



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

Impact

The difference
you make

AUTUMN 2023
ISSUE 14

A photograph of a man, a young boy, and a young girl sitting on the floor in a kitchen, painting together. The man is in the center, leaning over and painting a glass. The boy is on the left, also painting. The girl is on the right, holding a paintbrush. They are all smiling and focused on their activity. The background shows wooden kitchen cabinets and a red oven.

A HELPING HAND IN THE WAKE OF TRAGEDY

FEATURES VANS PROVIDE COMFORT FOOD
WAITLIST GROWS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING
VOICING SUPPORT FOR ULURU STATEMENT

VINNIES
RENEWS
REBUILDS
RESTORES



Welcome

Thank you for your ongoing support during these uncertain times.

For the best part of a year, the terms cost of living and inflation have dominated

the headlines and impacted on people's lives.

There are many complexities behind these terms, but what is clear is that it has put additional pressure on people to afford groceries, rent, petrol and other everyday essentials.

The rising cost of living impacts everyone to some extent, but what often gets overlooked is that those most acutely impacted are people who are already vulnerable.

In the lottery of life, some are blessed with the comfort of not having to worry about the necessities of life – housing, food, healthcare,

education, support systems. For others, these foundations are missing and make living from one day to the next a struggle.

During this period, we have seen demand for our services increase by 20% with one-in-four people reaching out for the first time, including an alarming number of people unable to keep up despite being in full-time work.

We are thankful for the generosity you have shown throughout this period as we meet the need that exists and, sadly, prepare for growing demand in the future. In continuing to make a donation to the St Vincent de Paul Society, you are helping to give people in need the support to live with dignity and hope.

Yolanda Saiz
Acting Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

In this issue of Impact

4 THE TERRIBLE TOLL CANCER TAKES ON FAMILIES IN AUSTRALIA

Peter's young family was left devastated by the passing of a beloved wife and mother. In her absence, Vinnies has provided support to ease the hardship that remains.

5 WAITING LIST CONTINUES TO GROW FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

The demand for social housing continues to grow with regional areas bearing the brunt, according to latest figures.

6 SHARED STORIES OF SUPPORT

Peter and Andrew were in dire need when Vinnies' Coniston Hub stepped in. Now the pair are housed and looking towards the future.

7 RECOGNITION AND THE PATHWAY TO JUSTICE, UNITY AND INCLUSION

The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart's call for Voice, Treaty, Truth.

8 MORE THAN A MEAL

Our Vinnies Van Services are experiencing an increase in people seeking assistance, but the impact of the service extends well beyond a meal.

9 CHANGING WITH CONFIDENCE

After facing a succession of challenges, Michael has a renewed outlook on life – "All it takes is one step to ask for help, that's all it takes."

10 MAKING A MARK WITH MARINA

As a dedicated Vinnies member in the Bathurst region of Western NSW, Marina Gray gives of her time to help locals improve their skills.

11 A SHOW OF SUPPORT RECEIVED, A SHOW OF SUPPORT PROVIDED

Bob Mannery always remembered the support Vinnies provided following the sudden passing of his father.

12 RETURNING AND EARNING MILESTONES

Since partnering with Return and Earn in 2017, Vinnies has helped reduce waste ending up in landfill through our container deposit scheme depots.

Impact is produced by Fundraising and Communications, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW. ABN: 91 161 127 340 Copyright 2023

Because we respect the privacy of the people we assist, names in this newsletter may have been changed, stories summarised and pictorial models used.

For more information about the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, contact:
(02) 9568 0262 or vinnies.org.au. Correspondence can be sent to media.nsw@vinnies.org.au.

Follow
us on:



Your support makes a mark

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY HAS BEEN SUPPORTING PEOPLE ACROSS NSW FOR OVER 140 YEARS.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, our members, volunteers and staff have been able to transform thousands of lives over the past year.



91,785 visits made by St Vincent de Paul Society members to people experiencing hardship and disadvantage.



