



Schools Newsletter

Happy New Years

Term 1 2024
Canberra / Goulburn

Yuma everyone,
Welcome to 2024. Last year was a big one for us all, with lots of learning 191 workshops, lots of travel over 8000kms, and plenty of amazing students over 4000. As big as 2023 was we have an even bigger 2024 planned for you. Especially with some amazing new initiatives and projects in our pipeline including a new Leadership Program for our high school students while still offering our crowd favorite programs such as DARE and Sleepouts. We hope you have had a good restful and well earned break because we want to hit the ground running with you. We can't wait to see all of you soon.

Nga Mihi,
Schools Team

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2023 Christmas Appeal

We want to thank you for your support during the Christmas period. Christmas Appeal is always such an important time for us and we can never achieve as much as we do without your continual support. Thanks to your donations we were able to provide hampers, gifts and support to our families. Our programs and companions can not do as much as we do without all your prayers, love and support.

Thank you for your support



Youth Program volunteers wrapping gifts for some of our families



2024 Operations

Term 1 of 2024 is going to be a busy for our Schools Team with four bookings a week; if you would like to book a workshop for Term 1 or Term 2 we encourage you to email us as soon as possible to ensure we can visit your school at your preferred date. We have a new Workshop Request Form which aims to further stream line our booking processes. You can find this form on our website under "Book a Workshop" and send the completed form to schools.cg@vinnies.org.au

<https://www.vinnies.org.au/act-surrounds/get-involved/schools-engagement-act-surrounds>

Please note that some dates have been reserved for regional areas to ensure that we can service them adequately.

Mini Vinnies

In week 8 this term we will be having a Mini Vinnies gathering for the Mini Vinnies leaders of each school. For our Canberra schools this will be held in person, due to the limited space we ask that you have a maximum of 2 students per school. For our regional schools we will also have an online meeting that same week. If you would like to attend we ask that you register your attendance via email to schools.cg@vinnies.org.au by the 23rd of February.



Launching The Justice Network

This year will be the official launch of The Justice Network. The Justice Network met ahead of 2024 to plan their year of networking. This group consists of passionate Year 11 and 12 students from across Canberra and aims to provide a space for students to network, inspire each other and to discuss any challenges their school may be having in regards to social justice initiatives and advocacy. These students are either social justice leaders or captains within their school or have been identified by their teachers as having a passion for social justice.

Students who have a heart for advocacy and a passion about Social issues whether domestic or international, may have an abundance of motivation or some could even be overwhelmed; so The Justice Network has decided the focus of each term into one specific issue and to see how they can advocate for it.

The 2024 Justice Network have decided to focus on the following causes:

- 1) The War in Gaza
- 2) Climate Change
- 3) Mental Health for Adolescence
- 4) Access to Education for Women



Yearly Planner Guide

	Event	Donation
Term 2	School Sleepout	Money
	CEO Sleepout	Money
Term 3	Winter Appeal	Money
	Essential Packs	Winter Clothing, Hygiene Items, Non-Perishable Food, Vouchers, Bedding
Term 4	Christmas Appeal	Money
	Giving Tree	Gifts, Vouchers, Non-Perishable Food
Year Round If you want to donate towards a specific cause, Vinnies has a range of services you can donate to anytime of the year	Assist a Student	Money
	Youth Programs	Money
	Street to Home	Money
	Conference	Money, Non-Perishable Food
	Dressed by Vinnies	Gold Coin Donations

Supporting People Seeking Asylum

There are currently 57 men, 22 wives or partners and 33 young children who remain trapped on Papua New Guinea (PNG) as a result of Australia's offshore processing policy. Due to disputes between Australia and PNG about who has responsibility to care for them while they apply for refugee status and await resettlement in Canada or New Zealand, they live in destitution with no money to buy food, pay for electricity or transport.

Sister Jane Keogh, a Canberra based Brigidine Sister, has been sending money to the men in PNG so they can buy food for their families and pay electricity and water bills. "We have raised and delivered \$47,000 worth of food and basics since 22 November. We have enough to give them an average of \$10 per person per day until 2 February but after that we have no more funds to keep up support. And this week some families have received notice that from 22 January their water and electricity will be cut off."

If you would like to donate money to support the men and their families, please contact Sister Jane through her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/janeikeogh>

The Refugee Council of Australia describes the situation on PNG.

"Australia's offshore policy has been widely condemned internationally, repeatedly coming under fire from United Nations bodies and national and international human rights organisations.

"The years of psychological torture experienced by people seeking asylum sent to offshore facilities has damaged Australia's reputation globally and has set an appalling precedent for countries like the United Kingdom who look to follow suit," Mr. Power said.

"People who came to Australia in 2013 and 2014 to seek protection from persecution were treated cruelly as an example to anyone else who might think that Australia might help them. They have lost 10 of the best years of their lives. For more than a third of this group, the agony continues." Refugee Council of Australia, 24th Nov 2024 <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/pain-continues-in-png-ten-years-on/>

To learn about the situation on PNG, other humanitarian issues in Australia and the world, and how you can help, visit Refugee Council of Australia's website: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/about-us/>

Get Involved

Service Days

Service days have been a way for schools to do large group activities based around some form of community outreach. Service days can look different depending on your school's context and needs.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are a great way for schools to get involved and it can be made fun too, whether it be a can line competition or a Dressed by Vinnies day. Schools could also participate in house tournaments, bake sales or other activities the students enjoy.

*"In my life I want to
become better,
and do
a little good"*

- Blessed Frederic Ozanam





Contact

To make a booking or for any enquiries please contact:

schools.cg@vinnies.org.au

If you have any enquiries relating to student volunteering opportunities please contact Travis Ngatuere:

Travis.Ngatuere@vinnies.org.au

For any teacher or adult related volunteer enquiries please contact:

volunteer.cg@vinnies.org.au

For more resources visit our website:

<https://www.vinnies.org.au/act-surrounds/get-involved/schools-engagement-act-surrounds/teacher-resources>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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