



Always there, always ready

Annual Report

2020-2021



St Vincent de Paul Society
CANBERRA/GOULBURN
good works

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CANBERRA/GOULBURN

ABN: 16 732 852 554

Always there, always ready

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We pay respect to their cultures, Elders past, present and emerging, and we commit to working together for our shared future.

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 on our website www.vinnies.org.au/page/Policies/State_Policies/ACT_Privacy_Policy/

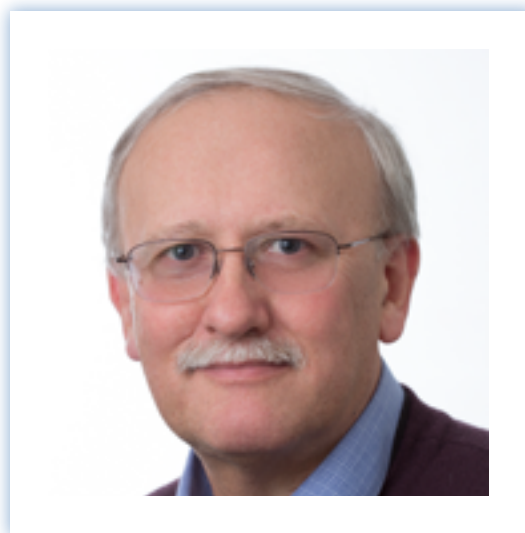
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President's message

John Feint,

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



Our resilience was further tested by the global pandemic in 2020-21, but our staff, members and volunteers continued to provide assistance to those in need, generously supported by our donors.

As well as giving a hand up to tens of thousands of vulnerable people, the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn met a number of milestones in line with our strategic objectives and goals.

We achieved Quality Improvement Council (QIC) accreditation, strengthening our position with funding bodies and ensuring we have best-practice policies and procedures around everything we do. We are also proud to have developed our Reconciliation Action Plan, that aims to renew and strengthen our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our region.

In 2020-21 we delivered our first ACT Government election statement, calling for key areas of reform around homelessness and support and justice for Indigenous families, migrants and refugees. Our Social Justice Group and Caritas Christi Migrant and Refugee Conference also advocated strongly in these areas and I offer my sincere thanks for the complex work they have carried out to date. We are respected and acknowledged for our views and are influencing local agendas pushing for social change.

Consistent with the Territory Council's targets to support shared understanding of the work and values of the Society, we published our newsletter, *The Companion*, and launched our SharePoint intranet. The Vinnies Collective lunchtime seminar series, which is a space for

employees, members, and volunteers to listen and engage with topics relevant to social justice and the broader society, returned following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

There was a renewed focus on our Vincentian Mission, Values and Spirituality, with a dedicated resource working to imbue the Society as a whole with these values. It was pleasing to see spiritual facilitators appointed in many conferences and regions.

A key focus of the Territory Council in 2020-21 has been moving from an Incorporated Community Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee, reflecting the maturing of our organisation and the need for governance structures that are appropriate for our size and complexity.

Operational performance across our retail centres and Special Works was exemplary in the most difficult of times. Our centres continued to be a major contributor to our financial sustainability and a beacon for our presence across the region.

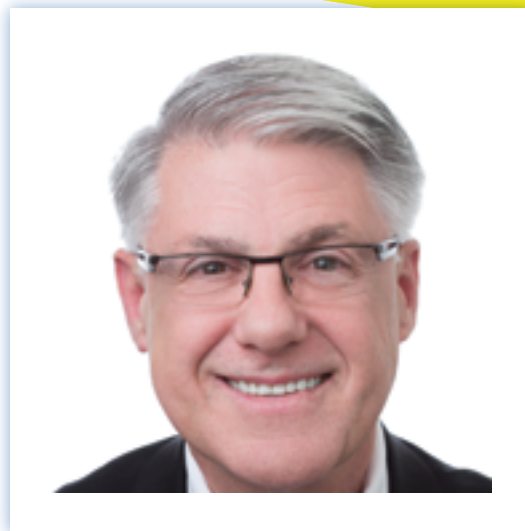
The CEO Sleepout raised more than \$1 million – setting a new record. This year the annual doorknock campaign was replaced by Vinnies Month in March. Its theme, Knock on Effect, saw conferences and centres across the region promoting our work, yielding new members, volunteers, and donations.

It has been quite a year and on behalf of our companions, I would like to thank our members, volunteers, staff and donors for your continuing dedication and support.

CEO report: Annual Review 2020-21

Barrie van Wyk,

CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society
Canberra/Goulburn



STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE

In the final year of our 2018-2022 strategic plan, it has been deeply satisfying to reflect on how the Society has been transformed over these past few years. While there have been challenges in certain areas, we have exceeded expectations across most areas of our operations.

CULTURE

An organisation needs great people and a strong and inclusive culture to be successful. At St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, our mission, vision, values and spirituality have supported us well in this regard. In May 2021, we received in-principle endorsement for our Reconciliation Action Plan, with our journey to a meaningful launch continuing. This plan affirms our commitment to equality and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people supported and employed by, or volunteering, with the Society.

COMMUNICATION

As a purpose-led organisation, engagement with our members, volunteers and employees is paramount. We are committed to open, transparent and consistent communications and have kept our companions, customers and communities informed and supported with relevant courses, electronic messaging, newsletters and online technologies throughout the COVID-19 journey. We are also well advanced in implementing our communications plan.

SOCIETY WORKS

We supported more than 40,000 vulnerable people in the past year – an incredible achievement. We are thankful to the sponsors, donors and communities who have helped us provide a hand up to our companions.

We delivered on all our grant and tender key performance indicators and received extensions on our contracts until June 2023. Three rounds of bushfire grants have been provided to rebuild communities, with outcomes ranging from safe spaces for children suffering trauma and a tool library to help with the rebuild efforts, to boundary fence replacement and more. We have appointed three new community development officers to help bushfire-impacted communities respond to future disasters.

PARTNERSHIPS

We led several initiatives at the corporate and operational level to advance our sustainability and environmental agenda and strengthen program support and business resilience. Of note are collaborations with Geocon, Canberra Toyota and the Fyshwick Business Association.



ADVOCACY

I shared the chairperson position with the CEO of Comms@Work during Anti-Poverty Week, providing clear messaging, with the assistance of University of Canberra students, on the need to focus on housing first. This was amplified by our ACT election statement referencing homelessness, social housing, family support and the rights of First Nations people.

We also continued our advocacy around climate change and improving sustainability – in particular ensuring that social housing is suitable for residents and that tenants will not be negatively impacted by declining health or driven into poverty by the cost of utilities.

Our work campaigning for the humane treatment of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers through the Caritas Christi Conference and our participation in the Palm Sunday rally continued in 2020-21.

SUSTAINABILITY

In 2020-21 we processed about three million kilograms of clothing through our Vinnies centres. We continued to seek opportunities to reduce waste to landfill and are progressing well with plans to expand the sorting and storage capability of our Mitchell warehouse by the end of 2023.

We supported ACT Government initiatives through our Actsmart Home Energy Efficiency Program, helping people on low incomes, those in poverty or who are at risk of homelessness. In the past year the program has delivered 873

home energy assessments, installed 1,159 sets of curtains, 121 energy efficient fridges, provided 290 wool doonas and referred 59 households to the ACT Property Heater Upgrade Program. We are also well under way with solar installations on qualifying centres, which will reduce our carbon emissions.

OUR PEOPLE

Safe workplaces are our priority, and in 2020-21 we updated our risk management framework. We recorded fewer workplace injuries, and promoted diversity, inclusion and wellbeing in all our workplaces – supporting opportunities for employees to enhance their performance and advance their careers.

A Mentally Healthy Workplace Action Plan has been initiated in consultation with employees and we have leveraged the findings of the 2019 Communication Workshop and 2020 Employee Engagement Survey, providing our employees with additional resources, training options and support.

We have reshaped our organisational footprint to support our 18 programs and bolstered our People and Culture area with additional resources and capability.

On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn executive team, I extend a heartfelt thanks for a most memorable year. I applaud the dedication of all our members, volunteers and employees and the enormous contribution of our sponsors, donors and stakeholders. Finally, I would like to thank the Territory Council for their continued guidance and support.

Spiritual reflection

John Vance,

Director of Mission and Spirituality

Always there, always ready.

We are living in extraordinary times requiring an extraordinary response makes the theme of this year's annual report – Always there, always ready – entirely appropriate.

The impact of drought, ongoing recovery from the Black Summer Bushfires, floods on the NSW South Coast and of course the devastating global pandemic have placed an incredible burden on everybody this past year.

But in the midst of this sadness, turmoil, loss and uncertainty we have continued to draw on our Vincentian spirit to bring comfort, hope and joy to those experiencing hardship.

Being ready to offer a helping hand to companions has been the Society's focus since 1833. Our tradition of support has provided people with the necessities of life, including shelter for themselves and their families. We support those in any form of need because 'no work of charity is foreign to the St Vincent de Paul Society'*.

The pages of our 2020-21 Annual Report are a testament to the incredible generosity of the many people helping the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn to support



our companions. Whether it's giving freely of their time, providing monetary assistance or supporting others through their hard work, Vincentian service is demonstrated here in all its forms.

These good people include members, volunteers, employees, benefactors, first responders, medical workers – even neighbours who make sure those around them are safe.

Their good works are the embodiment of the Society's values of compassion, advocacy, respect, integrity, courage, empathy and commitment.

Pope Francis equates this willingness to serve to that of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper because, he says, to put oneself in the service of others is to love as Christ does.

The Rule of the Society calls this 'blest work' because it aims to alleviate suffering and deprivation by supporting our companions' human dignity and personal integrity. This is at the very heart of the St Vincent de Paul Society's Mission and Vision.