8,600 people supported by our health, housing and homelessness services, and day centres.



6,000+ cash payments distributed in the weeks immediately following the Northern Rivers floods.



2,050 women and children supported through our domestic and family violence refuges



1,240 people receiving treatment for alcohol and other drugs addiction

READ OUR LATEST ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NSW ANNUAL REPORT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK AT: NSW202122.VINNIES.ORG.AU

Messages of thanks

EVERY DAY VINNIES IS ABLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE IN NEED. HERE ARE SOME WORDS OF APPRECIATION FROM PEOPLE ASSISTED AS A RESULT OF YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

“If there’s anybody out there that feels vulnerable, that needs support, even if it’s just someone to talk to, Vinnies are there for you.” – Tina

“The week after I got in contact with Vinnies I was sleeping in a warm bed, under covers in a safe place with a tummy full of food.” – Danielle

“It’s like family... anything you need they can help.” – Hasan

“The wonderful people from St Vincent de Paul came calling in our hour of need with a gesture that I will forever keep in my heart.” – Wesley

“I didn’t think I was going to see any light at the end of the tunnel and then here comes Vinnies with presents and gift cards to make Christmas all happen.” – Narelle



The terrible toll cancer takes on families in Australia

A FEW YEARS AGO, PETER AND HIS WIFE SALLY WERE LIVING THE DREAM.

Both parents were working and this provided stability and a secure home for their two young children Riley and Mya.

Tragedy struck in the form of a lung cancer diagnosis that would end in the disease claiming Sally's life less than two years later.

During her treatment, Sally needed to stop working and Peter needed to reduce his work hours to care for her and their kids.

At the same time their income was reduced, the added cost of medical bills and the rapidly increasing cost of living placed even greater stress on the family.

After Sally died, Peter continued working part-time, so he could take care of Riley and Mya.

The emotional and financial toll of her absence was becoming more severe as time went on.

"I was working Monday to Friday as a part-time worker, and I'm getting a little bit of money but not enough to keep up because of the children's expenses and food and bills.

"I'm getting all the bills, water, electricity, gas, and telephone bills. It's really hard to pay it off.

"The biggest one is in the council bill. It's gone up to \$2,500. That's a lot of money," Peter says.

Struggling with these expenses and costs related to Sally's funeral, Peter knew he could not go on without help.

He had found himself in a situation that, if left unchecked, could have escalated to homelessness. Disadvantage compounds upon itself making it

increasingly difficult for someone to escape hard times, particularly on their own.

Usually, the only way out is to ask for help.

When he reached out to the St Vincent de Paul Society, Peter was able to get back on top of things.

One of the most important goals for the Society in a situation like Peter's is to help people stay in their homes.

Once that is lost, it becomes very difficult for a person to regain control of their lives.

"They have been helping me financially, some bills – water bills, electricity – and with food. That is a big help for me.

"Vinnies has helped me with my situation and I'm very thankful," Peter says.

With the Society behind him, Peter is doing much better.

He's got a supportive workplace and his children are going to good schools.

Education is very important to Peter and he's glad he's been able to provide stability for his kids.

"I'm not giving up because every time I need to help them, for their studies and everything, I'm behind them, always," he says.

If you haven't already donated to our Autumn Appeal, please make a gift now to support people like Peter in their time of need.

Donate online at vinnies.org.au/nswautumnappeal, using the form on the back of this magazine, or call 13 18 12.



Waiting list continues to grow for social housing

THE DEMAND FOR SOCIAL HOUSING CONTINUES TO SOAR ACROSS THE STATE WITH MORE THAN 125,000 PEOPLE CURRENTLY ON THE WAITLIST ACCORDING TO LATEST FIGURES.

The NSW Government's Department of Communities and Justice released the figures just days before Christmas, which reveal a 15 per cent increase from 49,928 to 57,550 applicants as of 30 June 2022.

Each applicant represents an entire household, meaning the overall number of people in need of a secure place to live stands at over 125,000.

