest in training across all sectors, we wholeheartedly recognise the immeasurable worth of our incredible team of Members, Volunteers, and Staff.

The financial standing of the Society this year is undeniably robust, boasting a surplus of \$792,196 off revenue of \$7,025,882 and expenses of \$6,233,686. Our total current assets are \$5,924,647 and a total equity of \$20,303,776.

With the setting up of SVdP Housing NT Ltd. this year, we are committed to the expansion of our Housing initiatives and the enhancement of tenant management, underscoring the Society's dedication to offering quality housing solutions. In the forthcoming year, the start of Tier Two Community Housing accreditation illustrates our commitment to lifting our standards.

Through a Council-led strategic retreat last year, the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan has provided the Society with a clear direction. The Plan starts our journey towards growth and achievement over the next four years.

As we move ahead, our strategy is focused on three areas:

### 1. Companion Focussed

To create meaningful opportunities for our people engaging in our mission of living the Gospel message and offering "a hand up" to our Companions whose needs are the core of our decision-making and service provision.

### 2. Building stronger relationships/connections

To develop and grow our community partnerships, resulting in sustainable, positive outcomes for both the Society and Companions we support.

### 3. Long Term Sustainability

To build a sustainable financial base to enable investment in opportunities to benefit our Companions. We will be entrepreneurial in our approach in raising funds to support our service delivery.

My sincere gratitude extends to President Jocelyn Cull and the Council for their unwavering support and guidance this year, one of which has been instrumental in shaping the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. We thank our Members and Volunteers for your indispensable contributions; it's your dedication that drives our good works. My heartfelt acknowledgment and thanks are also extended to all our Staff; your efforts are a cornerstone of our success this year.

*"What counts in the end, plainly, is not only the quality of the service to the person in need, but the personal and self-giving component of that service."*

-(Frédéric Ozanam)

Chief Executive Officer  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
Northern Territory

Jimmy and Rob at Ozanam House

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2022/2023

### AT A GLANCE

# 28,457

Territorians assisted

#### HELPING HANDS

21% increase  
in members

9% increase  
in volunteers

29% increase  
in employees



#### REACHING OUT TO THOSE IN NEED

Emergency relief services

## 3,653

Transport program



## 2,949

trips

Home maintenance



## 9,334

hours

#### HELPING THOSE IN NEED

## \$180,471

direct financial assistance

## \$626,918

in kind support



## \$446,447

total ER support provided

#### OUTCOMES

## \$2,479,294

in Centres of Charity revenue

-0.5% ↓

## \$2,991,382

in government funding

↑ 7%

## \$1,213,559

in client contributions

2% ↑

#### HELPING THE HOMELESS



## 11,850

showers  
provided



## 4,765

loads of  
washing



## 68,075

meals  
provided

#### ACCOMMODATION

## 95,031

nights of accommodation provided.

↑ 20%



## 135

tenancies under management

↑ 1%

## WHO WE ARE

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in Paris in 1833 by Frédéric Ozanam and his school peers. The Society's namesake was ordained as a priest in 1600 at the age of 19, known later as "The Apostle of Charity" and "Father of the Poor." The compassionate outlook, enthusiasm and vision of the Society's founders continues today. The Society was established by like-minded people who wanted to put their Catholic faith into action.

*"Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands." - (Frédéric Ozanam)*

We are principally a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organisation with 63 Conference Members, 49 Associate Members, 649 registered Volunteer Members and 44 Staff Members delivering Community Programs and Services across Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

#### OUR PEOPLE

Internationally, the Society is active in 150 countries through 800,000 Members and 1,500,000 Volunteers. The Society helps over 30 million people every day.

In Australia, St Vincent de Paul Society has 45,000 Members and Volunteers performing good works, which if paid, would mean that the Society could not reach those in need.

Our people are a gift of grace. 74 years on from the establishment of the first Conference in Darwin, the Society continues to rise to the challenge of supporting those who are marginalized and disadvantaged.



#### OUR CONFERENCE MEMBERS

At the core of our Society are our Conference Members, known as Vincentians. They live out their faith and volunteer their time by joining together in a Conference. Conferences groups may be established within a parish, town, suburb, school, workplace or social group. Our Members gift their personal expertise to the Society and are supported in return, with their delivery of services and good works to the Territory community. Today, in the Northern Territory we have four St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory Conferences:

- Holy Family Conference Karama
- Holy Spirit Conference Casuarina
- St Mary's Conference Darwin
- St Paul's Conference Nightcliff

#### OUR VOLUNTEER MEMBERS

St Vincent de Paul Society is blessed with devoted Volunteer Members. The important work of volunteers means that the Society can use its resources directly in service of the poor. Volunteer Members are those who respect the ethos, mission, aims and objectives of the Society and who volunteer in any of the Society's good works.

#### OUR STAFF MEMBERS

Our staff provide operational support in executive and administrative roles to assist in the development of the organisation. They ensure the Society functions sustainably and delivers on our commitment to the community and those who fund our community service activities.

#### WHY WE SERVE

Ultimately, it is the wholehearted commitment to our Companions, those we assist, that galvanizes each of us to respond to a plea for help. Our Companions, with their challenges, their strength and resilience, inspire us daily to do more. They are our blessing.

## FOLLOWING OUR FAITH

### TO LIVE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Our Conferences walk in the path of Jesus and work tirelessly throughout the year, devoting their hearts and hands to easing the burdens of the poor and disadvantaged.

While the faith of our Members brings love, strength and hope to our communities, the challenges are ever present. A society with less compassion for the poor has placed increasing demand on our existing resources and membership, but our Conference Members and Volunteers remain steadfast in continuing their good works.

All our Society Conferences are taking steps to develop their membership and attract new members to continue strengthening their work and contribution. While some things change, others remain the same. Our conferences remain in touch with the needs of the communities they serve, undertaking Society services; visiting homes, hospitals and prisons, distributing Christmas hampers to families, organizing fundraising events and running programs and activities for our Companions.

The Society continually supports the formation and training of its Members to deepen their spirituality and knowledge of the Society. By honing and exercising their skills, Members improve their sensitivity, quality and efficiency of service, helping Companions be informed of benefits, resources and opportunities that are available for people in need.

While new Members have joined this year, some

long-standing, valued members have retired or passed away, but their contribution and compassionate legacy lives on in the work of the Society for the poor. They each lived the Society's motto that *'No Act of Charity is foreign'* and we are grateful for the many years of generous service provided by all Members who are no longer with the Society.

#### A HELPING HAND IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The people we assist, our Companions, come to us seeking compassion. They may have drug or alcohol dependency, be escaping domestic violence, or be struck by an unexpected crisis such as serious illness or unemployment. In the Territory particularly, they may have ended up 'stuck in town' from an outlying community or be refugees in hope of finding work and a new life. Whatever their circumstance, they are all Children of God, deserving of respectful care.

In Darwin, our Emergency Relief Services are a friendly face of Society Members with listening ears and hearts to work with Companions and discern how to ease a burden and provide hope. Where possible, our Members call in on Companions or make a follow up phone call to check in, always bringing friendship, trust and confidentiality. Whilst the visit might be about material assistance, Members take away a deeper understanding of others' lives which helps the Society to better advocate for a more just and compassionate society. While Conference communities differ, most

Visitations and Emergency Relief provided is in response to requests for furniture, emergency food, clothes or bedding. Sometimes assistance is requested for an unexpected large bill which can take a struggling household from 'just managing' to real hardship and hunger. At times, our Companions need support to deal with a specialist service such as Legal Aid, Financial Counselling, or Mental Health Services.

Thank you to our committed Members, Volunteers and Staff, without whom the Society would be unable to advocate for our Companions.

FOR VINCENTIANS, OUR GOOD WORKS ARE THE SOURCE OF OUR SPIRITUALITY.

THIS YEAR OUR MEMBERS SUPPORTED A MOTHER AND CHILDREN ESCAPING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH NOTHING BUT THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS. THE FAMILY GAINED HIGH-PRIORITY GOVERNMENT HOUSING, BUT WITHOUT ANY HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES. THE SOCIETY WAS ABLE TO ASSIST WITH WHITE GOODS, BEDDING, FURNITURE AND CLOTHING. THE SOCIETY MAINTAINS ONGOING CONTACT WITH THESE COMPANIONS, PROVIDING FRIENDSHIP, ADVICE, EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THIS HELPS THEM TO HAVE CONFIDENCE TO HELP THEMSELVES IN KEEPING A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS.

OUR VOCATION INVOLVES LOVING GOD WITH THE SWEAT OF OUR BROW AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR ARMS, SEEING CHRIST IN THE POOR AND THE POOR IN CHRIST.

## SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

### ANOTHER YEAR IN SERVICE OF THE POOR

St Vincent de Paul Society Programs Services have again provided support to people in need this financial year where the challenges of the 'cost-of-living-crisis,' disharmony in the community, flood emergencies, and the lack of affordable housing at the forefront for Territorians.

Program Services incorporates Homelessness Support Services, Housing, Aged Care and Emergency Relief Services.

Ozanam House provides a vital service to homeless people in the Greater Darwin Region. Ozanam House provides our Companions the dignity of a daily shower, clean clothes, hot meals and companionship. Society Emergency Relief Services are available onsite. Services are delivered through the coordination of Society Members, Volunteers and Staff. Managing Strategic Partnerships in specialist services ensures Companions have access to primary health, legal and advocacy services in one location. This year, Ozanam House was one of five Australian homelessness support services to be invited to join the Services Australia Federal Pilot Program. Services Australia undertook over 1000 engagements, ensuring vulnerable Territorians had access to support in a safe, familiar and comfortable environment. The Society looks forward to continuing to support this Program alongside Services Australia.

The 'cost-of-living-crisis' has added more pressure to the already overwhelmed Territory housing market. The costs of a private rental have risen considerably across Australia due to the interest rate rises, forcing many to seek other forms of accommodation whilst facing homelessness. The Society's Housing Services have responded to an increased number of Companions seeking affordable housing across all our locations. Our Caseworkers support Companions to

transition from our transitional and short-medium term accommodation to longer term options. Some of our longer-term Companions have relocated to Territory Housing properties throughout the year. Vacancies created by Companions moving on were quickly filled, with the Housing Team maintaining a waitlist of Companions seeking accommodation. The Housing Team have continued to coordinate ongoing repairs and maintenance of Housing properties, both owned and leased by the Society. To improve the management of repairs and maintenance, the Society has employed a new Property Manager and Assets Manager to maintain the Society's resources. Housing has begun its elected move into its own entity, 'SVDP Housing NT Ltd.' and continues to strive to increase our accommodation offerings. Planning is focused on the longevity of the Society's assets with SVDP Housing NT Ltd. to support the mission of the St Vincent de Paul Society (NT).

The Society's Aged Care Services are supported by the My Aged Care - Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). Through the efforts of our dedicated Aged Care Services Team, we have increased the number of 'senior' Companions receiving our Services. This financial year the Society has improved links between our Services and Administrative departments. This Program allows more elderly Territorians to remain living independently and remain active in their homes.

Our Conference Emergency Relief and our Emergency Relief Program experienced an increased need from the Community throughout the 'cost-of-living-crisis.' Many Companions who presented to our Services were seeking accommodation solutions, bill payment support and the

basics of food, beds, linen and clothing. The Society provided many short-term accommodation referrals for many Companions through other appropriate service providers. Investment in laptop computers for Volunteers has assisted in the capture of statistical data to ensure extension of care where a Companion has presented to the Society's Emergency Relief Service previously. There was an increased demand for white goods and furniture, these items were delivered to Companions by our Warehouse logistics team.

#### OPERATIONS DURING EMERGENCY

St Vincent de Paul Society, alongside other Community Services organisations, were a part of the rapidly coordinated support for flood evacuees from Kalkaringi, Daguragu and Pigeon Hole communities at the Centre of National Resilience, Howard Springs. During the crisis evacuation, Society Staff operated a clothing stall, and connected with Companions in need.

#### STRENGTHENING OPERATIONS AND OUR PEOPLE

Our Executive Management team has worked to maximise the delivery of services within defined budgets and in alignment with our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Our governance and best practice systems enable the delivery of Services that are financially accountable and responsible. We continue to value the ongoing support of our Queensland colleagues in the delivery of HR, Legal and Financial services. The Society's central online information hub, SharePoint and Microsoft 365, ensures Members, Volunteers and Staff are connected with current information on key operations across the vast distances from Darwin to Alice Springs and Australia wide.

Our Member and Volunteer Committee has met quarterly throughout the year to update the processes for the onboarding of our biggest asset, Members and Volunteers. The Society's shift from old systems (Gestalt) to Blackbaud's E-tapestry Customer Relationships Manager (CRM) has helped ensure accessibility to volunteer personal information in a secure location. Our first Membership and Volunteer Coordinator has been employed to support the implementation of supports surrounding the needs of our people.

We continue our commitment to develop and grow our people, providing opportunities to connect and share knowledge and experience within the Society. We have employed several new highly skilled executive staff who are supporting strategic operational activities. The Society offered training this year, including a Spiritual Retreat, self-paced Online Emergency Relief (ER) training, face-to-face Cross Cultural Awareness training, Understanding Mental Health and Workplace Wellbeing training and Apply First Aid Training. These initiatives have better equipped our dedicated Society Members, Volunteers and Staff to continue their good works.



Darwin Trailer Boat Club - 2023 mid year Social Party

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

#### COMBINED STATISTICS

32	2	25	450	230
Conference Members	Associate Members	Conference Volunteers	Christmas Hampers	Bread Delivery Hours
181	444	419	1,744	
Companion Visitations	Companion Phone Calls	Emergency Relief Hours	Centres of Charity Hours	



Annual General Meeting 2022

#### HOLY FAMILY CONFERENCE

- At the Society Christmas gathering, Henrietta Dempster was presented with an award for Recognition for Outstanding Service to the Society for her continuous and untiring effort volunteering at the Warehouse. Henrietta has accumulated thousands of hours over many years.
- In the months of the Dry Season, Holy Family has continued to hold BBQ's with the residents at Park Lodge, a facility managed by the Society. It is a pleasant way to meet and support our Companions.
- The Holy Family School and a parishioner have raised over \$1000 to help our Conference in doing good works.
- We have held one "Food for Thought" dinner this year, enjoyed by Conference Members past and present.
- The Conference has been able to fund five students through the St Vincent de Paul "Assist a Student" program. The students were mainly from Indonesia.
- Several Members have undertaken workshops on Managing Conflict, Cross Cultural Training and attended Spiritual Retreats.
- The conference has continued with making home visits, making welfare calls, providing assistance to Companions with furniture, white goods, gardening clean-ups, Emergency Relief interviews and general support. The piety stall, prison visitation, fundraising assistance and bread distribution have been ongoing as part of our good works.



Ozanam House - Administrator of the NT

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

#### HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE

- As always we continue visits to our Companions, some from new referrals via Members, the parish, and ER and from ongoing contact with previous referrals.
- As well as friendship and social/emotional support, most of our visits are because of the material and financial assistance needed by Companions. In reality, this assistance is related to the very real risk of homelessness. Companions needed assistance with power bills, food, furniture and white goods, children's footwear, car registration and repairs (to be able to get to work or children to school). If we did not assist with these essentials it is very likely that the Companions would risk rental payment arrears by having to prioritise these items. Most of our Companions are on low incomes from either Centrelink or are among the 'working poor'. ('Working poor' are a new demographic in current national homelessness data).
- Some Companions we have assisted were moving into Territory Housing with very little in the way of whitegoods, furniture and bedding. We have purchased/ made curtains and rods as the houses are not supplied with either.
- Other visits have been for friendship and social support to the elderly and one to the Hospice.
- We were able to help one Companion towards meeting a deadline in gaining a required professional qualification to remain employed.
- We regularly help a Companion with transport for grocery shopping for her and her children.
- We assisted a Companion with a skip bin to remove excess items from a home thus helping with family safety and mobility.
- We once again hosted the 2022 Society Festival Mass for the Feast of St Vincent de Paul with help from the other Conferences. Mini Vinnies from Holy Spirit School were also involved.
- We presented the annual Making Jesus Real award at Holy Spirit School at the end of 2022.
- Another successful Christmas Hamper effort saw us deliver 63 hampers and 33 toy bags to households as a result of very generous donations gratefully received.
- Members attended the much enjoyed SVDPNT 2022 Christmas party and 2023 midyear social event.
- Members have attended SVDPNT training sessions in the past year as well as Member Information meetings concerning new housing strategies, SVDPNT AGM and a Bunnings activity for Volunteer week.
- Members have assisted with three fundraising events with excellent results: A charity night film at Deck Chair Cinema; 4WD & Camping Expo parking/ collecting donations at the Showgrounds and the annual CEO Sleepout at Fannie Bay Gaol.
- We are assisting the NT Catholic Medical Association with their Pregnancy Help project – we have agreed to help with baby goods and furniture etc. when needed and our contact details are listed in their association members' resource handbook. (Contact will be between us and association members only, respecting the mothers' privacy).
- We continue to assist Holy Family and St Pauls with Dry Season BBQs at Park Lodge and Bakhita.
- We continue to supply St Martin De Pores Church with food vouchers.
- Vintertainers music group continue to delight residents at Tiwi Aged Care.
- We will soon be sponsoring a parish morning tea for senior parishioners following successful trials on a smaller scale at a generous parishioner's home.