*The Rule 1.32. The Rule 1.33. Vatican News May 2020

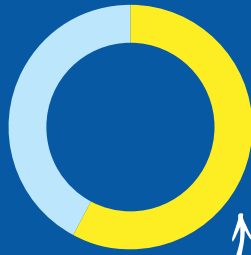
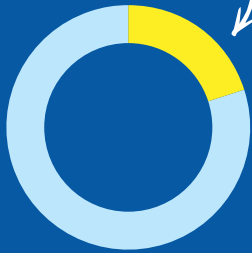


Why we help

More than 116,000 Australians are homeless on any given night

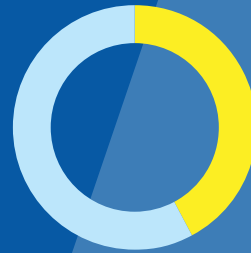
For every person living on the streets, 13 more experience other forms of homelessness

20% of people experiencing homelessness identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



Almost 60% of people experiencing homelessness are under the age of 35

42% of clients of specialist homelessness services have experienced family or domestic violence



More than 1 in 8 Australian children live below the poverty line (739,000 children)



Almost 26,000 Canberrans live below the poverty line

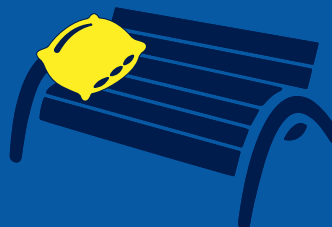


JobSeeker provides recipients with **\$310 a week**, but the median weekly rent in Canberra is **\$500 for a unit and \$630 for a house**



There is a shortage of **3100 social housing** properties in the ACT

1596 people are homeless in the ACT, a 69% increase since 2001



370 Canberrans live in severely overcrowded dwellings

Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021). *Find Census data*. Available at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2019). *Homelessness and homelessness services*. Available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-welfare/homelessness-and-homelessness-services>

Parliament of Australia. (n.d.). *Final report*. Available at: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/HomelessnessinAustralia/Report

Thomas, D.M. and Hall, A. (2015). *Housing affordability in Australia*. Available at: https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BriefingBook45p/HousingAffordability

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 Frederic 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

We are a values-led organisation and operate within the context of seven core values: courage, respect, compassion, advocacy, integrity, empathy and commitment.

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



OUR MEMBERS

Our 610 members determine our strategic direction, provide support to companions and guide the effective delivery of our programs and services to those in need.

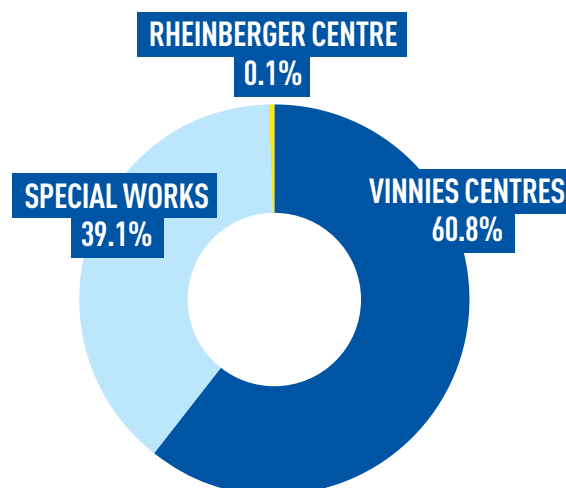
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our 1582 volunteers give freely of their skills and abilities across the breadth of the Society.

OUR EMPLOYEES

Our 181 employees are the smallest component of our workforce yet provide a robust operational skill base in areas of general management, finance, IT, marketing, fundraising, retail and governance to enable our good works.

VINNIES WORKFORCE COMPOSITION:



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.



Education services



Centres



Mental health services



Community outreach



Youth programs



Homelessness services



School engagement



Emergency relief



Social justice advocacy

Governance

Michelle Colefax,

Acting Deputy CEO

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn operates under The Rule approved by the International Council General of The Society in Paris and the National Council in Australia.

The core of the Society is the conference – a group of members, or Vincentians, who live out their faith by helping those in need in our community. The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn has 610 members in 51 conferences offering people in crisis a hand up, not just a hand out.

Conferences may be established within any community, such as a parish, town, suburb, school, university, workplace, ethnic or social group. Through their local conferences members work at a grassroots level, visiting people in need in their homes, or interviewing them in our centres to determine the best ways to provide support.

Special conferences are formed to address particular needs, including issues impacting youth and young adults, migrants and refugees, and spirituality.

Each conference elects a president, and these presidents together form a regional council. There are six regional councils in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese. A Vice President for Conferences, Training and Development provides high-level support for conference work, and is supported by the Director of Mission and Spirituality and Manager, Conference Support.

Three of our conferences are youth and young adult-oriented. Two focus on youth holiday camps, supporting young people. The third comprises students from the Australian National University (ANU). The three conferences are supported by a Vice President for Youth and Young Adults.

The governing body for the Society in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese is the Territory Council, made up of the six regional presidents, plus a Territory Council president, vice presidents, treasurer, and spiritual advisor. The Council is advised by a legal counsel, twinning coordinator,



social justice and advocacy coordinator, and the CEO. The president of the council is elected by council members.

The council meets five times a year, and a number of sub-committees formed by members and external experts meet regularly and provide guidance to The Council on matters such as audit, risk, finance and social justice.

The CEO manages all employees and business operations for the Society, and reports to the Territory Council. The CEO is responsible for providing input to, and implementing, the Territory Council's strategic plan. The current public officer is the Chief Financial Officer and the Director Secretariat is responsible for the Society's governance framework.

The Society can undertake Special Works – the largest being our 27 Vinnies centres. The centres are managed by a Director of Commercial Operations who oversees area managers and retail managers.

Other Special Works focus on services that require professional staff and full-time support and cannot easily be managed under the conference model. There are 18 other Special Works programs managed by the Director of Community Engagement and supported by a vice president.

The Society is incorporated as an association under the ACT Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and holds a subsidiary company limited by shares under the Corporations Act 2001. The Territory Council has identified that a single Company Limited by Guarantee would be the most appropriate legal entity for the Society and is taking steps to achieve this structure.

Operations

Kailee Fisher,

Business Operations Manager

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL (QIC) ACCREDITATION

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/ Goulburn achieved Quality Improvement Council (QIC) Health and Community Services accreditation in April 2021.

QIC accreditation is awarded to organisations that meet the QIC Health and Community Services Standards 7th Edition and demonstrate ongoing continuous improvements.

The Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) team conducted an audit of more than 680 of the Society's documents in December 2020. Of the 92 indicators in the standard, 89 were met, with corrective actions against the remaining three completed within the three-month rectification timeframe. These included:

Indicator 1.6 – Risk management

- Develop a risk appetite statement and risk management framework
- Revise the Society's risk register
- Strengthen the Society's home visit procedure

Indicator 2.2 – Human resources

- Revise the Society's supervision policies
- Create supervision templates, audit tools and schedule

Indicator – 2.3 Information management

- Improve case file writing consistency
- Create methods to monitor case file quality

Accreditation is reviewed every three years and work is under way across five streams (compliance, governance, risk, people and culture and knowledge management) to prepare for the next accreditation round in 2024.

Elizabeth Heath,
Project Manager

SOLAR POWER PROJECT

The Territory Council in February 2021 approved an exciting new project to install solar power systems at a number of Vinnies locations.

This ambitious venture will deliver annual electricity cost savings of about \$60,000 for at least 10 years and generate up to \$8,000 a year through Network Input Tariffs. As well as the financial gains, the Society's carbon footprint will be reduced by about 300 tonnes per annum, or 3,000 tonnes over the first decade.

Seventeen of our retail premises have been selected for the program according to their suitability for solar installation, including four sites in the ACT and thirteen in New South Wales.

This project aligns with all of the Society's sustainability strategic goals, including:

- Income is diversified
- Operations are efficient
- Property assets are utilised as a source of income and commercial profit
- New and updated technologies are applied to best meet our quality and compliance needs
- Fiscal responsibility is exercised
- Environmental responsibility is a significant focus

The project is also strongly aligned with our financial KPIs and supports the Society's significant commitment to the use of renewable energy sources and reducing its carbon footprint.



MITCHELL WAREHOUSE PROJECT

The Territory Council also approved the refurbishment and expansion of our Mitchell warehouse, which will not only increase the size of the warehouse, but the volume of donations that can be processed.

Manual handling risks will be reduced, with old equipment replaced and existing warehouse, office and staff areas upgraded to create an improved work environment. As part of the project, the retail centre at Mitchell will be relocated to a separate, larger premises.

This project aligns with the following sustainability strategic goals:

- Operations are efficient
- Property assets are utilised as a source of income and commercial profit
- New and updated technologies are applied to best meet our quality and compliance needs
- Fiscal responsibility is exercised
- Environmental responsibility is a significant focus

This project also aligns with our people strategic goals including:

- Competent, engaged and effective members, volunteers and employees
- A positive organisational culture, aligned to the vision, mission and values

The project is strongly aligned with our financial KPIs and enables the Society to make a significant commitment to the welfare of employees and volunteers, while creating operational capacity for years to come.

A year in review





- Bushfire recovery Community Grants Program launched



- St Joe's Day Camps

SEP 20

- Housing is a Human Right online petition published



- Vinnies ACT election statement published

- Frederic Ozanam's Feast Day

- St Vincent de Paul's Feast Day



- National Op Shop Week

- Governor General visits Oaks Estate

OCT 20

- Thread Together Clothing Hub@Vinnies launch in Eden

- Batemans Bay, Bega, Bombala, Braidwood, Cooma, Eden, Merimbula, Moruya and Tumut Conferences and the Bushfire Taskforce win Volunteer Team of the Year in the NSW Southern Inland region