Concerningly, the number of applicants on the priority waiting list – those in the most vulnerable of circumstances such as homelessness and at-risk personal safety – has risen by 12 per cent from 5,801 to 6,519.

The demand for social housing in many regional areas has been alarming with Bathurst increasing by 76%; Dubbo (31%), Murrumbidgee (31%), Western NSW (30%), Hunter (28%) and Macarthur (20%) experienced similarly high percentage increases.

"Every day, our members and staff hear harrowing stories from people who are unable to find a place to live and are forced into cars, makeshift campsites, or reliant on the goodwill of friends," said Paul Burton, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State Council President.

"People cannot hold down a job, keep up with school, take care of their health, or plan beyond one day at a time without a stable place to live.

"We know availability of social housing is an Australia-wide problem, with the proportion social housing makes up of all housing stock in the country declining over the past three decades.

"Investing in social housing and giving people the stability needed to lead a thriving life is not just the right thing to do, it's the most economically sound response to the problem we face.

"Providing more social housing is more cost effective for governments over the long-term than leaving people in the cycle of homelessness.

"Everyone deserves a safe, secure and healthy place to call home," Mr Burton said.

The Society highlighted the need to address social housing as part of its State Election Platform, *Housing Justice: A Home for Everyone*, with calls for the incoming government to move towards building 5,000 new social housing properties each year.

This call echoes research produced by the University of New South Wales' Centre for Social Impact which showed that, if the Government built 5,000 new social housing dwellings every year for a decade, the NSW social housing waiting list would be reduced by three quarters.

VINNIES
REBUILDS

NSW SOCIAL HOUSING WAITLIST – AS OF 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021	% change
General Waitlist	51,031	44,127	16%
Priority Waitlist	6,519	5,801	12%
TOTAL	57, 550	49,928	15%

REGION	2022 TOTAL WAITLIST	2021 TOTAL WAITLIST	% CHANGE
Bathurst	648	369	76%
Dubbo	770	588	31%
Murrumbidgee	1,907	1,460	31%
Western NSW	1,172	905	30%
Hunter	5,011	3,902	28%
Macarthur	2,300	1,918	20%
Shoalhaven	1,130	942	20%
North Coast	2,942	2,477	19%
Illawarra	2,844	2,418	18%
New England	1,328	1,151	15%
Mid North Coast	2,470	2,148	15%

Shared stories of support

PETER AND ANDREW WERE SUPPORTED IN THEIR TIMES OF NEED BY THE CONISTON HUB - A SERVICE RUN BY THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NSW ASSISTING PEOPLE WITH CASE MANAGEMENT, HOUSING AND OTHER SUPPORTS THROUGHOUT THE ILLAWARRA. THE PAIR HAVE A SHARED STORY OF RENEWED HOPE THROUGH HOUSING.

PETER'S STORY

Peter was in a vulnerable and dangerous place prior to finding help from the St Vincent de Paul Society. Evicted from his rental, he was boarding in a guest house where drug use and violence were commonplace.

Turning to the Society in his time of need, the Coniston Hub was able to offer Peter a place in adjoining crisis accommodation where he could get back on his feet. He stayed there for six months before support staff helped him find a room in transitional housing. Seven months later came a real breakthrough in his situation.

"They've helped me yet again to get full-time housing down at Thirroul," says Peter.

Peter understands the draining reality of finding social housing right now, having applied and struggled to find a place to call home.

"I was in a queue... ten or more people applying for a place... so the chance of me getting a place with the low income I was getting from Centrelink was pretty much impossible."

Peter's new place at Thirroul is one for the long-term and things are pointing in a brighter direction.

"My goal is getting a job. I've got my licence back; I just bought a ute. Things are rolling along. I've just started going for jobs."

ANDREW'S STORY

When Andrew was discharged from hospital following an unsuccessful surgery, he received minimal support due to the strain on the health system brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Sustaining a major nerve injury at work and dealing with ongoing health effects for over 20 years, his mobility was limited requiring the use of a wheelchair.