Deck Chair Cinema -Fundraiser Raffle Winner



## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

#### ST MARY'S CONFERENCE

- St Mary's Conference is fairly diverse, with a broad membership, largely made up of working families.
- The Conference continues its strong emphasis on providing support to remote communities to extend the Society's reach out to people where they are, rather than wait for them to come to us.
- Our Conference Members coordinated the planning and delivery of Christmas Hampers to a number of communities around Daly River in 2022, including: Nauiyu; Emu Point; Wooliana; and Woodycupdia.
- The planning for the delivery of Christmas Hampers to the Daly River and Tiwi Island communities in 2023 is underway, with the support of Sealink to deliver to the Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School, where Principal Kellie McGinley has long been a supporter of the Conference's activities.
- The Conference has been working with Fr. Peter Huan MSC, a strong supporter of the Conference's activities in the Daly River communities, to build a statue outside of the St Francis Xavier Church at Nauiyu. Local indigenous contractor, AKJ Services, owned by Jessie Risk, a Larrakia woman, is supporting the Conference to build the statue to remember Fr Peter's great service to the community in and around Daly River.
- The Conference was successful in securing a Commonwealth Grant of \$20,000, with the support of Member for Solomon, Luke Gosling. This Stronger Communities grant has supported the fitting out of a Mercedes all-wheel drive sprinter van to be the first Vinnies Bush Mobile Service, taking Vinnies to Country.
- The Vinnies Bush Mobile Service van includes seats for five passengers who may want to return to country, hanging racks for clothes and storage tubs for crockery and cutlery, and other essential goods that may be hard to find in remote communities.
- The Conference is currently planning fundraising to support the staffing and operation of the first Vinnies Bush Mobile Service in the Top End as proof-of-concept, before trying to role the Bush Mobile service out across the Territory.
- The Conference has continued to play a role in Vinnies NT, with representation on the Social Justice Committee and the Housing Advisory Committee to SVDP Housing Nt Ltd.

#### ST PAUL'S CONFERENCE

- Dirk Botha was appointed Conference President supported by Damian Legg with the transition.
- Our Conference saw the departure of Bill Munro who relocated to Canberra.
- Our Conference gained three new Members who have been active and engaged in supporting our good works.
- St Paul's Conference met weekly during the year.
- Members participated in discussion and consultation about the Society's strategic plans for SVDP Housing NT Ltd.
- During the Dry Season, the Conference hosted monthly BBQs for Companions in Society accommodation.
- Our Conference held a strategic goal setting workshop to set priorities for the year.
- About 52 deliveries of bread, donated by Brumbies Northlakes, were made to St Paul's Catholic Primary School and during school holidays, to the Gwalwa Daraniki Association Inc.
- Our Members volunteered in St Vincent de Paul's Emergency Relief team during the period and one of those same Members volunteered in a number of Vinnies Stores each week.
- Our Conference continues to visit Pearl Retirement Village.
- Conference Members assisted parishioners with transport to masses and Parish lunches.



## GET INVOLVED

### HOW YOU HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

#### OUR LOYAL DONORS

We are indebted to the generous financial assistance provided by our loyal donors. This support assists the many activities undertaken by the Society and can be directed to specific Appeals or General Donations for our good works. St Vincent de Paul Society NT is registered by the ATO as a "Deductible Gift Recipient" Charitable Organisation, meaning any donation over \$2 is TAX deductible.

#### WORKPLACE GIVING

Contributions can be automated through workplace giving, a joint relationship between employers, employees & St Vincent de Paul Society. Employees connect with their payroll team and donate on a regular basis a small portion of pre-tax salary to support our good works.

#### GIFTS OR BEQUESTS IN WILLS

A bequest to the Society makes lasting positive change. It enables you to create a legacy of love and care for those who most need assistance and it will continue your life's aims beyond your own lifetime.

#### DONATIONS OF GOODS

Our Vinnies Retail Stores and Centres of Charity are reliant on donations of quality second-hand clothing, furniture and household goods to generate revenue for Society programs that support our mission.

#### IN-KIND DONATIONS

As a registered charity, in-kind donations from business and corporate ABN holders are tax deductible.

#### CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Being a part of our events, projects or service programs is a great way for Businesses or Corporates to give back to our Community. Whether through volunteering, financial assistance, in-kind donations, dollar match sponsorship or workplace fundraising, aligning with Vinnies is a great way to promote community contribution.

#### VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Without the time and energy of dedicated Volunteers and Members to help the operation of our Programs, the Society could not reach those in need. The gift of service in any area of the Society is welcomed and deeply appreciated.

- Vinnies Shops - Donate items, sort clothes, merchandising, sales (Vinnies shops), truck and van driving, collection of goods and shop deliveries.
- Ozanam House - Prepare and serve breakfast and lunch, operate commercial laundry equipment, communicating and relating positively with disadvantaged people.
- Emergency Relief - Assist people in emergency situations with food, clothing and paying bills. Provide referrals to other services.
- Administration - General administrative duties.
- Archives - Support the archiving process of the Society's historic work in the Northern Territory and Australia.
- Vinnies Events - Help Fundraising Events with set-up, pack-down, branding, public relations, raffles and sales.
- Home Visitation - Provide assistance to Territorians in need of support on a one-to-one basis through visitation.



Vinnies Christmas Hampers

## OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

"LET US DO WITHOUT HESITATION WHATEVER GOOD LIES AT OUR HANDS" - FREDERIC OZANAM



### JOCELYN CULL, PRESIDENT

Jocelyn Cull is President of the St Vincent de Paul Society (NT). She has been involved in the Society for about eight years, first joining the St Mary's Conference in 2015. She has been a Conference President, an NT Council Member and was extensively involved in Emergency Relief activities. Jocelyn was also NT Council Vice President and Acting President of the Society before she was elected President in October 2020.

Jocelyn is a lawyer by profession and runs a business consultancy specialising in strategy and governance.



### DAMIAN LEGG, VICE PRESIDENT

Damian's involvement with the Society first began as a Youth Member. Having served on the previous Territory Council as Vice President Centres of Charity, from 2013, Damian has continued as a Member of the current Council from 2016.

He draws experience from a long career in the Public Service.



### KATHRYN PETTERSEN, VICE PRESIDENT

Kathryn's first experience with the Society was many years ago in her High School Conference, however she officially joined the Mary MacKillop Youth Conference in 2016 and was President for three years. In 2019, Kathryn re-joined the National Youth Team where she has represented the NT as Youth Representative.

Kathryn is a Religious Education Coordinator and is an experienced High School teacher. These skills, combined with her passion for social justice works within schools, has seen her develop the Mini Vinnies Program across the Territory.



## OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

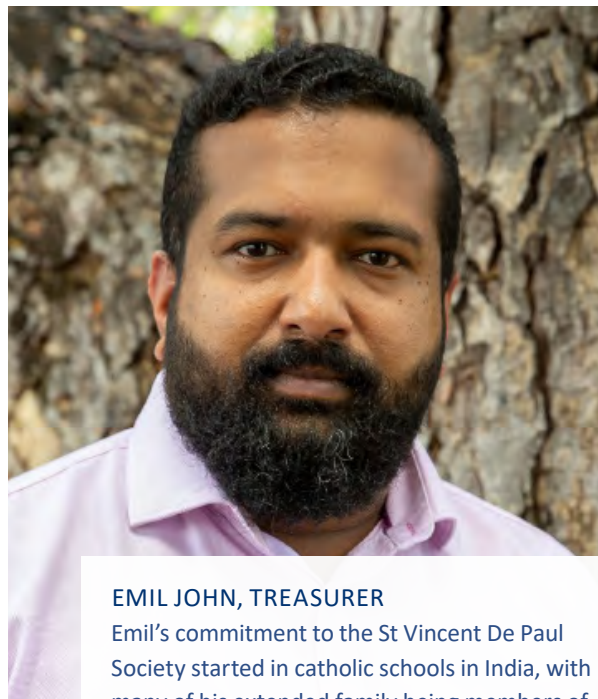
"GO TO THE POOR: YOU WILL FIND GOD." - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



### RUTH GILL, SECRETARY

Ruth Gill is the Secretary of the St Vincent de Paul Society( NT). She has recently moved to Darwin and joined SVDP NT.

Ruth is a social worker by profession and has worked for Government, Not-for-Profit and Corporate Industry. She currently works as a contractor for a Government department.



### EMIL JOHN, TREASURER

Emil's commitment to the St Vincent De Paul Society started in catholic schools in India, with many of his extended family being members of the Society and having close interactions with Vincentian priests over the years.