- Anti-Poverty Week live panel



- First Community Development Officer appointed in Bega Valley

- Hands Up for Knock on Effect

- Protest Against Poverty – Vinnies CG continue to advocate for #RaiseTheRate

- Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees

MAR 21

- Vinnies Day at ANU John XXIII College

- Harmony Day Celebration

- Canberra Raiders 50/50 charity raffle for Knock On Effect appeal



- Canberra Toyota Matched Giving Day for Knock On Effect

- Compeer's Story Through Art Exhibition at Rheinberger Centre

- St Joe's Day Camp

- Strategic direction meeting for members, volunteers and employees

MAY 21

- Build It Up South of Eden bushfire recovery event in Kiah

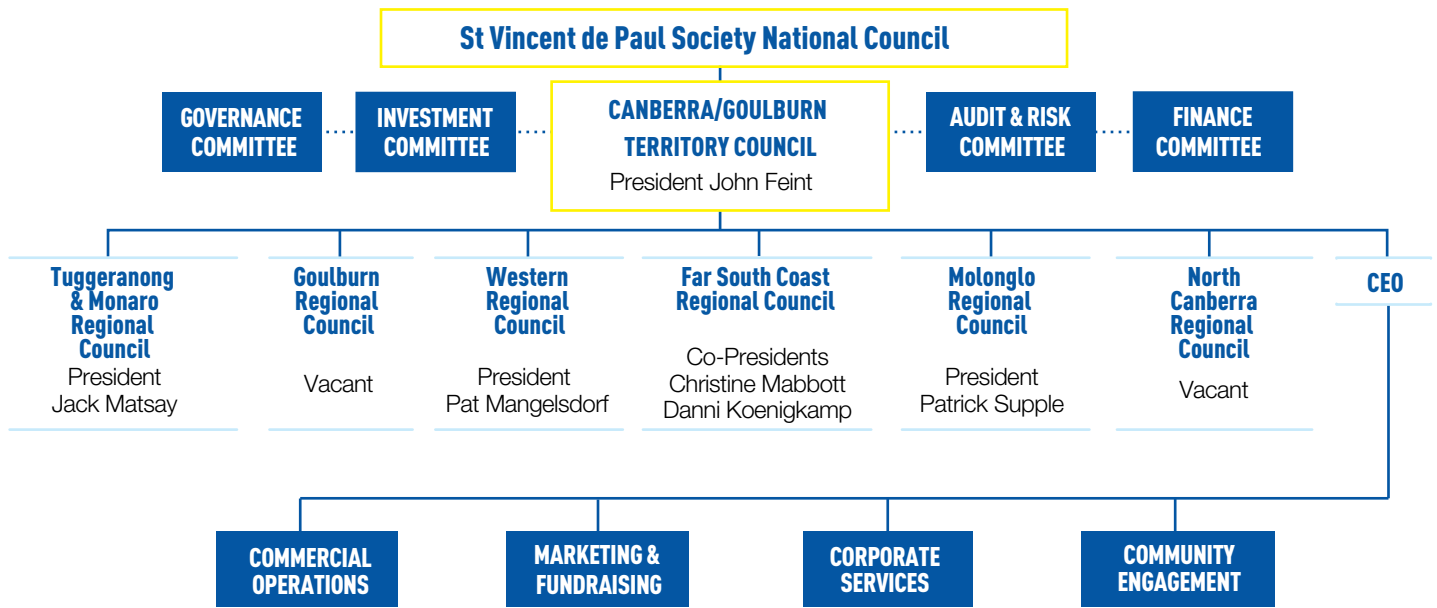
- QIP accreditation

APR 21

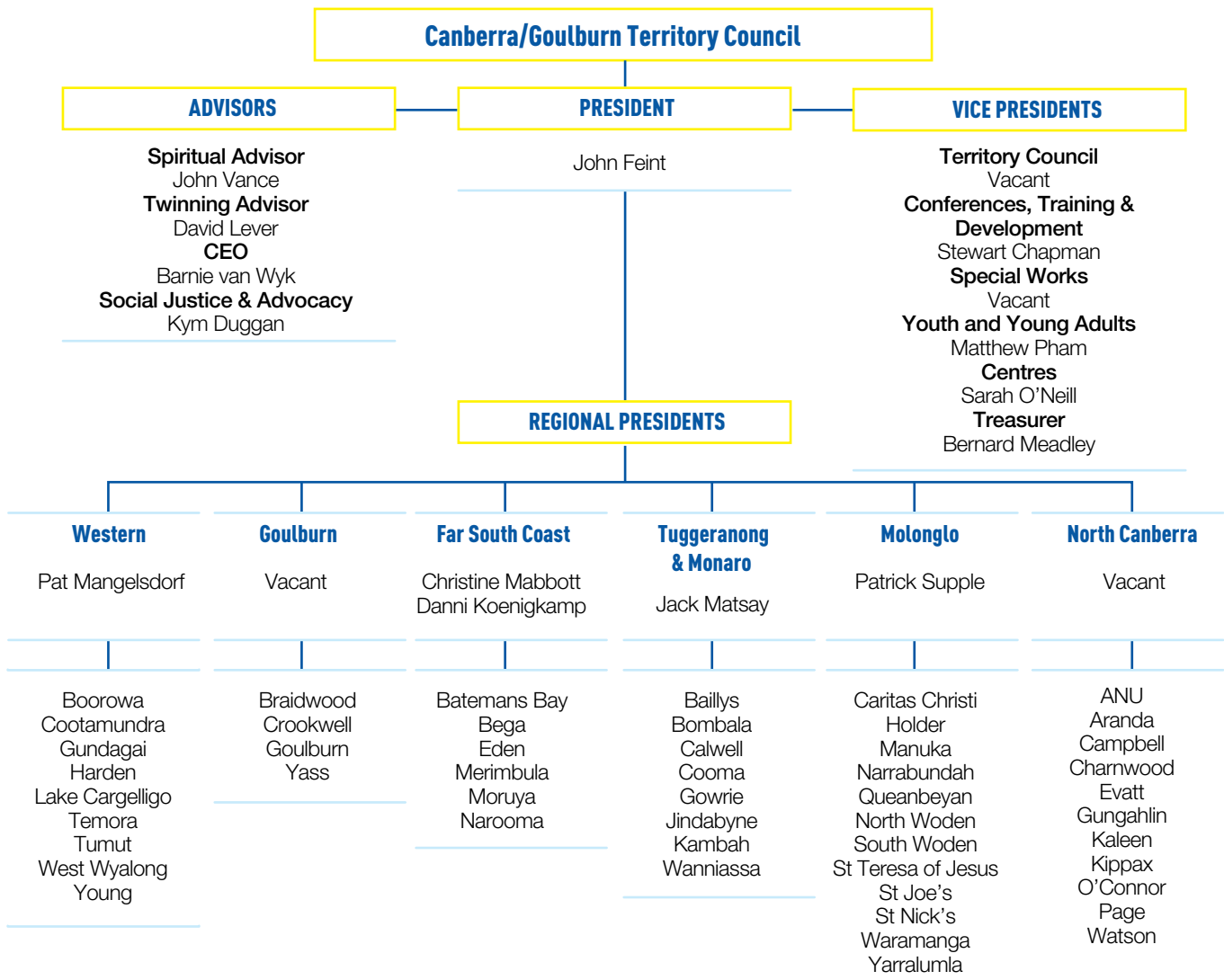
- First Pop-Up Op Shop at University of Canberra



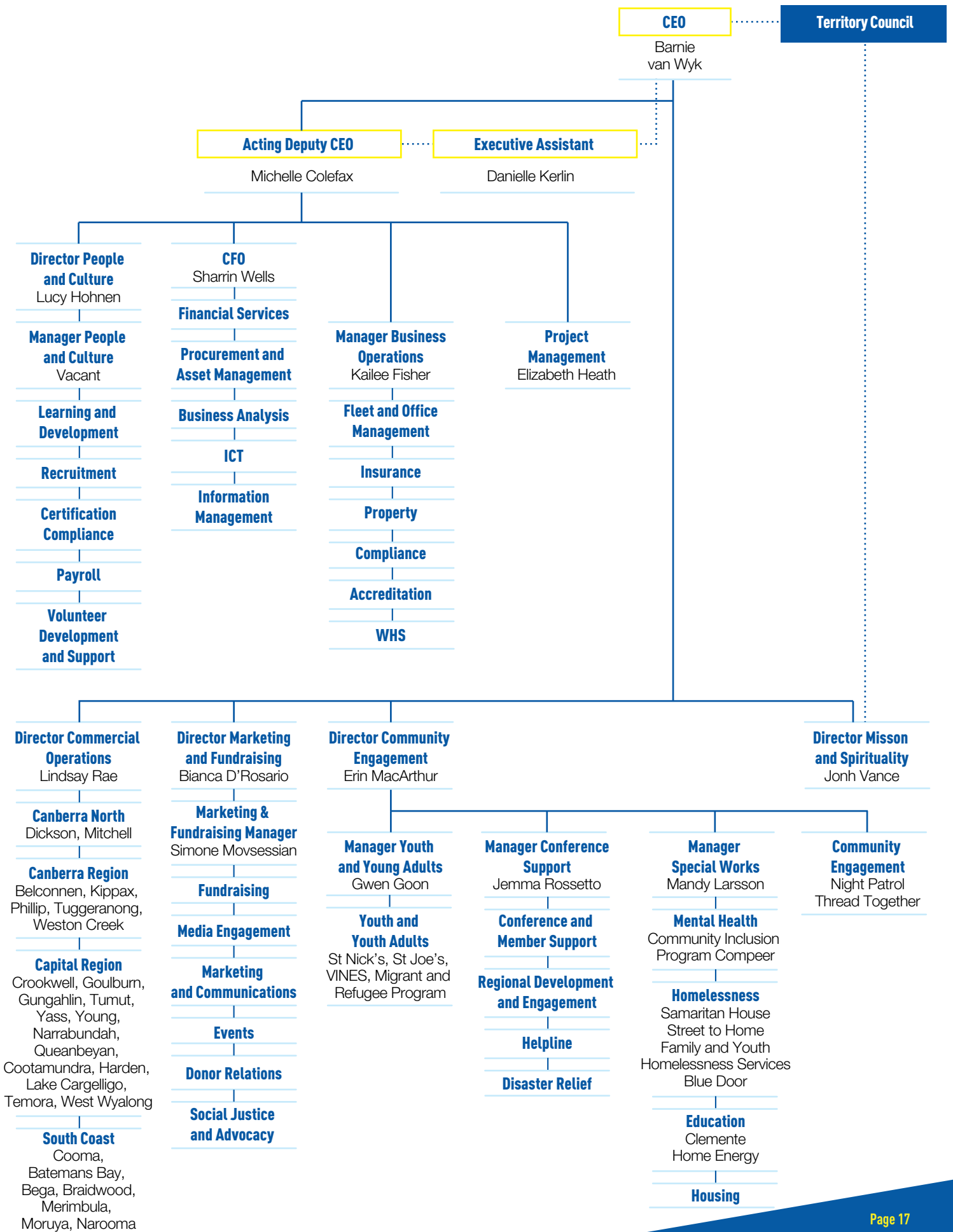
Governance Structure



Conference Organisational Chart



Employee Structure



Conferences across Canberra/ Goulburn

Stewart Chapman,

Vice President, Conferences, Training and Development

Conferences made up the core work of the St Vincent De Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn in 2020-21, though COVID-19 had a significant impact on the way we were able to operate.