"When COVID hit, hospital beds were short, so it was a case of 'if you can function and get yourself to the bathroom,' you're basically right to get out," Andrew explains.

Andrew's circumstances came to a head when he realised after the surgery, he couldn't make it up the stairs of his house.

"I wasn't working - can't work."

"Staying in motels became costly, I had no money coming in. It got to the stage where the car was it."

Unable to retain his rental, Andrew turned to the Society for support, where he was able to stay at the Coniston Hub in transitional housing.

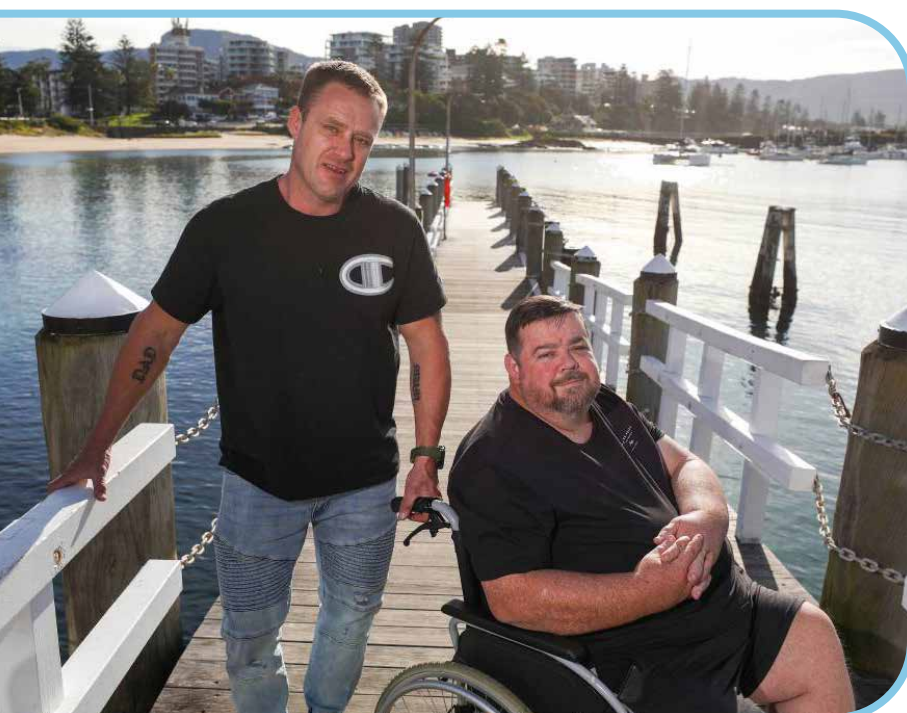
It was when Andrew had yet another unexpected medical turn that staff from the Coniston Hub took him straight from hospital into a house. Furthermore, staff continued to work with Andrew to complete the paperwork needed to find permanent housing.

