

Vinnies News

Vinnies to run new CBD homelessness service

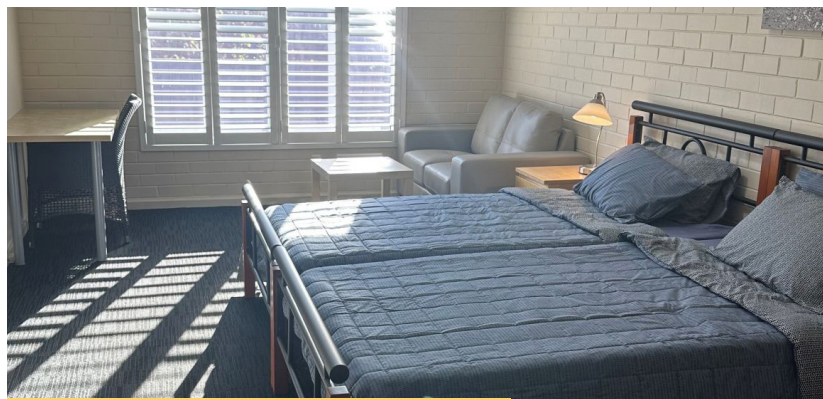
Vinnies WA will manage a new supported accommodation service for people experiencing homelessness in the Perth metropolitan area, the State Government has announced.

The service will be housed within the former Murray Hotel at 718 Murray Street, West Perth. The 1,293 square metre inside lot was purchased by the Department of Communities for \$5.15 million in January this year.

The site has undergone major refurbishments and compliance works, including removal of a swimming pool. The works were undertaken by Kardan Construction, a Supply Nation certified Aboriginal business.

The new service will provide 30 rooms – 25 for singles and five for couples – that feature individual ensuite bathrooms, as part of a Housing First supported accommodation model. The facility also includes an on-site kitchen, shared laundry room, and internal and external common areas.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents and staff, the intake of all residents will be managed through a coordination group led by the Department of Communities in partnership with the WA Alliance to End Homelessness.



The new service can accommodate couples and singles.



“This service will offer a hand up to some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in our community,” Vinnies CEO Susan Rooney said.

“Key to the model is that prior to becoming a resident, individuals will be assigned specialist case workers, who will link individuals to support services to help them address the complex needs they have,” she added.

Housing Minister John Carey acknowledged Vinnies’ proven track record in providing homelessness services to the WA community.

“Vinnies has proven success in operating low threshold services like Tom Fisher House in Perth, which is an intensive intervention night service for people experiencing long-term homelessness with complex needs,” he said.

The first residents are expected to move into the Murray Street service within the next quarter.



Vinnies WA’s Ann Curran (centre) with Housing Minister John Carey and Member for Nedlands, Dr Katrina Stratton.

Vinnies CEO Sleepout at Optus Stadium raises over \$790,000

West Australian business and community leaders have raised over \$790,000 for Vinnies homelessness services.

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout took place at Optus Stadium on 22 June, with other events taking place simultaneously across Australia.

Throughout the night, participants learnt about homelessness in Western Australia, the work Vinnies does, and the important role that business and the community can play in working towards ending homelessness.

With temperatures dipping to around eight degrees, participants spent the night outdoors, equipped with

only a sleeping bag, a pillow, and two pieces of cardboard to sleep on and make a shelter.

Vinnies CEO Susan Rooney, who joined participants in sleeping out, said the funds would go to Vinnies specialist homelessness services.

“People are finding it incredibly hard to keep food on the table and a roof over their head, so a lot more people are on the edge of, or experiencing, homelessness,” Ms Rooney said.

She added that business and community leaders had a unique platform to support people experiencing homelessness.

“The advocacy that business and community leaders can do beyond this event can have a lasting impact on the way we respond to homelessness as a society,” she said.



Temperatures dipped to eight degrees at Optus Stadium.



National Volunteer Week

In May, Vinnies volunteers across WA let their hair down as part of National Volunteer Week. To thank them for their efforts, our shops hosted morning teas for them.

We love that they had a good time, because we simply couldn't do what we do without them.



Morley



Dunsborough



Eaton

Vinnies properties get makeover

Works to upgrade dozens of Vinnies Housing Plus and Mental Health service properties are in full swing, with one property in Mandurah recently completed.

In 2022, Vinnies WA received a grant for \$1.56 million as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grants Program.

The grant allows social and community housing providers to renovate existing properties or to build new ones. Thanks to the grant, Vinnies is refurbishing 10 Housing Plus properties, two Mental Health community properties and 28 units at the Village in Woodbridge.



Vinnies Housing Plus helps break the cycle of homelessness by providing a safe place to call home.

It offers a variety of medium-term housing options in the greater Perth and Mandurah area for families and young people who would otherwise face barriers to housing. Tenants engage with external support workers who help them meet their tenancy responsibilities.



Vinnies Housing Plus properties come fully furnished.

As a registered Community Housing Provider, all Housing Plus rents are capped at a maximum of 30 per cent of assessable income plus Commonwealth Rent Assistance. Homes are move-in ready, fully furnished, and include white goods, bedding and crockery.

This provides a seamless transition to stable accommodation for families and young people in crisis who meet the eligibility criteria.



Australind



Bunbury Town



Busselton



Osborne Park

Leave a legacy to Vinnies

Gifts in wills are a valuable source of funding for Vinnies WA, and we are so grateful for the many people who choose to leave a legacy to Vinnies through a gift in their will.

One of our retail volunteers, Carolyn, shares why she has decided to leave a gift to Vinnies in her will:

"I have been a Vinnies volunteer for nearly eight years now. Once I retired in 2015, I realised I no longer had the cash flow to continue supporting several charities as I had throughout my working life. So, instead of cash support, I chose to volunteer instead, and I have also left a gift to Vinnies in my will."

If you would like to include a gift to Vinnies in your will, we have partnered with several reputable solicitors who can draft or update your simple will free of charge. Alternatively, you can visit safewill.com/svdpwa and for a small fee you can prepare your will from the comfort of home.



For more information about bequests please contact Natasha Prins at natasha.prins@svdpwa.org.au or visit vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/bequests

Winter Appeal 2023 shines spotlight on older women experiencing homelessness

The theme of this year's Winter Appeal is 'What if your mum, grandma, aunt or sister became homeless?'. It focuses on women over 55 as one of the fastest-growing groups of people at risk of, or currently experiencing, homelessness across Australia.

Findings from multiple studies show that older women are at an increased likelihood of homelessness due to domestic and family violence; economic inequality, such as lower superannuation balances on average and inadequate income support payments; and entrenched poverty and disadvantage.

The current cost-of-living crisis is an additional driver with increased costs of everything from housing, food, utilities and day-to-day essentials, placing older women at heightened risk of homelessness. In the financial year 2021-22, the Society in WA supported more than 1700 women aged over 55 with emergency assistance.

To make a donation, visit donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal or call **13 18 12**.



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Acknowledgement of Country

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

To respect the privacy of the people we assist, some of the names and images may have been changed.