While the initial impact of the pandemic began to ease in late 2020, a second wave and a new variant of the virus wrought havoc on communities once again in 2021. COVID-19 affected the work of our conferences in three respects:

- Visits to companions had to be carried out with limited contact
- The number of members who could lend assistance was restricted
- Many conferences had to meet online, and less frequently

While the digital format of conferences proved effective and productive, social visits to companions were limited, with vouchers having to be delivered to mailboxes or left at the front door. COVID-19 is likely to have an ongoing impact on the community in terms of poverty and mental health issues.

This year saw the introduction of the Knock On Effect campaign as an alternative to the annual Vinnies Doorknock Appeal. The campaign raised much-needed funds and gave us an opportunity to demonstrate the broad range of support the Society offers.

There was high demand for emergency food relief through vouchers and hampers this year, with requests totalling almost \$1 million. The Far South Coast region provided the most assistance in this regard, largely due to the continued recovery from the 2019-20 bushfires and the high number of itinerant companions in that region.

Fewer companions were supported in 2020-21 compared with the previous year, but it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions given the COVID-19 impact. There was increased complexity in the situations faced by some companions, including those returning to the community after imprisonment or people with immigration or visa issues. The percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander companions needing help was disproportionately high, and about 65% of assistance was provided to female companions.

Homelessness continues to be a major issue not only in Canberra but across the Archdiocese. The causes are often complex, and long-term remedies difficult to implement. To further support the homeless, the St Vincent de Paul Society will deliver rental assistance and short-stay accommodation through our conferences, which are often the first point of contact for companions experiencing homelessness.

A challenge for the Society is that some areas are struggling to maintain membership numbers. Exploring new ways for conferences of all sizes to function, and having them work more closely together, is critical to increasing membership. Director Mission and Spirituality John Vance continues to focus on renewing the spiritual aspects of the conferences.

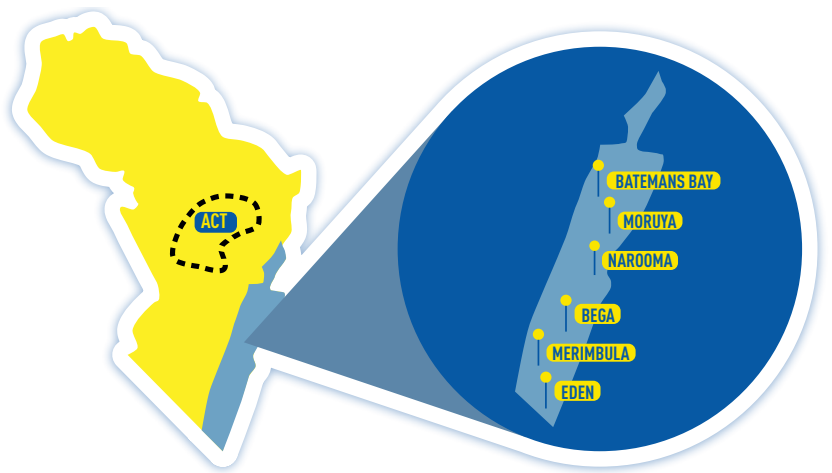
A huge thank you to the Conference Support Team, including the Helpline led by Jemma Rossetto, for their tremendous efforts this year. 2020-21 saw the creation of a new structure, with the coming together of the Conference Support unit and the Special Works unit under Erin MacArthur to better assist companions. Our IT team deserves special mention, too, for providing much-needed equipment and services, particularly in rural areas.

Finally, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the parishes, centres and community groups for their immense support and generous donations made to our various appeals throughout the year.



Far South Coast Region

*Christine Mabbott
& Danni Koenigkamp*



It was another challenging year for the Far South Coast community, and our conferences continued to provide companions with material, financial and emotional assistance. Care packages were distributed to those who needed them and, over Christmas, we had hamper vouchers and toys ready.

With the safety of our members and companions in mind, some interviews were conducted by phone and the use of face masks, hand sanitiser, social distancing and QR code check-ins became the norm for our conferences.

Eden Conference was kept busy with the Thread Together Clothing Hub@Vinnies and has been working well with the new Community Development Officer (CDO). Companions affected by the bushfires got together for a community barbecue at Kiah, which was very well received.

Merimbula Conference applied for ClubGRANTS funding for Merimbula and Eden for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Bega Conference held a barbecue that raised \$200 for people experiencing homelessness in the area, with food donated by Coles Bega. Bega also applied to ClubGRANTS for the Christmas Appeal.

Some other successful events included a Mother's Day raffle, and a donation drive, where businesses and local residents were asked to donate blankets to the cause. Narooma Conference successfully commissioned new and existing members, and has applied for ClubGRANTS funding which, if won, will be shared with Batemans Bay and Moruya.

Moruya Conference continued to hold its monthly barbecues at the caravan park and has connected with OZ Harvest to combine efforts for the community. Batemans Bay Conference has maintained its good works, supporting vulnerable members of society.

Throughout our work across the Far South Coast it has been incredibly rewarding to see the hand up principle in action. By supporting our companions with their basic needs, we are giving them the opportunity to improve their lives, so they can reach a point where they no longer need our help.

The numbers...



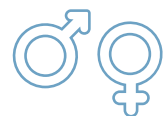
TOTAL MEMBERS:
73



INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:
5,404



PRIMARY COMPANIONS:
1,740



%MALE/%FEMALE
44/56



**ABORIGINAL/
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS:**
25%



MAIN ASSISTANCE SOUGHT:
FOOD, BUSHFIRE RELIEF,
TRAVEL



ASSISTANCE IN CASH*:
\$611,737

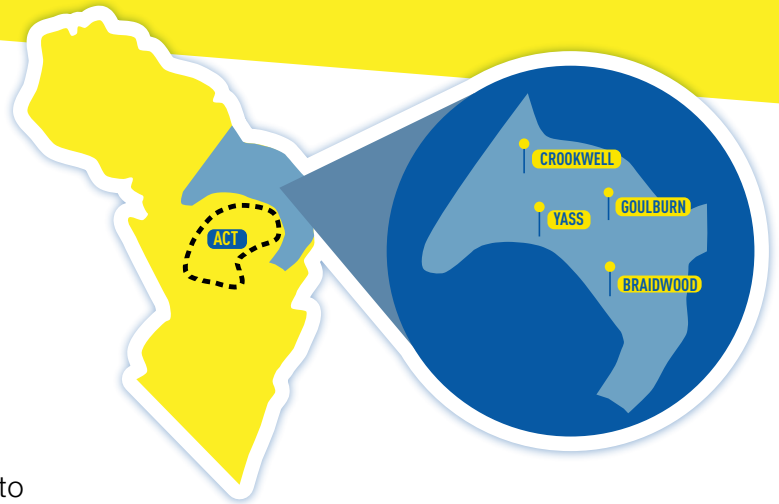


ASSISTANCE IN KIND*:
\$134,532

*INCLUDES BUSHFIRE RELIEF

Goulburn Region

Wendy Wise



Goulburn Region conference members had to think differently in order to carry out their good works in 2020-21. The Goulburn Conference continued to provide family and single packs of food to companions. As well as groceries, they ordered bulk supplies of meat, which were frozen and added to packs before distribution. Generous local bakeries donated bread and pies, which were also frozen until needed.

Although considerable work was involved in creating food packs, this approach was preferred to food vouchers, in the hope there would always be food in the cupboard for children. Petrol assistance was provided mainly to companions who had to attend medical appointments, and clothing vouchers were distributed where necessary.

For this year's Winter Appeal, the Goulburn Conference spoke about their good works at each Mass, and a retiring collection was held. The conference provided regular updates on their work through the Parish Bulletin and spoke at schools when invited to do so.

The Yass Conference assisted people across the Yass Valley including Binalong, Bowning, Galong, Gunning, Murrumbateman and other nearby locations. Most of the requests from companions were for food and Christmas hampers.

During 20/21, the Braidwood Conference mainly provided emergency relief in the form of food and fuel vouchers to people in need. Crookwell Conference provided food relief to those experiencing hardship in their local community.

Goulburn, Yass and Braidwood Conferences were able to arrange EAPA assistance for those struggling to pay gas and electricity accounts, switching to over-the-phone assessments for part of the year to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

People in the Goulburn region were very generous in supporting our conferences, with schools in particular working hard during the Winter Appeal and donating to our Christmas hampers.

The numbers...



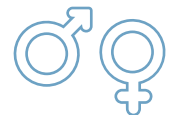
TOTAL MEMBERS:
42



INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:
2,306



PRIMARY COMPANIONS:
567



%MALE/%FEMALE
41/59



**ABORIGINAL/
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS:**
14%



MAIN ASSISTANCE SOUGHT:
FOOD, UTILITIES,
TRAVEL



**ASSISTANCE
IN CASH*:**
\$102,127



**ASSISTANCE
IN KIND*:**
\$72,767

*INCLUDES BUSHFIRE RELIEF

Molonglo Region

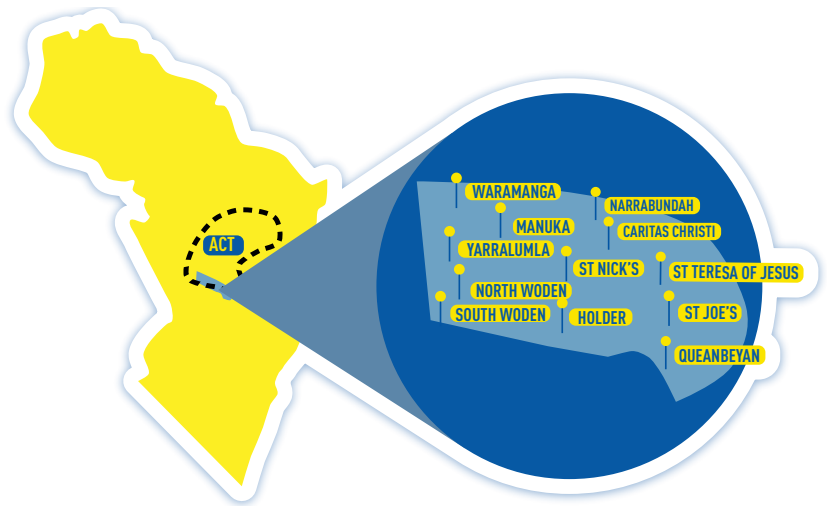
Patrick Supple

In 2020-21 we continued our strong engagement with refugee support groups, holding monthly meetings with the leaders of Canberra Refugee Support, Companion House and Caritas Christi. We have combined our efforts to support 12 families and nearly 90 individuals seeking asylum, who received little or no support from the Federal Government.