Emil was appointed to the Council as Treasurer in 2019. He holds an MBA from Liverpool UK and has been in the banking industry for over 10 years across SA and NT.



### FATHER ADAM CROUCH, SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Father Adam Crouch is a catholic priest with the Missionaries of God's Love. The Missionaries of God's Love charisms are working with young people and the poor. Father Adam moved to Darwin in February 2021.

Father Adam was chaplain to the Sydney Swans Academy 2016-2021 and over the past 5 years he has been involved with ministry to the poor at St Vincent de Paul in Campbelltown, NSW.

## OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

### CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS



**KAY FITZPATRICK, HOLY FAMILY CONFERENCE PRESIDENT**

Kay originally became a Member of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Hay, NSW. The involvement continued with Conferences in Darwin. The driving factor for Kay is putting her faith and the teaching of Jesus into action.

She has made some treasured friends through the Society and praises the work that the Members and Staff are undertaking.



**GRAEME FINCH, ST MARY'S CONFERENCE PRESIDENT**

Hailing originally from South Africa, Graeme has seen poverty on four continents and recognises that the good works of the Society can make a real difference to the poor.

With decades of experience in construction and development, Graeme has much to offer to support the Society in its good works.

## OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

### CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS



**FRANCES ABBOTT, HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE PRESIDENT**

After retiring from a nursing career both overseas and in Australia, Frances joined SVDP NT initially as a Volunteer in the Emergency Relief service in 2016. She was invited to join the Conference in 2018 and voted to President after the resignation of Cedric Francis in December 2020.

She appreciates the opportunity to serve God's people in this way and enjoys the friendship and interaction with Conference and Society Members.



**DIRK BOTHA, ST PAUL'S CONFERENCE PRESIDENT**

Dirk's involvement in the Society commenced in mid-2020 when he moved to Darwin and joined the St Paul's Conference.

Dirk draws on extensive executive experience across a number of industry sectors prior to committing to working for Catholic Education where he has held a senior role in executive management for over 10 years.

## HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT PROGRAM

### OZANAM HOUSE DAY CENTRE HUB

Well known locally, Ozanam House is the largest Day Centre in Darwin and functions as a lifeline to the poor. It is a place without judgment, offering hot showers, a good meal, and a laundry service, restoring dignity to Territorians who are living rough.

This year, Ozanam House has continued and established partnerships with several organizations, including CAAPS, DCLS, Services Australia, Larrakia Nation, APM Employment Services, Orange Skye and Danila Dilba Health Service, among others. These partnerships have been instrumental in providing housing, legal, and healthcare supports. Our partnerships have significantly supported St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory to provide comprehensive, tailored, wrap around assistance, addressing a wide range of Companions' needs.

#### SERVICES AUSTRALIA PILOT PROGRAM

St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory was one of five Australian homelessness support services to be invited to Services Australia Federal Pilot Program. This Program has alleviated the service load on Members, Volunteers and Staff who in the past were relied upon to assist with Centrelink business. Services Australia Staff on site have streamlined Centrelink business for our Companions, making it easier for them to access essential services like Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support assistance. With a focus on reviewing individual circumstances, Companions have been transferred to Disability Support Pensions, provided much needed financial relief, and access to additional supports. Ozanam House also hosts APM Employment Services who support Jobseekers to meet their obligations when attending Ozanam House. This Pilot Program has seen Services Australia undertake over 1000 engagements, ensuring vulnerable Territorians can access support in a safe, familiar and comfortable environment. The Society is looking forward to continuing this program alongside Services Australia.

#### SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

Volunteer support is crucial to managing the increasing demand for support services. This year more than 10 volunteers have joined Ozanam House. New faces bring fresh perspectives and a strong sense of community, bolstering the Ozanam House's capacity to serve.

The 2022 Ozanam House Christmas Party was a joyous occasion for all, even between rain storms. Thanks to generous donations of food, festive items, gifts, music, and Volunteers time, our Companions enjoyed a very Merry Christmas celebration. Special thanks to Asian United Food Group, Shikah Foods and Next Tier Entertainment.

Thanks to a kind donation of towels from Incite Solutions Group, Members, Volunteers and Staff were able to provide uninterrupted shower services.

The King's Coronation called upon his representatives around the world to give their time to people in need. The Society was grateful to have His Honour, Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, the 23rd Administrator of the Northern Territory, assist volunteers with lunch service at Ozanam House.

Ozanam House held the inaugural Reconciliation Week Community Services event in May. This marked a reconnection and revival of Community Support Services that had been interrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Special thanks to Kevin from Crocodile Country, Larrakia Nation, Bunnings, and Community Services providers.

Ozanam House Programs for artistic Companions was also interrupted during COVID and have now returned. Staff provide canvas, painting materials and a space for people to connect and get creative.

Ozanam House Staff and Society Housing Services Staff have worked more closely between these Centres of Charity, fostering unity and pathways to support vulnerable Territorians experiencing homelessness.

St Vincent de Paul Society weekly Emergency Relief Program, run by Society Members and Volunteers, continues to be an integral part of meeting Companions' needs at Ozanam House, offering tangible support of clothing and food vouchers to Companions facing financial difficulties.

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of Strategic Partnerships and Volunteers engagement to our targeted assistance, the Society has enhanced supports provided to Companions. Ozanam House continues to be a beacon of compassion, collaboration and connection, positively impacting the Territory community.



## EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

### GETTING BACK ON TRACK

Our Emergency Relief Services are a lifeline for people in need; they offer a hand up when times are tough.

Life events such as unemployment, displacement, acute or chronic illness may lead to individuals or families facing crisis. Sometimes one unexpected event can disrupt an individual or family so severely that they must face the reality of becoming homeless. Losing control of one's livelihood is daunting.

Companions often present to our Emergency Relief Service feeling overwhelmed, confused and distressed by their circumstances.

Our services are operated by dedicated Members and Volunteers who receive training to become Emergency Relief Volunteers. They are a compassionate and non-judgemental ear, that can make a world of difference at a difficult time. Our Service is provided with strict confidentiality, listening to understand a Companion's situation, and providing appropriate referrals and support to address a Companions individual needs.

Assistance provided may include: supermarket vouchers for food and grocery items, Vinnies voucher for clothing and household goods, bus tickets for transport, assistance with utility and phone bills, assistance with the cost of prescription medication or mobility devices, furniture and household goods sourced from

donations to our Vinnies Stores including whitegoods, lounge, dining and bedroom furniture, assistance with the cost of short term or emergency accommodation.

Referrals to specialist support services may include: Emergency accommodation, transitional or short-term accommodation providers, debt relief services including advocacy and financial counselling, legal services, domestic violence support services, alcohol and other drug support services including residential rehabilitation or mental health services.

Our Emergency Relief services are a result of funding provided by the Commonwealth Government and our St Vincent de Paul Society NT Conferences. Conference funding is sourced from St Vincent de Paul Society NT donations, fundraising and retail operations.

#### EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM COMMONWEALTH

Our Commonwealth funded Emergency Relief Program is overseen by our Program Manager - Emergency Relief Services. The manager works with a team of dedicated Members, Volunteers and Staff to deliver Emergency Relief Services in the Greater Darwin and Alice Springs Regions. Coordination and collaboration between the Program Manager and ER Members and Volunteers elevates the provision of service to

Society Companions.

#### CONFERENCE EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

Conference Emergency Relief services are managed by our NT Council and Conference Presidents. Our dedicated Conference Members and Volunteers often provide vouchers for food, fuel and grocery items, bus tickets, assistance with Telstra and utility bills, assistance with the cost of prescription medication, mobility devices, short term or emergency accommodation, Vinnies vouchers for clothing and household items, furniture and whitegoods sourced from donations to our Vinnies Stores and the Warehouse. Conference Members often meet with Companions to extend the hand of friendship and provide emotional and spiritual support.

OUR CONFERENCES WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT A FAMILY EXPERIENCING MANY CHANGES, MOVING FROM REMOTE EAST ARNHEMLAND COMMUNITY TO DARWIN WITH A BABY ON THE WAY. THE SOCIETY SUPPORTED THE FAMILYS MOVE TO TOWN AS THE FAMILIES NEW SOCIAL HOUSING HOME HAD ONLY A MATTRESS ON THE FLOOR. OUR MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE A RANGE OF FURNITURE TO MAKE THE COUPLE COMFORTABLE DURING THE LAST WEEKS OF PREGNANCY, AS WELL AS PROVIDING A COT, PRAM AND CLOTHING FOR THEIR FIRST CHILD WHO ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER SETTLING IN.