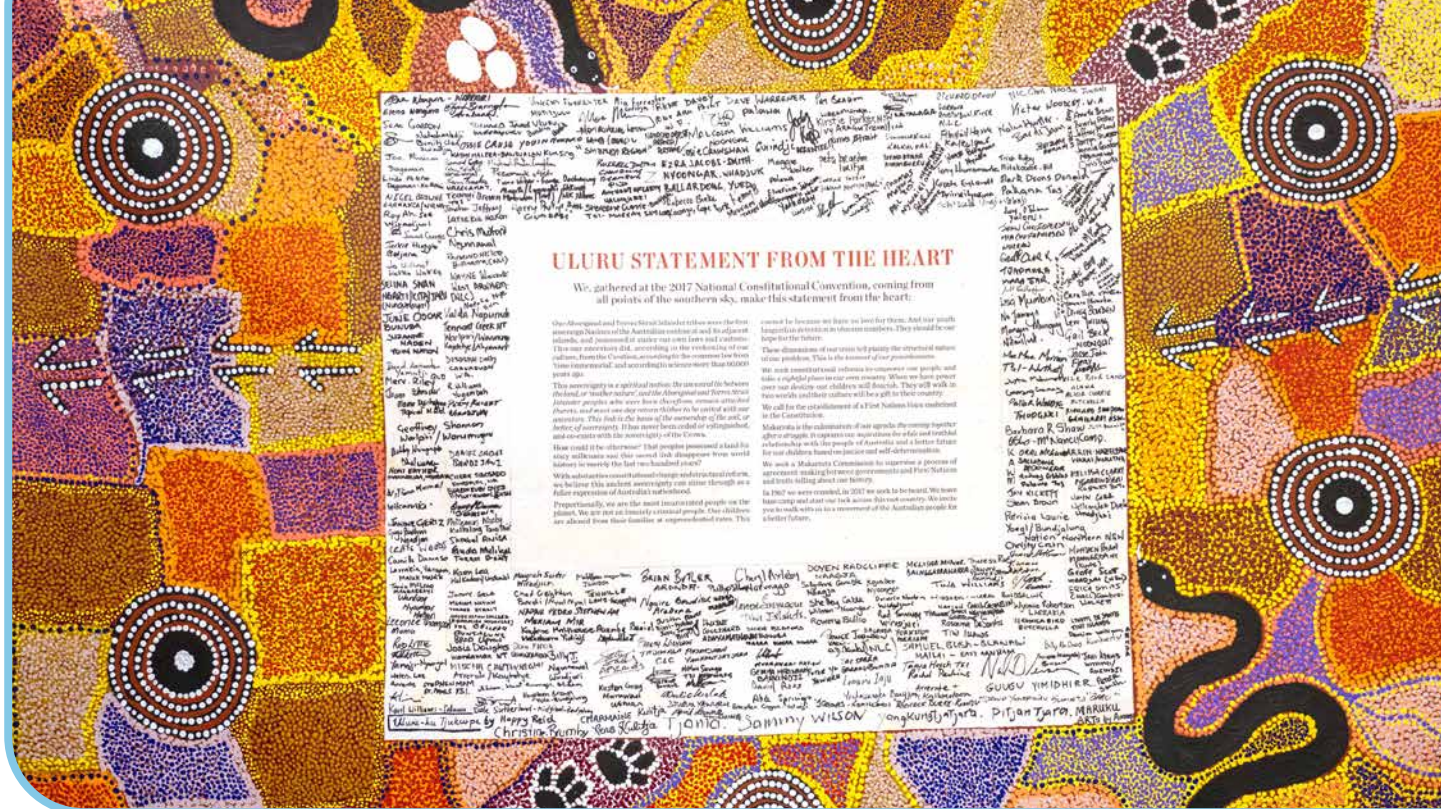
"If it wasn't for Vinnies, I don't know where I would be actually... I don't know if I'd still be sitting here to tell you now."

With worries about finding secure housing out of the way, Andrew is now working to get his NDIS over the line.

"Being able to get into somewhere that has a nice big sliding door with a ramp on it where you can get inside without any issues makes a world of difference."

"It makes a big difference to your mental wellbeing."





Recognition and the pathway to justice, unity and inclusion

IN HIS FIRST BOYER LECTURE SERIES IN LATE 2022, NOEL PEARSON MADE AN IMPASSIONED CALL FOR AUSTRALIANS TO ADOPT A FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT IN OUR CONSTITUTION.

He contends that racism will diminish when we succeed with recognition, as recognition of First Nations peoples is the pathway to justice, unity and inclusion.

Rather than repudiating our colonial past, Pearson argues that recognition will enable us to, "...acknowledge three stories: the Ancient Indigenous Heritage which is Australia's foundation, the British Institutions built upon it, and the adorning Gift of Multicultural Migration."

At the start of this year, Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians announced that the Government is aiming to introduce legislation on the Voice referendum in March to be passed by the Parliament in May. This would allow the public vote to be held as early as August, although it could be held as late as November.