As part of the Australian PNG Advisory Committee's effort to build stronger internet contact with PNG conferences, we had one WhatsApp contact with a conference president on Manus Island.

A conference member is bringing together a group of Catholics in the Canberra region who are concerned about the refugee issue. The purpose is to support the national 150 Days of Action campaign, culminating in action on Sunday 26 September, the Catholic Church's World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Molonglo Region conference members took their turn at staffing the Bunnings barbecue at the Fyshwick store.



The numbers...



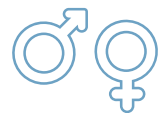
TOTAL MEMBERS:
120



INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:
4,457



PRIMARY COMPANIONS:
966



%MALE/%FEMALE
35/65



ABORIGINAL/TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS:
22%



MAIN ASSISTANCE SOUGHT:
FOOD, TRAVEL, UTILITIES



ASSISTANCE IN CASH*:
\$229,543

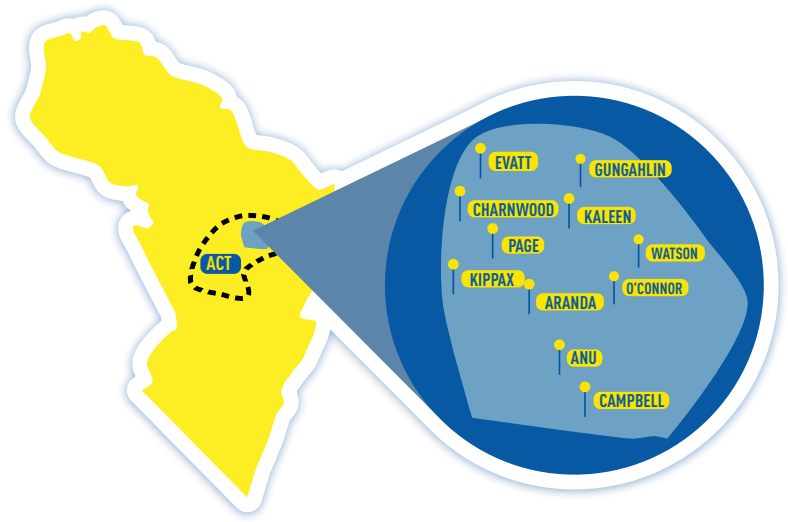


ASSISTANCE IN KIND*:
\$126,021

*INCLUDES BUSHFIRE RELIEF

North Canberra Region

Ted Smith



The major activity for North Canberra conferences in 2020-21 was home visits to companions in need. With the introduction of the Australian Government's Jobseeker and Jobkeeper allowances, the call for our assistance was down on the previous year, and much of our support was in providing emergency food and clothing.

We were again helped by local food pantries who offered food at a reduced cost, and the Canberra Relief Network. Parishes and local schools, through Mini Vinnies, also donated non-perishable food and winter clothes, for which we offer our warmest thanks.

Some of those we assisted in 2020-21 were dealing with mental health issues. For these companions, we focused on supporting them in their current situation with furniture and white goods, help with medical expenses, utility costs and the like, while other organisations provided the professional mental health support they needed.

We continued to work hard to help the homeless – some of the most vulnerable in our society – but struggled to make a fundamental difference. Where beneficial, we referred people to Care financial counselling service for budgeting help, and to other organisations for specialist assistance. The increase in Jobkeeper and Jobseeker allowance saw a decrease in referrals in 2020-21.

Beyond addressing the immediate needs of our companions, we remained committed to helping them achieve a better quality of life for the long term. I acknowledge the dedication of our members and the generous gift of their time to help make this happen.

In previous years North Canberra conferences have undertaken a number of additional support activities but these had to be suspended in 2020-21 due to the pandemic. Activities put on hold included support for Blue Door at Ainslie Village, fruit and vegetable runs from Belconnen Market, and bread runs from Baker's Delight.

Christmas hampers were delivered with the support of Rotary and schools, and we were able to continue to support Karinya House for mums and bubs.

The numbers...



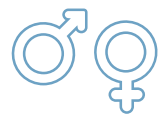
TOTAL MEMBERS:
193



INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:
6,531



PRIMARY COMPANIONS:
1,113



%MALE/%FEMALE
35/65



ABORIGINAL/TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS:
16%



MAIN ASSISTANCE SOUGHT:
FOOD, TRAVEL, CLOTHING



ASSISTANCE IN CASH*:
\$228,096

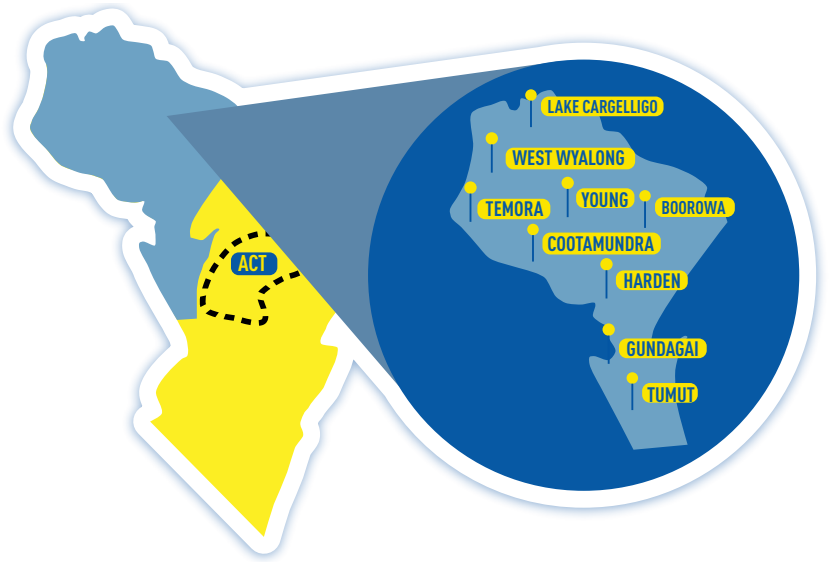


ASSISTANCE IN KIND*:
\$91,971

*INCLUDES BUSHFIRE RELIEF

Western Region

Pat Mangelsdorf



Western Region conference members had to think differently in order to carry out their good works in 2020-21. Regional meeting venues were shared around to alleviate the travel burden, with host locations including Young, Temora, West Wyalong and Cootamundra.

conferences continues to proactively seek unselfish, compassionate, non-judgmental people as new recruits, including getting youngsters involved through Mini Vinnies.

Much of our work giving a hand up to companions focused on providing food or food vouchers, covering pharmacy costs, and distributing \$25 Vinnies vouchers for clothing, household items and furniture. We also helped cover petrol costs so companions could access medical services outside their areas.

An increased number of companions sought help with electricity and gas bills, and our conference members were able to explain the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) vouchers available to them.

We also helped companions with one-off part-payments for car registration, third-party insurance, phone bills, work boots and uniforms. Early in the financial year, West Wyalong Conference was heavily involved in drought relief, while Tumut Conference was focused on helping those affected by the bushfires.

The financial assistance and provision of staff and volunteers by the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce provided invaluable help to those in bushfire-affected areas. Vinnies was provided with, or purchased, gift cards for IGA, Coles and Woolworths. These, along with donations of cards from shires across our region, enabled us to further assist the worst-affected families.

While our conference members may be getting older, their enthusiasm for giving companions a hand up has not diminished. Each of our

The numbers...



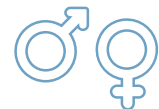
TOTAL
74



INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:
2,669



PRIMARY COMPANIONS:
817



%MALE/%FEMALE
40/60



**ABORIGINAL/
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS:**
16%



MAIN ASSISTANCE SOUGHT:
FOOD, BUSHFIRE RELIEF, CLOTHING



ASSISTANCE IN CASH*:
\$213,025



ASSISTANCE IN KIND*:
\$94,441

*INCLUDES BUSHFIRE RELIEF

Tuggeranong and Monaro Region

Bob Wilson

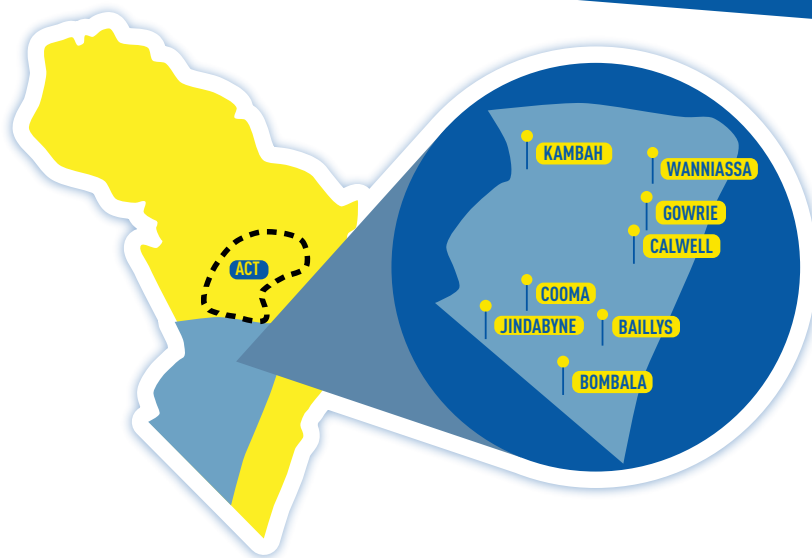
COVID-19 had a considerable impact on activities in 2020-21, with many Tuggeranong and Monaro conferences having to curtail their operations to comply with restrictions. Despite this, our work continued, including the delivery of 233 Christmas hampers by our six conferences.

We made the most of these challenging times to engage in closer cooperation with organisations providing similar services and placed a greater emphasis on spiritual growth and what it means to be a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Conference members attended a course on mental health, wellbeing and resilience, resulting in very positive feedback.