Darwin Warehouse

## COMMUNITY HOUSING PROGRAMS

### TRANSITIONING FROM HOMELESSNESS

Housing is a human right and having safe homes provides our Companions with a sense of self and somewhere to belong. This is transformative, reinstating a sense of purpose many people take for granted and is crucial in overcoming the cycle of homelessness. In line with St Vincent de Paul's Strategic Plan we continued to focus on improving our service delivery.

#### SOCIETY OWNED PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

Since 1984, the Society has worked to assist vulnerable people transition from homelessness to permanent housing. With government support, we assist to secure accommodation and provide the necessary supports and life skills to sustain a tenancy.

The Bakhita Centre, a Society owned property in Coconut Grove, provides transitional housing and case management. The Bakhita Centre has 36 beds for single men and 5 beds for single females. Our Case Workers develop strategies with our Companions, providing linkages to appropriate services, training and engagement opportunities. Companions are supported in developing skills and encouraged to engage in social outings and Society Programs organised by our Case Workers. These personalised case management plans make a positive impact on Companion wellbeing as they gain skills and confidence.

Ted Collins Village in Coconut Grove is made up of 20, two bedroom units to accommodate families. Our Housing Program offers affordable residencies in a close-knit community. Staff assist Companions with managing their tenancy and ensuring they are linked to appropriate support services. Our dedicated Conference Members and

Volunteers regularly host social functions such as BBQ's to engage with our Companions at Ted Collins Village and our Hostels.

In Katherine, the Society owned property, Ormonde House, has provided supported accommodation for over 35 years. Ormonde House assists 13 single men with accommodation and case management to develop life skills and links to support services. Through communal living, Companions develop competencies many take for granted. Skills such as cooking, cleaning, communication and appropriate social behaviour, are all important to sustaining a tenancy. Our Case Workers support Companions in obtaining tickets, such as white cards, to help gain independence through local employment. The Society maintains connections with local agencies such as Anglicare, Catholic Care, The Hub, Venndale Transitional and After Care to help deliver wrap around services for our Companions.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDED PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

In Stuart Park, Park Lodge provides 20 tenancies for single men offering medium-term transitional Housing. Companions at Park Lodge are transferred from our Bakhita Centre once they have engaged with Society Programs that support their ability to live independently. With individual bedrooms and communal living areas, our Companions gain experience in sustaining a tenancy while they work to secure permanent housing.

In Katherine, The Bernhard Centre unit complex is equipped with one and two bedroom apartments. The Bernhard Centre provides 39 tenancies for singles, couples

and families. The Society's Housing Tenancy Officer works with Companions, alongside local police, to help create a safer and more resilient community at the property. There is now a marked decrease in anti-social behaviour and our Companions are developing increasing respect and support for each other. Neighbouring businesses are reporting increased patronage as a result of the improvements.

#### CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING

Our dedicated team will continue to support those in need with a focus on education and training, promoting health, increasing safety and improving the quality of Society Housing. We are committed to providing support to individuals and families as they transition from homelessness into long-term homes that they will be confident to manage independently.

The Society elected to create our own Housing entity 'SVDP Housing NT Ltd.' This will strengthen Society Housing operations in the future as we become a registered Community Housing Provider through the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH).



## COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

### ASSISTING THE AGING

The St Vincent de Paul Society's links with My Aged Care Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) are strong. Supported through government funding, the CHSP Program provides garden and home maintenance services and transportation support services to assist our older Companions. The Program's Services are delivered in short-term, episodic, or ongoing arrangements that are subsidised by our funding. To be eligible, Companions need to be aged 65 years and over or 50 years+ for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and linked in with My Aged Care. Through the online service portal or via phone, seniors can nominate the St Vincent de Paul Society as their service provider. This financial year, management has employed strong links between our Service and Administration departments. This strategy has increased our service delivery, allowing more elderly Territorians to remain living independently at home.

#### HOME MAINTENANCE

The CHSP Program offers garden maintenance services at our Companions' nominated preference, usually monthly services during Dry Season and fortnightly during the Wet Season. Services include light rubbish removal, lawn mowing, whipper snipping and weed spraying. We are also available to assist with the cleaning of ceiling fans, high louvers and smoke alarm battery replacement. The CHSP program provided 9,334 hours of home maintenance services to approximately 340 companions this financial year. These services are delivered by Society CHSP Staff and one external contractor, Monday through Friday. This Year, the CHSP Program Garden Maintenance Program

has improved our Service delivery with the purchase of new trailers, tools and expanding the workspace of the CHSP Shed. New laptops and ipads have enabled the CHSP Garden Maintenance Team to work more independently via technology alongside the Head Office Logistics Team. Employees can take Service payments, see up to date run sheets, check emails and log reports instantly. These improvements enable the CHSP Garden Maintenance Team to deliver efficient Services to properties, whilst maintaining a wonderful rapport with our Companions. Our aged care services are, for some elderly Territorians, the only contact they have with the outside world. Our Society Employees are a familiar and friendly face which offers security, safety and companionship on our Service visits.

#### TRANSPORTATION

The CHSP Program is also funded to provide a Transportation Service. This year the CHSP Program switched from CabCharge vouchers to Processto Community Cards. Each Program Companion is issued a CHSP Processto Community Card with capped limits to use. This helps seniors maintain their independence, with the ability to travel from their front to attend medical or other appointments, and remain connected with their family and friends. This Program is available to 20 Society Companions through the CHSP Program.



Executive Management



CHSP Garden Maintenance Team

## CENTRES OF CHARITY

### VINNIES IS MORE THAN A STORE

Our Vinnies Retail Stores are our Centres of Charity. They are a vibrant and visible presence in the Northern Territory with ten Stores and a Warehouse across Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. For a Companion, Vinnies can be a place to meet a need; for clothing, household items, or on a more serious note, to reach out for Emergency Relief. To the community, they are a treasure trove of amazing bargains, vintage wear, a special costume or sometimes a designer label. To our operations, Vinnies' sales underpin our capacity to deliver our Programs Services, with the annual turnover just shy of 2.5 million dollars this year.

#### WORKING TOGETHER

Behind the scenes, Retail Stores collaborate to respond to the different needs of each community they serve. This year our Retail Teams have worked hard in refining their Stores operations and work practices to improve Occupational Work Health and Safety. There has been considerable movement of Staff, with some moving on to new ventures outside of the Society and others taking on different opportunities within the Society. With these

staffing changes, comes changes to Retail Stores, with new recruits bringing more experience and fresh ideas to the Retail Team.

The Darwin Warehouse and Distribution Centre is at the heart of our Darwin, Palmerston and Greater Region operations. The vast distance between Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs makes weekly deliveries of stock impractical, with pallets of supplies freighted to regional Stores when required.

The Warehouse supports our Programs Services through the sourcing, collection, and supply of furniture and goods for Companions who have connected with Society Emergency Relief Services. Donated furniture is also delivered for sale at selected Retail Stores.

The St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory, have partnered with external organisations to supply clothing for Companions in need. Throughout the year our Warehouse has regularly partnered with Cowdy House, Sea Farers, Renal Unit, 54 Reasons and Visual Arts Programs at Anula Public School.

#### OPERATIONS DURING EMERGENCY

St Vincent de Paul Society, alongside other Community Services organisations, were a part of the rapidly coordinated support for flood evacuees from Kalkaringi, Daguragu and Pigeon Hole communities at the Centre of National Resilience, Howard Springs. During the crisis evacuation, Society Staff operated a clothing stall, and connected with Companions in need.

#### IMPROVING OPERATIONS

This year, the Society has been making moves toward reopening our Textile Recycling Program. Vinnies is committed to providing quality goods to our customers. Improving quality increases the quantity of waste that is generated through donations, impacting waste removal costs for the Society. In collaboration with our Warehouse, weekly stock deliveries will also include a pick-up of low-quality or stained textiles that are inappropriate for sale. This stock will be returned to the Warehouse, baled into bags weighing up to 160 kgs, loaded into a shipping container, and then on-sold to continue the up cycle/ down cycle journey of the items. When due diligence has been completed on potential partners, the Textile Recycling Program will increase revenue for the Society and make a positive impact to the environment.

#### OUR PEOPLE

In May the Society employed its first Membership and Volunteer Coordinator. The focus of this role has been to promote and recruit new Members and Volunteers, streamline onboarding processes, updating and storing personal details of existing Members and Volunteers, and connecting with our Members, Volunteers and Staff to enhance the collaboration across the Society's Centres of Charity, Conferences and Programs Services.



Volunteers and Staff at Vinnies Katherine

## FUNDRAISING

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

In the Northern Territory we have a population of 246,000 people, only 1% of the population of Australia, but tragically our community experiences 12 times the national average of homelessness - with 1 in 17 people sleeping rough - that's 660 people without a safe place to rest their head in the 1.35 million square kilometer Territory.