Understanding the Uluru Statement's core asks of Voice, Treaty, Truth and the reasons why First Nations peoples are calling for us to walk with them towards a better future is becoming more urgent as the coming referendum draws closer. It is incumbent upon all of us to educate ourselves about what is being proposed and why, and to have respectful and informed conversations.

The Society's leadership has expressed strong

support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the First Nations Voice to Parliament. Our support is part of the Society's ongoing commitment to reconciliation. It reflects our mission to shape a more just and compassionate society. The Catholic Church has officially endorsed the Uluru Statement.

The Society's Social Justice Team has developed a suite of resources to support our networks to better understand and take action in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and the Voice to Parliament. These resources are on our website at: www.vinnies.org.au/page/Publications/NSW/Vinnies_Social_Justice_Statement

If you would like hardcopies of any of these resources, please contact us at: social.justice@vinnies.org.au

We encourage you to read these resources, share them within your family, friends, and networks, and discuss what the Uluru Statement and recognition means for our First Nations brothers and sisters, and for us all.

As Pearson concludes, the culmination of the mutual recognition of our three stories will make us all one: Australians.

VINNIES
RENEWS

More than a meal

THE RISING COST OF LIVING HAS SEEN CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE VINNIES VAN SERVICES SKYROCKET IN RECENT MONTHS.

At a surface level, the service provides nourishing meals for people in need, but according to those meeting the demand on the frontline, the true value of the service exists in addressing the loneliness and isolation experienced by those marginalised by their circumstances from society.

“When we first started on the vans, post 2021-lockdown, we were seeing roughly about 100 people a night on the Sydney vans – now we’re seeing over 300 a night,” explains Josie Charbel, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State Van Services Manager.

“For me, personally, the biggest thing is [addressing] loneliness and isolation. That human interaction and kindness is what [people] really appreciate about our vans.”

The Vinnies Van service originated 60 years ago from the ingenuity of two university students. They borrowed their mother’s red Corolla and an urn of hot water provided by the Matthew Talbot Hostel to provide tea and coffee to people sleeping rough on the streets of Sydney.

Fast forward to 2023 and the scale of the service has grown considerably to encompass seven vans operating across Sydney nightly, along with similar services run multiple times a week on the Central Coast, and in Wollongong and Orange.

Where rough sleepers comprised the bulk of people accessing support in years gone by, the rising cost of living has resulted in a soaring number of people reaching out to the vans due to uncertainty.

“We’re seeing a lot of working class, basically the working poor, who are on that minimum wage and they can purely just afford to pay their rent

or mortgage repayments and then food is what they go without,” says Josie.

As a result of conversations had on the vans, volunteers are able to tailor the support provided in accordance with the needs of people seeking assistance.

“Many people have white goods that they don’t turn on because they can’t afford the running costs or missing showers and using deodorant to disguise the odour.

“We’re filling in that gap, plus the other securities that they need like assisting with their utility bills or their children’s lunches, basic hygiene packs, there’s a massive gap in them getting medical attention because of the concern for the fact that they can’t pay or follow up with what needs to be done.

In her 15 years working with the St Vincent de Paul Society, circumstances have never been as dire according to Josie. Yet, through the dedication of more than 3,000 volunteers giving of their time across the state, she remains heartened by the Vinnies Vans Services’ capacity to bring about change to the lives of people experiencing hardship.