Cooma Conference wrestled with the problem of affordable accommodation as the Snowy 2.0 project put pressure on housing in that town, doing their best to assist.

Among good news was a long-term companion gaining full-time employment. He acknowledged how supportive the Society had been in advocating for his success.

Another lovely example of a hand up provided by one of our conferences was the gentleman in his 80s who was living alone after his wife was admitted to a nursing home suffering from dementia. Having been together for more than 30 years, the separation was devastating for both of them. The conference obtained a government-funded Home Care Package for the gentleman, which provides daily care and weekly transport so he can visit his wife, while having his own serious health needs met.



The numbers...



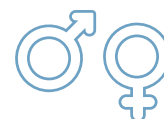
TOTAL
108



INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:
2,879



PRIMARY COMPANIONS:
569



%MALE/%FEMALE
34/66



**ABORIGINAL/
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS:**
19%



MAIN ASSISTANCE SOUGHT:
FOOD, TRAVEL AND CLOTHING



**ASSISTANCE
IN CASH*:**
\$127,565



**ASSISTANCE
IN KIND*:**
\$61,574

*INCLUDES BUSHFIRE RELIEF



Case study

Conferences

Kellie was recovering from major pancreatic surgery when she was told she had to move out of her Merimbula home.

Just a week after leaving hospital, she was forced to pack her two children, her pets and her meagre belongings into her car and find somewhere else to live.

Having quickly spent all her money on their urgent needs, including short-term hotel accommodation in an effort to recover properly from her operation, Kellie headed to Vinnies seeking help.

She and the children were moved into a community housing group, but then Kellie suffered another setback – her pension was cut when her son was no longer of eligible age, meaning paying for everyday essentials such as food and electricity became almost impossible.

Vinnies stepped in again, covering the cost of power and food. They also provided Kellie's family with a Christmas hamper to make sure the kids didn't go without.

“I've had a couple of tough stints and Vinnies really helped me,” says Kellie. “I gradually got back on my feet – I've got a part-time job, go to the gym regularly and can afford to buy things now.”

Kellie says the type of support Vinnies offered was pivotal in turning her life around.

“They taught me how to budget, get back into the workforce, be an everyday person and not worry about the stressors of the everyday bills and food,” Kellie says. “Vinnies helped me step up to the plate. I'd still be in major debt without their help.”

Now Kellie is back on her feet, she says she can look after herself and let Vinnies focus on helping others who need them more.

“I have a beautiful unit, I'm in front with my bills, and I have great friendships, including all the people at Vinnies,” she says.

Kellie says nobody should be afraid to ask for help if they need it. “Vinnies is there to help you help yourself. Anyone is welcome – even if you just want a cuppa or somebody to talk to.”

She urged those with the means to donate or offer financial support to help Vinnies carry out their important work.

“The donations mean a massive amount to people who don't have anything, especially this year. Every little bit helps and there are so many disadvantaged children who wouldn't get anything at Christmas without Vinnies,” she says.

Bushfire recovery and assistance

Ray Akhurst,

Bushfire Recovery Coordinator

More than 18 months after Australia was ravaged by bushfires, there is still considerable suffering and hardship in our region.

While some people are working on re-establishing their lives and livelihoods, others remain too traumatised to make plans beyond the immediate future.

A Bushfire Taskforce was established as the fires raged to help process applications for assistance. The taskforce comprised members of the Territory Council who had spent time in recovery centres and had first-hand experience dealing with companions impacted by the fires. The taskforce continues to oversee the roll-out of recovery activities, with one of its members responsible for coordinating the Society's recovery activities with support from the Disaster Relief Coordinator.

After offering immediate material support and a sympathetic ear to those affected by the fires, the Society began providing direct cash grants. Initially, the grant allocation was broadly based but given the huge demand, Bushfire Appeal funds had to be prioritised for those who had lost their homes. We continue to make grants of \$3,000 as bushfire survivors are identified. As of 30 June 2021, \$4.8 million has been distributed.

Another component of our emergency relief activities was the distribution of \$1,000 grants provided by the Department of Social Services (DSS) for people living or working in bushfire-impacted zones. These were provided in cash up to November 2020, with the remaining

funds, required to be spent by December 31st, converted to supermarket cards and offered to those who had registered with the Society as having lost their homes. In total, \$2.25 million of DSS funds was distributed.

A Community Grants Program was launched in August 2020, with up to \$20,000 available to existing organisations for projects aiding community recovery. Forty-six projects were funded in the first two rounds, to a value of nearly \$690,000. Some projects attracted additional funding from other sources after demonstrating their value. Projects included infrastructure, art/craft and social activities, youth and mental health programs. A third round of funding will be available in late 2021.

Another phase of our bushfire recovery efforts comprised a community development program to build cohesiveness, resilience and capacity to cope with future disasters. The first Community Development Officer (CDO) was appointed to the Bega Valley in February 2021 to trial the concept. A second CDO was appointed in Bega Valley and another in Eurobodalla Shire in June. We are seeking to appoint a second CDO for Eurobodalla and one for the Snowy Valleys Shire.

In 2021 we committed \$500,000 for collaborative projects in the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla shires to provide bathrooms and toilets for people still living in temporary accommodation on their properties.

In addition to working with Vinnies NSW, we have coordinated our efforts with other agencies (Anglicare, Salvation Army, Red Cross and more) to avoid duplication and develop synergies where possible.



Case study:

Bushfire relief community grants

The town of Quaama in the Bega Valley Shire was ravaged by the bushfires of 2019-20. While not as high profile a victim as nearby Cobargo, the community also suffered greatly through the loss of homes and livelihoods.

As a result of the hard work of different groups in Quaama, a range of grants was successfully applied for to rejuvenate Quaama and support the wellbeing of its people.

One grant helped solve a critical water shortage following the fires. The expense of having water delivered to Quaama was unsustainable – a heavy impost as people tried to rebuild – and the

grant paid for trailers with 1,000-litre water tanks that could be borrowed to top up supplies on fire-affected properties.

Another grant saw a local park revitalised, providing much-needed space for community gatherings to help combat issues caused by social isolation.

A third grant enabled the re-establishment of the community choir, with the organiser able to secure additional funding to continue the choir's activities next year.

Under a further grant opportunity, the local tennis club was brought back to life after the fires damaged equipment at the important social hub. The club was in danger of dissolving because some people had moved out of the district following the fires and others were focused on restoring their lives and properties. But when the grant was announced the community rallied around and new members joined the committee. A working bee successfully restored the tennis courts.

Advocacy and social justice

Kym Duggan,

Chair of Social Justice Committee and Advisor to the Territory Council

A key Vincentian value is advocacy on behalf of those we serve. Pope Francis told us that “Without a solution to the problems of the poor, we will not solve the problems of the world”.

There have been many highlights for us this year in our advocacy work, but two achievements stand out.

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn produced its first election statement, setting out the key areas of reform we believe will best help our companions. Our statement, delivered in advance of the October 2020 ACT Election, called for the following:

- 3,000 additional social housing properties to be provided over the next five years
- 15% of new land releases to be set aside for affordable housing
- Housing to be recognised as a human right under the Human Rights Act of the ACT
- A substantial increase in support for homelessness services

In seeking greater respect for Indigenous people and their culture, we also called on the incoming government to urgently implement the recommendations of the *Our Booris, Our Way* report to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous children in the child protection system, and for urgent action to reduce disproportionate numbers of Indigenous people in our justice system.

We sought commitments from all parties to policies that support refugees and asylum seekers in the ACT. All of these issues were the subject of debate during the election campaign and we will press the current government to implement those commitments made by Labor and the Greens.

Another document of note developed by the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn in 2020-21 was our Reconciliation Action Plan, including actions, deliverables, timelines and responsibilities that will be monitored to ensure accountability and progression. Key areas covered in the plan include:

- Relationships
- Respect
- Opportunities

The Society is committed to reconciliation activities to help shape a society in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s perspectives, languages, philosophies, stories and cultures are embedded and celebrated within communities, organisations and the lives of all Australians.



Special Works update

Erin MacArthur,

Director of Community Engagement

The Community Engagement unit was amalgamated with the Conference Support team in 2020-21, centralising service delivery. This improved synergies and collaboration between the teams, and we anticipate it will lead to increased referral pathways and even better outcomes for those we support.

With COVID-19 continuing to cause social isolation, and financial and housing insecurity, the work of our people in responding to the needs of our communities has been more important than ever. We acknowledge our amazing members, volunteers and employees in their perseverance and dedication to providing support in an empathetic manner that maintains the dignity of our companions.

The 2020-21 financial year was a successful one for our Special Works programs, even as we navigated the new COVID-19 landscape. The Specialised Homelessness Services (SHS) secured funding through the ACT Government until June 2023 for services including crisis and transitional accommodation, such as the 13-bed Samaritan House which offers case management and support pathways to men aged 18 years and older.

Our Family Services and Young Parents Program provided transitional accommodation and trauma support to families and young people, while the Blue Door drop-in centre at Ainslie Village offered meals, information, referrals and community engagement. At the height of the pandemic, Blue Door provided thousands of hot meals to people in need. All SHS services were supported by the Street to Home program, which aims to increase access to safe housing, health care and other vital services.

We also supported initiatives implemented by the ACT Government in collaboration with other community services, such as the Client Support Fund and Axial Housing Program – co-funded support models helping get people into transitional and long-term accommodation more quickly. The Society continued to advocate for sustained funding for initiatives that increase access to services and provide support tailored to individual requirements.

We also offered services to build community connections, including Compeer, a friendship program for people with mental health issues run in partnership with the ACT Health Directorate. Compeer has specially designed projects aimed at improving social connection and mental wellbeing.

The Community Inclusion Program (CIP), funded by the National Disability Insurance Authority (NDIA) Information, Linkages and Capacity Building grant, engaged with participants, families, carers and the disability sector to provide peer-to-peer initiatives and community participation opportunities for those with a disability. During Anti-Poverty Week the CIP community welcomed the Governor General and his wife for a barbecue.