Throughout the year, Vinnies Fundraising Members, Volunteers, Staff and Partners hosted events to raise much needed funds for St Vincent de Paul Society (NT) Programs and Services. Generous donations both in-kind and monetary support from businesses, fundraising partners and the Territory Community were received. The St Vincent de Paul Society and our Vinnies brand is top of mind as a charitable, not for profit organisation that supports people in need.

#### NATIONAL APPEALS

The 2022 Winter Appeal focused on the increase of domestic and family violence across Australia and the financial constraints that impact a person's ability to escape, especially for those with young children. Funds raised from the Appeal helped our NT Programs support domestic and family violence survivors to escape and rebuild.

The 2022 Christmas Appeal focused on the Cost-of-Living Crisis facing Territory families. Donations received for the Christmas Appeal have helped people, struggling to make ends meet with the rising costs of bills, rent, medication and food, to get back on track.

#### INTERSTATE FLOOD EMERGENCY

St Vincent de Paul Society NT supported the QLD and NSW flood victims with donation collections. All donations supported flood victims with food, essentials, clothing, emergency housing and recovery.

#### COMMBANK COMMUNITY GRANT

The St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory is grateful to the Commonwealth Bank for recognising the good works of Ozanam House Day Center for the homeless. A \$10,000 grant was gifted to purchase a hot food bar, and bath towels. These Services are struggling with the impacts of increased food and hygiene supplies cost, which are negatively affecting our operational budget. The purchases ensure the continued meal and hygiene services of Ozanam House.

#### COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Vinnies Christmas Hampers Project 2022 was able to deliver 450 Christmas Hampers from Darwin to Palmerston and to the Daly River Communities. Christmas Hamper donations of non-perishable food and children's gifts are supported by local parishes, businesses, schools and the community. The success of the annual Hampers Project is a credit to the dedicated team of Members, Volunteers and Staff who work tirelessly from the end of September up until Christmas Day.

Every year, the Deck Chair Cinema Darwin hosts a ballot for local community organisations to win an evening at their iconic venue. In April 2023, St Vincent de Paul Society hosted a Sunday night screening of the international award winning movie 'BOY'. The event was catered by the Coolalinga Laksa Van and Volunteers hosted a cake stall and raffle. A total of \$2,442 was raised from the event.

The 4WD & Camping Expo in June 2023 invited the Society to assist in the coordination and parking of cars attending the event and collect donations from drivers as they enter the car park area. Our dedicated Members, Volunteers and Staff worked in uncommonly warm and dusty conditions across two entrances of the car parking area and raised over \$3,500 in donations.



CEO Sleepout Activity

### CEO SLEEPOUT

THE CEO SLEEPOUT WAS HELD IN JUNE 2023. WHILST THIS IS WINTER ACROSS THE COUNTRY, IT IS THE TERRITORY'S PEAK TOURIST TIME - 'THE DRY.' TRAVELERS FLOCK TO THE TERRITORY TO SOAK UP THE SUN AT THIS TIME OF YEAR; UNFORTUNATELY, HOMELESSNESS IS NOT A FAIR-WEATHER EXPERIENCE.

THE CEO SLEEPOUT NORTHERN TERRITORY IS HOSTED OUTSIDE IN THE UNPREDICTABLE ELEMENTS. WITH A TOP OF 31°C AND A LOW OF 22°C OVERNIGHT, OUR TERRITORY LEADERS AWOKO SOAKING WET FROM THE DEW THANKS TO THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 76%. IT WAS A WET, SWEATY, HOT AND COLD, UNCOMFORTABLE NIGHT ON THE GROUND FOR NT PARTICIPANTS. THIS YEAR WAS THE FIRST YEAR THAT WE PARTNERED WITH DOLLAR MATCH SPONSOR, CATE KILLINER REAL ESTATE. CATE KILLINER REAL ESTATE'S DONATION OF \$2,000 HELPED GENERATE \$6,530.55 IN 12 HOURS!

ON THE NIGHT THE PALMY ARMY TOOK OUT THE AWARD FOR TOP TEAM FUNDRAISERS, WITH SPECIAL MENTION TO THE INPEX TEAM WHO GENERATED THOUSANDS IN THEIR POST SLEEPOUT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN. THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF 25 TERRITORY LEADERS (12 OF WHICH RETURNED FROM LAST YEAR) RAISED A TOTAL OF \$69,065. WE HOPE TO SEE EACH PARTICIPANT RETURN AND BRING A FRIEND NEXT YEAR.

## OUR GOVERNANCE

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY

The full name of the Northern Territory Society is “St Vincent de Paul Society (NT) Inc”. Our Australian Business Number (ABN) is 11 300 386 527 and we are incorporated under the NT Associations Act 2015. The Society is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and holds the appropriate Deductible Gift Recipient endorsement. As a Public Benevolent Institution, we are endorsed to access the following charity tax concessions:

- Income tax exemption from 1 July 2000 under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997
- GST Concessions from 1 July 2005 under Division 176 of A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999
- FBT Exemption from 1 July 2005 under section 123C of the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986.

Our insurance is held through HOLDFAST Insurance Brokers and AON.

#### SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The Society has three categories of membership, Conference Members, Associate Members and Volunteer Members. There are established procedures for registration as a member, and any person registered as a Conference Member has voting rights in relation to the Society.

#### OUR CONFERENCES

Our four Territory Conferences report quarterly to the Territory Council and meet on a regular basis. All bank accounts relating to the Conferences are managed by their respective Treasurer and report to Council.

Conference Presidents are elected for a term not exceeding four years, and the President appoints all other office bearers in their Conference. All Conference Member and Volunteer positions are unpaid.

#### THE TERRITORY COUNCIL

The Council is ultimately responsible for the oversight and review of the management, administration, and overall governance of the Society in the Northern Territory.

Council responsibilities include:

- Meeting the Society’s objectives and reporting against the Strategic Plan
- Protecting members’ interests
- Upholding the values of the St Vincent de Paul Society and adhering to high moral standards and ethical behaviour
- Authorising policies and overseeing the strategic direction of the Society
- Establishing management goals and monitoring their achievement
- Approving major capital expenditure, major financial commitments and the annual budget
- Approving the annual report and financial statements
- Ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- Monitoring the risk management strategy
- Providing a linkage between subsidiary Councils and Conferences to the National Council.

The composition of the Territory Council is determined using the following principles:

- The President of each Conference is a Member of the Territory Council
- The Territory President is elected by the Territory Council for a period not exceeding four years
- The Territory President has the right to appoint Society Conference Members to the Council including Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, a Youth Representative, and a Spiritual Advisor.

The Territory Council meets at least once every quarter and is currently composed of ten members and a non-voting ex-officio member, being the Spiritual Advisor. The Territory Council President is the Society’s representative on the National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia. The Territory Council delegates management of the Society’s resources to the Executive team under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, to deliver the strategic direction and goals determined by Council. A financial audit is conducted by an independent auditor chosen through a select tender process.

#### INVESTING IN OUR SOCIETY

During this reporting period, the Society Membership Committee arranged a Spiritual Retreat, self-paced Online Emergency Relief (ER) training, Face to face ‘cross cultural awareness training, ‘Understanding mental health and workplace wellbeing’ training, ‘Apply First Aid’ Training.

CHANGING FACES

We welcomed Dirk Botha who accepted the St Paul’s Conference President role from Damian Legg.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND OCHRE CARD

The Society is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children. All Members, Volunteers and Staff of the Society complete a current ‘Working with Children’ check through SafeNT.

WORK, HEALTH AND SAFETY VISION

The Society is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of its employees, volunteers, and the community by increasing awareness of workplace safety; providing a safe place and safe systems of work and eliminating or reducing hazards that could result in injury or ill health.

NOTIFIABLE INCIDENTS

There were no notifiable incidents to NT WorkSafe during the 2022-2023 financial year.



4WD and Camping Expo Fundraiser

Society Committees

Finance Committee	Reviews monthly financial reports, budget and end of year statements. Reviews policies and procedures relating to finance. Provides advice on financial implications of any significant decisions or investments. Issues are reported to the Territory Council.
Membership Committee	Supports implementation of 2023-2026 Strategic plan. Committee is at initial stages of development.
Governance Committee	Supports the Council in review of policy and recommends to Council training opportunities to improve knowledge as well as understanding of governance.
Housing Advisory Committee	Provides advisory skill base to give Council recommendations on any housing issues and strategies.
Social Justice Committee	Provides advisory skill base to give Council recommendations on any Social Justice issues and strategies.

“MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLES’ LIVES IS ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING PARTS OF BEING A CONFERENCE MEMBER. ONE COMPANION WHOM WE SUPPORTED WAS GIVEN SOME FURNITURE, CLEANING PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT. WHEN PRESENTED WITH THE BROOM, MOP, BUCKETS, BRUSH AND SHOVEL, THE COMPANION’S LITTLE DAUGHTER LET OUT A CRY OF EXCITEMENT - “MUM, WE HAVE A BROOM!” - AND WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM STARTED SWEEPING THE CONCRETE.” - (SOCIETY MEMBER).

Council Member	Meetings entitled to attend	Meetings attended
Jocelyn Cull	4	3
Kathryn Pettersen	4	3
Damian Legg	4	4
Ruth Gill	4	4
Emil John	4	2
Fr Adam Crouch	4	3
Dirk Botha	4	3
Kay Fitzpatrick	4	3
Frances Abbott	4	2
Graeme Finch	4	4



Social Media Tile

## TREASURER'S REPORT

EMIL JOHN

I am extremely honoured and pleased to be the Treasurer of the St Vincent de Paul Society of the NT for the 2022-2023 financial year.

The last 12 months have been a very exciting time for the Society with tremendous trajectory moving forward and delivering on our primary mission of serving Christ in the poor with love and respect.

The people we serve are at the centre of all that we do and to this end it has been a privilege to work with the NT Council, Rob and Staff and the wider Volunteers to play a part in shaping and moulding a better outcome for some of our more disadvantaged Companions.

A renewed focus on long term sustainability and the ability to cast away some of the historical shadows of COVID etc. has enabled us to achieve a surplus of \$792,196.00 for this year [up from \$627,024 for the previous year] .

This has been achieved from a myriad of different strategies put in place to increase operational efficiencies while ensuring that that we are amply resourced to deliver on our objectives. An even more pleasing trend is to note the health and sustainability of the organisation at such a seminal point in our history, where we are boldly looking at what the future holds for the Society and how we can further expand what we do.

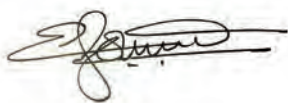
This last year we have also invested in our future and in our Staff, all the while giving back to the community that we support. We are also slowly working towards ensuring that we remain sustainable with a steady but upward trajectory in our Retail Operations.

The Society's Net Asset has continued its upward trajectory, growing by approximately \$800,000 to \$20,303,776 last year.

While the current economic environment has provided us with a few strategic advantages, including some better return on funds we hold [Circa \$5,400,000], I am cautiously optimistic about the impact this ongoing high interest rate environment will have on us.

The Society is poised to embark on a period of unprecedented change and growth over the next few years and I am very excited to be a part of this journey.

I would like to once again extend my heartfelt gratitude to our selfless Members and Volunteers, Rob our CEO and his amazing team, and the guidance of the NT Council led by Jocelyn, in being able to present such amazing results for the last 12 months.



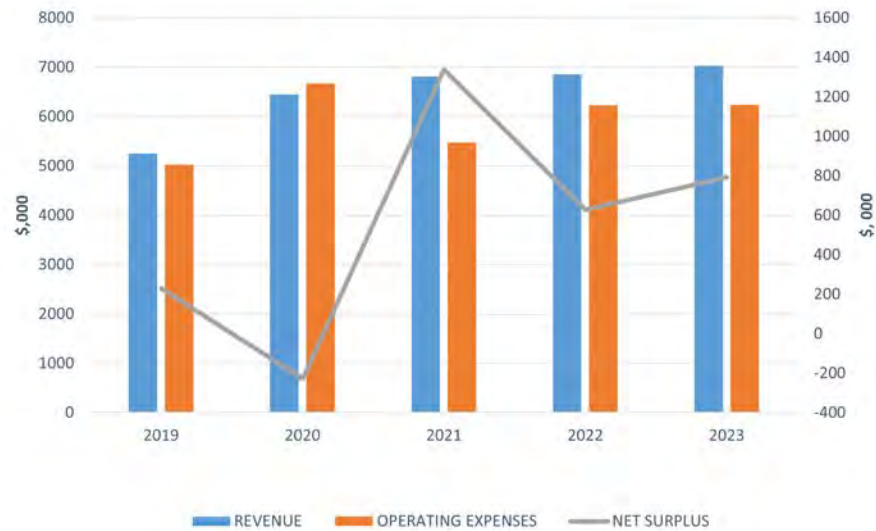
Treasurer  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
Northern Territory



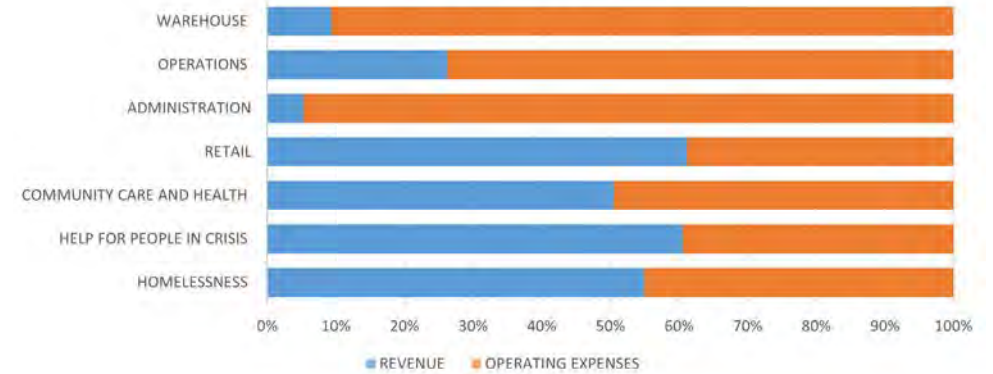
## TREASURER'S REPORT

### AT A GLANCE

#### PERFORMANCE TREND



#### REVENUE VS EXPENSES



Bunnings Bagot Road Easter pop up shop



Ozanan House Christmas Party

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY STATEMENT

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	5,444,976	5,158,593
Trade and other receivables	6	468,932	697
Other assets	7	10,739	108,601
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>5,924,647</b>	<b>5,267,891</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	8(a)	16,317,049	16,661,983
Right of Use	8(b)	1,674,754	1,737,717
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>17,991,803</b>	<b>18,399,700</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>23,916,450</b>	<b>23,667,591</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	467,526	667,822
Borrowings	10	196,216	204,787
Provisions	11	229,739	252,124
Grants in advance	12	142,248	259,583
Lease Liabilities	13	147,083	142,384
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>1,182,812</b>	<b>1,526,700</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	10	772,374	960,277
Provisions	11	47,546	41,296
Lease Liabilities	13	1,609,942	1,627,738
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>2,429,862</b>	<b>2,629,311</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>3,612,674</b>	<b>4,156,011</b>
<b>Net assets/(liabilities)</b>		<b>20,303,776</b>	<b>19,511,580</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves	14	3,307,508	3,307,508
Accumulated funds	14	16,996,268	16,204,072
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>20,303,776</b>	<b>19,511,580</b>

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2023 \$			2022 \$		
	Revenue	Operating Expenses	Net surplus / (deficit)	Revenue	Operating Expenses	Net surplus / (deficit)
<b>Community Services</b>						
Homelessness	2,788,836	2,287,007	501,829	2,753,944	2,325,631	428,312
Help for People in Crisis	367,712	239,436	128,276	356,241	276,989	79,252
Natural Disaster Relief	25,348	89	25,259	9,277	-	9,277
Community Care & Health	1,186,097	1,162,605	23,492	995,911	953,663	42,248
	<b>4,367,993</b>	<b>3,689,137</b>	<b>678,856</b>	<b>4,115,373</b>	<b>3,556,283</b>	<b>559,090</b>
<b>Supporting Services</b>						
Administration	12,434	223,304	(210,870)	5,315	213,480	(208,165)
Operations	160,642	451,833	(291,191)	186,258	502,335	(316,077)
Retail	2,452,511	1,555,513	896,998	2,393,743	1,526,914	866,829
Warehouse	32,302	313,899	(281,597)	155,001	429,474	(274,473)
	<b>2,657,889</b>	<b>2,544,549</b>	<b>113,340</b>	<b>2,740,317</b>	<b>2,672,203</b>	<b>68,114</b>
	<b>7,025,882</b>	<b>6,233,686</b>	<b>792,196</b>	<b>6,855,689</b>	<b>6,228,486</b>	<b>627,204</b>
<b>Total Surplus</b>			<b>792,196</b>			<b>627,204</b>

\*Notes are available with the audited financial report



## THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL SUPPORTERS

## SHAPING A MORE JUST AND COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY

We acknowledge the support of Parishes, the Catholic Diocese of Darwin, Bishop Charles Gauci, our Spiritual Advisor, Father Adam Crouch.