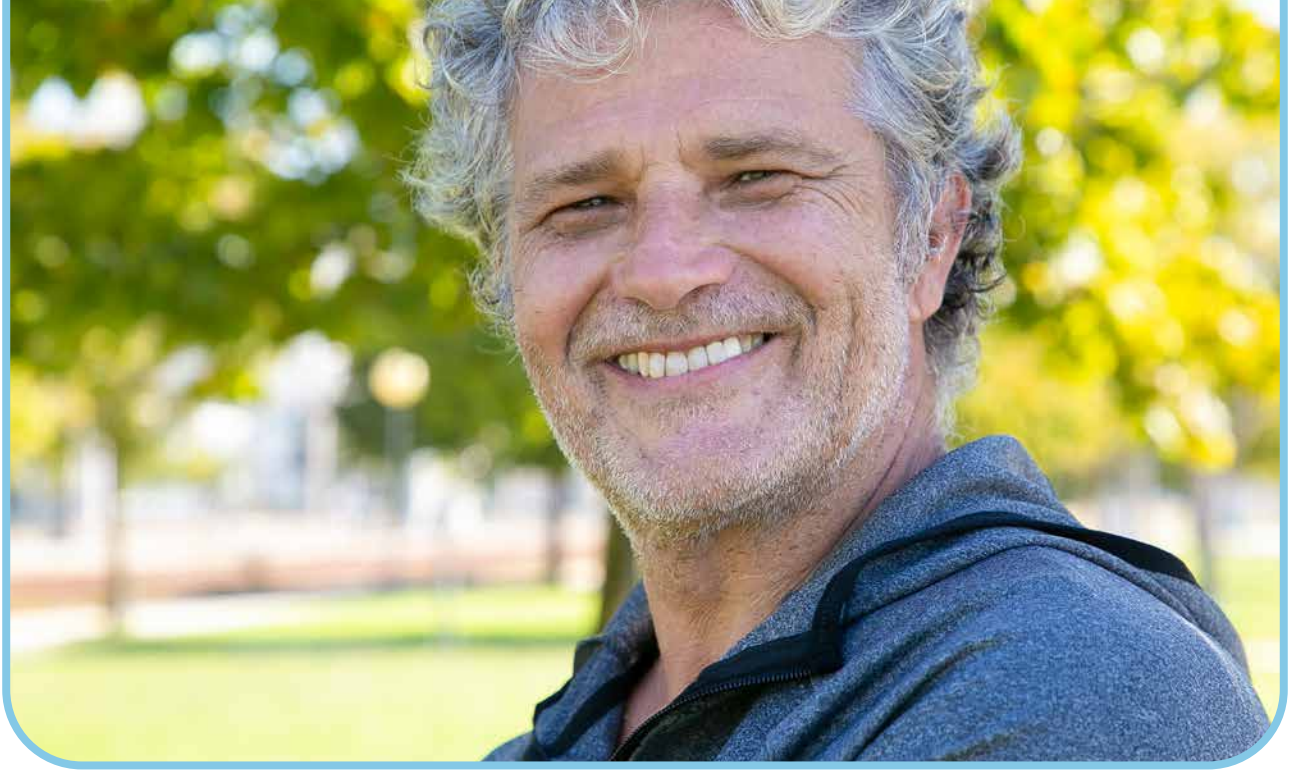
“The people we serve are not problems, they’re human beings. The vans truly humanise that and humanise their pain and whatever they’re going through.

“I think the biggest thing for them is that they always say, when the vans come, ‘We know that you see us as a person,’ and that to me just means so much.”

To learn more about Vinnies Van Services, including opportunities to volunteer, contact Josie Charbel, State Van Services Manager at josie.charbel@vinnies.org.au.

VINNIES
REBUILDS





Changing with confidence

NOT LONG AGO, MICHAEL WAS AT THE LOWEST POINT IN HIS LIFE.

He was diagnosed with numerous mental health issues. A breakdown of his long-term relationship led to a difficult divorce. He was let down by people he thought he could trust.

At one point he was even attacked by a man he called a friend.

"Things just went from bad to worse, it was really chaotic."

Without proper social support and about to lose his home, Michael decided he had had enough and sought assistance to change the direction of his life.

"My aunty used to work down at the Brookvale Vinnies. She's always said to me, 'Michael, if you ever need help, go see Vinnies.'"

When housing was unable to help, Michael turned to the St Vincent de Paul Society and found someone willing to listen. Michael says that Shirley, the local Regional President for the Society, was instrumental in giving him the confidence to turn his life around.

"She just sat there and spoke to me and that's all it took for me to come out of my shell, just for one person to care."