Among other vital programs in 2020-21 was Clemente, run in partnership with the Australian Catholic University (ACU), providing disadvantaged people with tertiary education. The Thread Together Clothing Hub@Vinnies continued to provide thousands of wardrobes to people across Canberra, helping maintain dignity and improving self-esteem. Our Night Patrol vans, supported by community donations, corporate sponsors and more than 400 volunteers, reinforced the need for connection outside ordinary business hours, when the impacts of isolation can be at their worst.

The Actsmart Home Energy Efficiency Program funded through the ACT Government's Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate supported vulnerable and disadvantaged households by providing education on reducing energy use, lowering emissions and finding cost savings. The program had a strong focus on improved health and wellbeing outcomes through thermal comfort.



SPECIAL WORKS IN NUMBERS

SAMARITAN HOUSE	Men provided with crisis accommodation	102
BLUE DOOR	Meals provided	38,000
STREET TO HOME	Case management	41
	Outreach	203
FAMILY & YPP	Family cases managed	102
	Total families across both services placed into transitional housing	11
	Total families across both services placed into permanent housing	24
HOME ENERGY	Energy assessments	873
	Draught proofing	865
CLEMENTE	Students enrolled in pathways	9
	Participants	72
CIP	People accessing support	109
	Services supporting CIP	61
	People who gained employment	14
COMPEER	Participants	32

Case study

Special Works

Georgie has a number of medical conditions, including Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis, and recently suffered a heart attack. She lives in public housing and gets by on the Disability Support Pension (DSP).

She is incredibly grateful for the house in which she lives, but it is over 60 years old, with poor heating and no insulation.

"In summer I couldn't get it below 30 degrees inside. In winter I'd be in the shower trying to get warm," Georgie says.

With bills totalling \$1,800 a quarter, Georgie was spending more than a third of her income on energy alone.

"Living on the DSP is a struggle. The first priority is to pay rent, then the bills, but it also has to cover medications. Every quarter I'd get a bill and I'd feel helpless," she said. "I was getting depressed, and ill."

Georgie was connected with Vinnies through the Actsmart Home Energy Efficiency Program, funded by the ACT Government.

Her heater was upgraded through the Housing ACT heater upgrade program, and she had curtains hung in her living room and bedroom to boost thermal comfort. Her fridge was upgraded to a more efficient model and all external doors were draught proofed. Linda from Vinnies also helped Georgie negotiate with her energy provider for support.

Since the changes, Georgie's comfort levels have increased, and her stress levels have gone down.

"The difference since Linda came is remarkable, both economically and with my basic health," said Georgie. "The difference in my quality of life just through having some climate control has been significant. It's a lot easier managing illness when you're not shivering. I'm so grateful for the assistance Vinnies has provided."



Commercial Operations update

Lindsay Rae,

Director of Commercial Operations

Our centres' support for their local communities during the bushfires and Covid-19 lockdowns appears to have been strongly reciprocated in the form of increased donations and sales in 2020-21.

Following a small dip in the 2019-20 financial year, last year marked a continuation of the remarkable growth Vinnies centres have seen over the past eight years.

In July our centres passed the \$1 million-a-month turnover milestone and continued this trend for the following 12 months.

Handling the volume of donations and growing demand for our products was a major test for our dedicated and passionate volunteers and employees. Sales records tumbled throughout our region, month after month – meaning a huge surplus in funds raised to support the important work we do.

Sales of all stock categories improved with the exception of furniture, which continued its downward trend. Covid-19 risks reduced collections at the start of the year, but a combination of a continuing decline in the quality of furniture being offered to charities, the physical risk to ageing volunteers in rural areas moving heavy items and the expense of collecting useful furniture in Canberra is making it an unviable product.

Over the past few years the vehicle fleet has been replaced and expanded, the centres have had major refurbishments and the Mitchell warehouse is set for a major expansion.

During the next financial year, new positions will be introduced at a number of levels to support our staff, so the incredible gains we've made can be sustained.



Youth and Young Adults update

Gwen Goon,

Manager, Youth and Young Adults

The Youth and Young Adults team was restructured in 2020-21, with three new members appointed and a more targeted approach taken in our service delivery and engagement with schools and youth volunteers.

The team worked with 50 primary and 30 secondary and central schools throughout the Archdiocese; each school was consistent in its support of the Society's annual appeals. Highlights included Daramalan College raising more than \$16,000 for the St Nick's Young Carers Program, and Good Shepherd Primary in Amaroo donating more than 150 bags of winter woollies to the Vinnies Night Patrol. We continued to raise awareness in schools on key social justice issues and developed new content on mental wellbeing to equip children and young adults with practical self-care skills in the wake of the pandemic.

The annual Vinnies Day at ANU John XXIII College was held on February 10, where 150 first-year residents learned about Vinnies programs, visited the centres and attended a Dressed by Vinnies event. The University of Canberra held its first Pop-Up Op Shop in conjunction with the Knock On Effect campaign and we engaged with tertiary institutions for volunteer recruitment. The Migrant and Refugee Schools Program continued to run four days a week at North Ainslie and Florey Primary, with plans to expand to more schools.

In Youth Programs, we resumed face-to-face activities in August and organised 38 weekend activities, eight day camps and one overnight camp. We received a COVID-19 grant from the Community Services Directorate which enabled us to provide additional respite activities for 232 children and young people through activity packs, gift vouchers and club memberships.

Youth volunteers Sarah O'Neill and Matthew Wilson, along with the St Joe's Youth Conference, received the Highly Commended Award in the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards and we are very proud of their achievements. Our volunteers played an important role in ensuring the success of the programs and we continued to equip them with leadership and training opportunities including Youth Mental Health First Aid, Bronze Medallion and Child Safety.



Volunteer reflection

Mirei Churton,
Coordinator, Volunteers

St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn has 1,582 volunteers giving their time to help others, together with student placements in tertiary education, work experience and corporate volunteering groups.

We have 27 retail centres, youth and young adult programs, and eight Special Works programs which all need volunteers to operate. COVID-19 impacted all of us in some way, as well as the work we do.

Straight after the 2020 lockdown, many of our volunteers chose to return immediately, so the Society's support for those in need remained constant. When faced with these most challenging times, our volunteers' dedication encouraged us to continue sharing our hope.

Volunteering not only empowered the Society to meet people's immediate needs, but fostered personal growth, and provided a considered social movement within our communities. We are most grateful for their selfless support, courage and commitment.



Case studies

Volunteers



*Jeannette, Pat, Diana,
Leonela and Sandra,*
Moruya Vinnies Centre volunteers

Jeannette, Pat, Diana, Leonela and Sandra have been volunteers at the Moruya centre for several years. It started as an opportunity to use their free time to give back to the community, but over the years the people of Vinnies Moruya have become like a second family where they all support and encourage each other during good times and bad.

The women were part of a small community that was greatly affected by the Black Summer Bushfires and COVID-19.

“Having each other’s back and knowing that they were there for me made it a lot easier,” says Jeannette.

The volunteers love their time at Vinnies as they get to work together, enjoy morning tea and have many laughs.

“It is a lot of fun, and everyone here is great,” says Sandra.



Tom,
Night Patrol volunteer

Tom has been volunteering as a general hand team leader with Vinnies Night Patrol for several months. He recalls when he first heard about the St Vincent de Paul Society, and its dedication to helping others.

“I must have been about five or six years old, with my mother at a church service, when I saw all these wooden collection boxes inscribed with the initials SVDP in gold letters,” he says. “I asked Mum what they meant and she said it was for St Vincent de Paul Society, and that they are ‘good people who look after poor people’. Volunteering with Vinnies now is like completing that connection.”

“Being able to manage the provision of support services for such a worthy cause gives me so much personal satisfaction... knowing that the efforts and actions of my team enable the Night Patrol staff to carry out their own duties is very gratifying,” says Tom.

Tom was born in London and moved to Australia at 21. “During my transition to retirement I was able to reflect on my life since coming to Australia in 1982. I wanted to give back to the society that offered the opportunities that allowed my early retirement in the first place. It seemed only proper that I should assist those less fortunate than me in some way.”

2021 Vinnies CEO Sleepout

The 2021 Vinnies CEO Sleepout smashed its \$630,000 target, raising more than \$1 million – the most since the Sleepout began in the ACT 12 years ago.

While the CEO Sleepout is Vinnies’ biggest fundraising campaign of the year, it was also an opportunity to increase awareness of the realities of living below the poverty line, and how participants could help break this cycle.

The Sleepout was held at the Village Centre at the National Arboretum Canberra, where more than 130 local business, community and government leaders arrived with their sleeping bags and were provided with three pieces of cardboard to set up shelter for the night.

After choosing a place to sleep, they had soup and a bread roll for dinner and a panel of speakers including Vinnies volunteers and companions discussed issues relating to disadvantage, poverty and homelessness, and the impact Vinnies programs have on lives of vulnerable people.

Thirty more participants joined via live stream while sleeping out in locations including their cars and backyards.

Eight business leaders from the Fyshwick Business Association slept in the Dirty Jane’s carpark and raised more than \$100,000. Canberra colleges Merici and St John Paul II also hosted sleepouts at their schools.

ACT participants braved the coldest night-time temperatures of any state or territory, battling to keep warm in 5°C. Despite the freezing conditions, morale was high, with many CEOs fundraising throughout the night via text, phone calls and social media.

“Even though it was not as cold as previous years, it was still a very uncomfortable experience and none of us got much sleep,” said St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn CEO Bernie van Wyk. “It is hard to comprehend how so many individuals and families have to go through this every night.”

This year, CEOs took part in a Privilege Walk, which gave them a better understanding of innate and structural privileges.