### GOLD SUPPORTERS

Louw Group  
Northline  
Ward Keller

### SILVER SUPPORTERS

ABC Radio Darwin & Jo Laverty  
CommBank  
INPEX

### BRONZE SUPPORTERS

Ad Made NT  
Big W Casuarina  
BMD Group  
Bunnings Darwin  
Cate Killiner Real state  
Darwin Trailor Boat Club  
IGA Ziccoli  
Incite Solutions Group  
Lay Group – Asian United Foods  
Peter Garret & Midnight Oil  
Property Council of Australia  
Sea Swift  
Shikah Foods NT  
Simon George and Sons  
Sitzler  
Wilson Security

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

Administrator of the NT Office  
Australia Federal Government  
ACNC

Brent Potter LM  
Centre for National Resilience  
CHSP  
City of Darwin  
City of Palmerston

Department of Health NT  
Department of IPL  
Don Dale Correctional Services

Luke Gosling MP Solomon  
Mark Monaghan MLA  
Minister for Housing NT  
NAAFLS

Northern Land Council  
Northern Territory Government  
Northern Territory Police  
Services Australia  
Territory Families, Housing and Communities  
Workforce Australia

### NGO SUPPORTERS

Anglicare NT  
Catholic Care NT  
Catholic Medical Association  
CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation  
Casuarina Community Health  
Danila Dilba  
Darwin Community Legal Service  
Darwin Deckchair Cinema  
Foodbank NT

Gwalwa Daraniki Association  
Katherine St Community Hub  
Kentish Lifelong Learning  
Larrakia Nation

Mental Illness Association NT  
Mission Australia  
NAAJA  
NT Shelter

Orange Sky Laundry Service  
Red Cross  
Salvation Army  
Share The Dignity

St John Ambulance NT  
Vanndale Transition  
**EDUCATION SUPPORTERS**  
Alawa Primary

Anula Primary  
ACPPA  
Catholic Education Office NT  
Good Start Early Learning

Holy Family Catholic Primary  
Holy Family OSHC  
Holy Spirit Catholic Primary  
Larrakeyah Primary

Ludmilla Primary  
MacKillop Catholic College  
Mother Teresa Catholic  
Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic  
O'Loughlin Catholic College

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary  
St Francis of Assisi Catholic  
St John's Catholic College  
St Paul's Catholic Primary  
Stuart Park Primary

### SPIRITUAL SUPPORTERS

Darwin Catholic Diocese  
Holy Family Church  
Holy Spirit Church  
Our Lady Help of Christians Church

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church

St Martin De Pores Church

St Mary's Church

St Paul's Church

St Francis Xavier Church

### PROUD SUPPORTERS

1041 Territory FM  
4WD & Camping Expo  
54 Reasons  
AKJ Services

All Shine  
APM Employment Services  
BDO

Brumby's Bakery Northlakes  
Colemans Printing  
Coles Casuarina  
Coolalinga Laksa

Cowdy House  
Darwin 97 Seven  
Darwin Patchworkers and Quilting Club  
Ernest and Young

Fannie Bay Gaol  
Fishing and Outdoor World  
Gateway Shopping Centre  
Hilton Darwin  
HOT 100 FM

Incite Solutions Group  
Italian Ladies Group  
iTravel Darwin  
Kaden Reid Photography

Kevin Crocodile Country  
Kmart casuarina  
Limitless Youth Group  
Mad Harry's

MELLOW Thai & Mo:Mo King  
MIX 104.9  
MAGNT  
Next Tier Entertainment

Not Just Nutrition  
NT News  
Oasis Shopping Centre

Off The Leash  
Ozanam Christmas Band  
Paspaley Pearls  
Pearl Retirement Village

Regis Tiwi Aged Care  
Renal Unit  
Richmond Wheels and Castors  
Sea Farers  
SeaLink

Silks Darwin  
SkyLine Attractions  
Woolies Nightcliff  
Woolworths Bakewell  
Woolworths Gateway

### NATIONAL SPONSORS

Amazon  
Asahi Lifestyle Beverages  
CEO Journal  
Company Director Magazine  
Grill'd

IGA  
Nakie  
Nine Network  
oOH! Media  
Sky News  
The Australia  
The CEO Institute  
Visy

### REST IN PEACE AND BE REMEMBERED

Hanne Lore Stamm  
Margaret & Jack Evens  
Margaret O'Loughlin

## OUR HISTORY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### OUR STORY

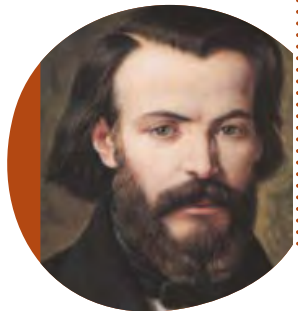


Vincent de Paul  
born in France

1581

1833

St Vincent de Paul  
Society founded  
by Frederic Ozanam  
-Paris



First Australian  
Conference  
founded  
in Victoria

1854

First Conference  
founded in  
Northern Territory  
-St Mary's Star of  
the Sea Darwin

1949

Centre of Charity  
opens  
-Stuart Park

1967

First regional  
Centre of Charity  
established  
-Alice Springs

1968



Ozanam House Day  
Centre established  
-Darwin

1974

Second regional  
Centre of Charity  
established  
-Tennant Creek

1975



Third regional  
Centre of Charity  
established  
-Katherine

1983

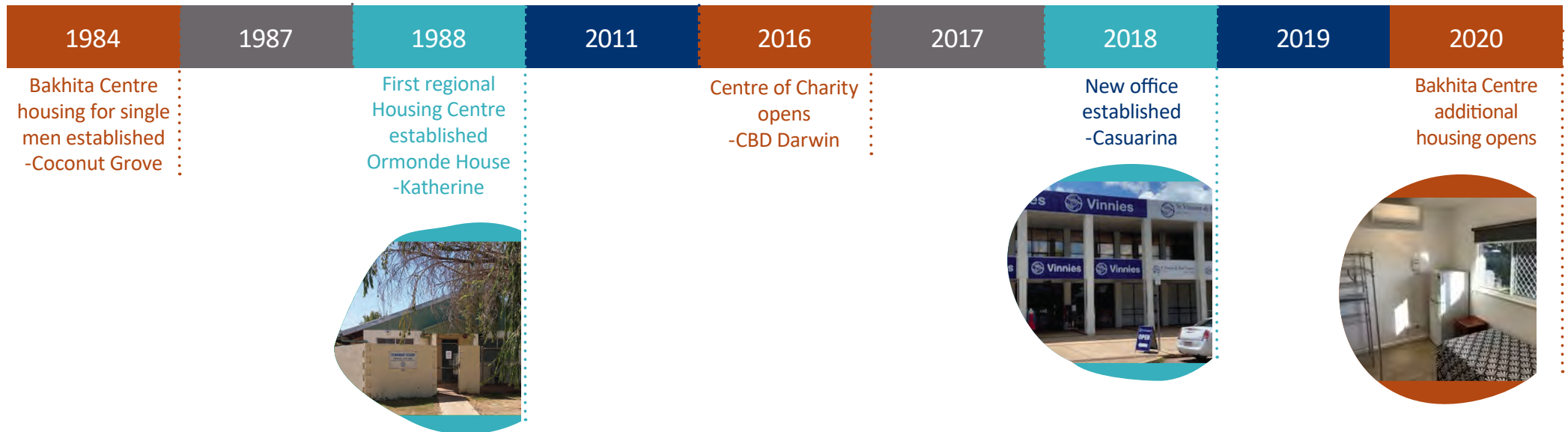
CONFERENCE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE USING THE ARCHIVES TO DOCUMENT THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE SOCIETY, OUR PAST EVENTS AND GOOD WORKS. THE ARCHIVES TEAM IS ARRANGING THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION ACCORDING TO ARCHIVAL BEST PRACTICE INCLUDING REHOUSING PAPER RECORDS, CATALOGUING AT BOX LEVEL, AND DIGITISING PHOTOGRAPHS, AIMING FOR THE COLLECTION TO BE DISCOVERABLE AND ACCESSIBLE. OUR SOCIETY ARCHIVES PROVIDE VALUABLE EVIDENCE OF OUR ORGANISATION'S ACTIVITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY, AS WELL AS OUR HISTORY AND IDENTITY.



Ted Collins Village  
housing for families  
established  
-Darwin

Centres of Charity  
opens  
-Coolalinga  
-Fannie Bay

Centre of Charity  
opens  
-Winnellie





**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
NORTHERN TERRITORY  
*good works*

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3 Bradshaw Terrace

Casuarina Northern Territory 0810

P: 08 8948 8100

E: [admin@svdpnt.org.au](mailto:admin@svdpnt.org.au)

W: [vinnies.org.au/nt](http://vinnies.org.au/nt)



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