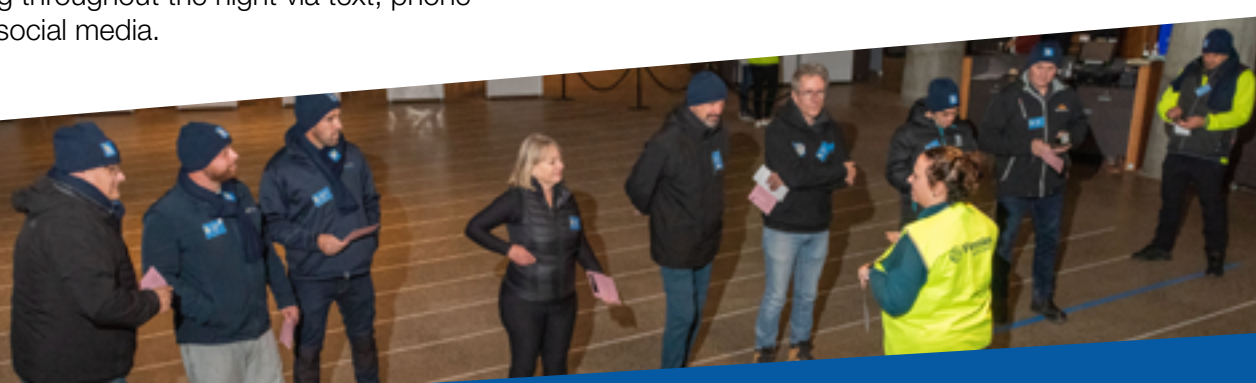
“The activity was eye opening. It made me reflect on how challenging it is for people experiencing disadvantage in so many ways,” said participating CEO Keith Cantlie.

TOP 10 FUNDRAISERS

Nick Georgalis	\$65,393
Dimitri Nikias	\$63,572
Mirko Milic	\$42,347
Peter Dascarolis	\$40,380
Neville Tomkins	\$29,566
Barnie van Wyk	\$28,038
Joe Pratezina	\$21,760
Stephen Johnston	\$21,435
Christine Shaw	\$21,155
Paul McGlone	\$20,010

TOP 5 TEAMS

Fyshwick Business Association	\$105,778
Catholic Education Canberra and Goulburn	\$48,036
Synergy Group	\$46,534
Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn	\$39,864
Preventive Dentistry	\$38,076





DEEP SLEEPER CLUB

Thank you to our participants who committed to raise more than \$20k by the date of the event.

- Geocon Group – Nick Georgalis
- Nikias Diamond – Dimitri Nikias
- Canberra Toyota – Mirko Milic
- Terracon Legal – Peter Dascarolis
- Scouts Australia – Neville Tomkins
- Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn – Barnie van Wyk
- Monarch Building Solutions – Joe Pratezina
- Shaw and Partners – Stephen Johnston
- Christine Shaw Properties – Christine Shaw

Message from the Archbishop

Dear Friends,

The St Vincent de Paul Society continues to offer our Archdiocese so many practical ways of reaching out to the homeless, the hungry and the marginalised Christ.

It has been particularly trying in these times, as we all know, the COVID-19 world that we live in has made people feel quite hopeless and despairing in many ways. This is even more so for those who find life a real struggle even without a pandemic at the doorstep!

Pope Francis continues to talk about the importance of us gathering with people like this in closeness and tenderness.

The St Vincent de Paul Society does this in a remarkable way. You will notice in this Annual Report the many practical ways that this has been expressed.

With every encouragement and support in times ahead.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

Tuesday, 13 July 2021



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.



Profit and loss

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Government grants	6,806,509	7,142,608
Sale of goods	14,316,854	10,448,239
Client contributions	79,007	366,506
Fundraising	2,813,197	9,618,144
Other revenue	604,294	1,134,871
Total revenue	24,619,861	28,710,368
Other income	1,312,296	1,297,335
Operating expenses		
Centres of charity	(8,269,031)	(7,446,333)
Administration	(4,096,867)	(3,807,612)
Fundraising	(710,092)	(737,126)
	(13,075,990)	(11,991,071)
Total funds available for community services	12,856,167	18,016,632
Community services expenses		
People in need services	(5,292,044)	(4,925,005)
Homeless and mental health services	(1,976,759)	(2,194,271)
Migrants, refugees and overseas	(38,986)	(37,721)
Natural disaster relief	(1,685,149)	(6,927,863)
	(8,992,938)	(14,084,860)
Levies paid to the National Council – related party	(172,795)	(139,073)
Surplus for the year	3,690,434	3,792,699
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Gain on revaluation of land and building	-	1,977,599
Total comprehensive income for the year	3,690,434	5,770,298

Financial position

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and short-term deposits	16,572,589	12,436,678
Trade and other receivables	231,102	163,612
Inventory	159,480	64,195
Investment in shares	2,136	2,389
Other assets	394,189	787,242
Total current assets	17,359,496	13,454,116
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	18,749,473	18,490,974
Total non-current assets	18,749,473	18,490,974
Total assets	36,108,969	31,945,090
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,183,799	1,751,590
Provisions and employee benefit liabilities	1,077,024	1,014,465
Lease liability	939,830	598,517
Total current liabilities	3,200,653	3,364,572
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions and employee benefit liabilities	3,684	20,282
Lease liability	4,573,679	3,919,717
Total non-current liabilities	4,577,363	3,939,999
Total liabilities	7,778,016	7,304,571
Net assets	28,330,953	24,640,519
Funds		
Accumulated funds	22,546,107	18,855,673
Reserves	5,784,846	5,784,846
Total funds	28,330,953	24,640,519

Officers' declaration

The officers of the Territory Council 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 2021 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 30th day of September 2021.



John Feint
President



Bernard Meadley
Treasurer

Get involved

Membership & volunteering

Become a member of a conference or volunteer your time to help people in need in your community.

DONATE

The Society's major lifeline has been the generous financial assistance our loyal donors have given over the years. This support assists the many activities undertaken by the Society.

Donations can be directed to a specific Special Work or general works. You can make a secure donation online at www.vinnies.org.au/donate or by calling 13 18 12.

Donations of quality secondhand clothing, furniture and household goods can also be made at any Vinnies centre.

GIFTS IN WILLS

You can support those in need by leaving a gift to the Society in your Will. Through remembering the Society in your Will, you will ensure your legacy lives on through the assistance your generosity provides.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Individuals or groups of employees can take part in this program by donating a small amount each fortnight. This pre-tax donation is deducted from employees' salaries by their payroll department, and then forwarded to the Society.

CORPORATE COLLABORATION

If you are a business looking to partner with a charity, you can contact our office to discuss ways in which your company can support one of Australia's largest and most respected charitable organisations.



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:



CEO SLEEPOUT LOCAL SPONSORS:



NATIONAL SPONSORS:



Our valued supporters:

2CC/2CA

50-50 Charity Raffle
Ainslie Football Club
ANU+
ANU John XXIII College
Australian Catholic University Canberra Campus
Australian College of Nursing
AVS Event AV Services
Beyond Bank
Bonds
Bunnings
Calvary Community Care ACT
Calvary Hospital
Campbell's
Canberra Girls Grammar
Canberra Grammar School
Canberra Raiders
Canberra Southern Cross Club, Jamison
Canberra Southern Cross Club, Tuggeranong
Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
Canberra Weekly
Carroll College (Broulee)
CC Beauty
Clayton Utz
Coca-Cola Europacific Partners Australia
Coleman Court Shopping Centre
COS
Daramalan College
Deloitte
Department of Parliamentary Services
Department of Social Services – Property and Security Branch
Digital Transformation Agency
Duffy Primary School
EAVS Event AV Services
Esteem fitness studio
Fast Print Services
Flore Primary School
GIVIT
Good360
Good Shepherd Primary School (Amaroo)
Griffin Legal
Gungahlin College
Hands Across Canberra
HELENECPHOTO
Hennessy Catholic College (Young)
Holy Family Primary School (Gowrie)
Holy Spirit Primary School (Nicholls)
Holy Trinity Primary School (Theodore)
Hughes Home Ground
Hyatt Hotel Canberra
IGA Yarralumla
Jerrabomberra Public School
John James Hospital
Karabar High School
Knight Shift
KwikKopy
Lumen Christi Catholic College (Pambula)

Maddocks
Majura Primary School
Marist College (Canberra)
McAuley Catholic Central School (Tumut)
McInnes Wilson Lawyers
Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol & Drug Services – Home Assessment & Acute Response Team (HAART)
Merici College (Canberra)
Mills Oakley Lawyers
Mother Teresa School (Harrison)
Mount Franklin
Mount Rogers Primary School (Melba)
Mox Productions
Mt Carmel School (Yass)
North Ainslie Primary School
Palmerston District Primary
Queanbeyan Public School
Questacon
Rapid Relief Team
Ray White Yass
Royal Thai Embassy
Sacred Heart Central School (Cootamundra)
Sacred Heart Primary School (Pearce)
Scouts ACT
Serco
Services Australia Labour Hire Team
St Anne's Central School (Temora)
St Bede's Primary School (Red Hill)
St Benedict's Primary School (Narrabundah)
St Bernard's Primary School (Bateman's Bay)
St Christopher's Cathedral
St Clare of Assisi Primary School (Conder)
St Clare's College (Canberra)
St Edmund's College (Canberra)
St Francis of Assisi Primary School (Calwell)
St Francis Xavier College (Flore)
St Francis Xavier College (Lake Cargelligo)
St Gregory's Primary School (Queanbeyan)
St John Paul II College (Canberra)
St Joseph's Primary School (Adelong)
St Joseph's Primary School (Boorowa)
St Joseph's Primary School (Goulburn)
St Joseph's Primary School (O'Connor)
St Jude's Primary School (Holder)
St Mary Mackillop College (Canberra)
St Mary's Primary School (Batlow)
St Mary's Primary School (Crookwell)
St Mary's Primary School (Moruya)
St Matthew's Primary School (Page)
St Michael's Primary School (Kaleen)
St Monica's Primary School (Evatt)
St Patrick's Parish School (Cooma)
St Patrick's Primary School (Bega)
St Patrick's Primary School (Gundagai)
St Peter and Paul's Primary School (Goulburn)
Sts Peter & Paul Primary School (Garran)
St Thomas Aquinas Primary School (Charnwood)
St Thomas More Primary School (Campbell)
St Thomas the Apostle Primary School (Kambah)
St Vincent's Primary School (Aranda)
Synergy
The CEO Institute
Transit Graphics
Trinity Catholic College (Goulburn)
University of Canberra
Watson Blinds

BE A PART OF OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY AT:

www.facebook.com/VinniesACT

www.twitter.com/VinniesACT

www.vinnies.org.au

To discuss opportunities to support the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/
Goulburn, please call us on (02) 6282 2722 or email info.cg@vinnies.org.au

To communicate in another language please call the Translating and Interpreting
Service on 131 450.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing and/or have a speech impairment, contact us
through the National Relay Service. Visit relayservice.gov.au
or call 1300 555 727 (speak and listen number).