"Shirley helped me with my confidence and other staff members started to see me for who I was."

Shirley and the other staff were able to provide Michael with access to home appliances, food, and counselling.

"I loved volunteering at the Vinnies Shops. I've never been the kind of person to speak to

someone. It helped me get over the shyness in a way."

Michael is now known for being a hard worker who is capable at dealing with new people and situations. However, finding work proved a challenge due to losing housing and holding a court record.

"Before Vinnies I didn't really have a proper job for almost twenty years."

"People have been nice to me, people have said to me, I like the way you work if you want to come work for me, we're happy for you to do that. I never expected things like that."

"I have a lot more confidence in myself and what I'm doing. I've never been able to trust people, but working in Vinnies with all these people who've given me a go, I'm much more confident."

Today, he gets up at 4am every day to go to Manly to work as a delivery driver while, on the side, he continues to make strides toward something even better.

"My life's starting to turn around. Since I've been working, I've been working to get my semi-trailer licence."

Once he attains his licence he's hoping to move towards higher paid work, though he has already seen the changes he's made.

"Life's a lot better and people treat me better."

"I'm paying back loans. I'm taking responsibility for my own life."

"If Vinnies changed my life, why can't it change someone else's. All it takes is one step to ask for help, that's all it takes."

**VINNIES
RESTORES**

Making a mark with Marina

A SHORT CONVERSATION WITH MARINA GRAY IS FAST-PACED, SO YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO ACTUALLY BE HER. IF THERE'S ANYTHING LIKE AN AVERAGE DAY, MARINA'S STARTS WITH EARLY MORNING SOCIETY WORK, FOLLOWED BY HER DAY JOB, AND THEN A RANGE OF VINNIES ACTIVITIES IN HER SPARE HOURS, INCLUDING WEEKENDS.

These entail some innovative projects, including a program of cooking classes run by Bathurst's Assumption Conference, a 'project conference' that plans specific activities for identified clientele.

The cooking classes provide the ingredients as well as cooking kits and small electrical appliances that participants keep at the end of the course to help practise the valuable skills they have learned.

"Most are living in social housing," Marina says, "and they include women and men from their 20s to 50s, some with disability. We realised that, for various reasons, many couldn't cook and were living on takeaways.

"It's important to teach them the basics, with staple ingredients they can work on week by week. It's like home economics. Now the Uniting Church and the Brain Injury group are interested in joining."

Marina says one challenge was helping a woman who was functionally illiterate, so couldn't read recipes.

"I decided to draw the ingredients, although I'm not much of an artist... so I drew half a chook, half a cup of flour, and so on... it's been a learning experience for me too!"

Marina says people keen to help the Society are often attracted to the Assumption model where projects have a start and an end.

"As important as our welfare work is, the reality is that it's

endless. Potential volunteers like seeing actual results, and that's what a project of this kind can offer."

Her activities include arranging afternoon teas and craft sessions for seniors, or enabling conferences to help older residents buy items as diverse as meat or incontinence pads, both of which are increasingly costly as prices continue to rise.

We're seeing a lot more single older people," she says, "and it's a struggle to get by."

Marina lives on acreage at Billywillinga, near Bathurst, moving there eight years ago from Bourke where she worked at Centrelink and served as president of the St Vincent de Paul Society's Cobar region, which takes in towns like Lightning Ridge, Cobar, and Wilcannia.

She is the President of the Evans Regional Council that takes in six conferences and a significant slice of inner Western NSW, from Bathurst and Oberon to Lithgow and Kandos.

When she moved to Bathurst, she had what she calls "a Vinnies break", volunteering in the retail centre where she "happily sorted clothes... yet you kept seeing people coming in seeking help."

So, it was back to conference work and volunteering in other relief associated activities, including the SES and the Rural Fire Service where during the bushfires she helped run the control centre from 4.00-9.00pm.

Despite the tough times, Marina says she likes "anything that pulls people together.

[The people we assist] are so appreciative of our help and know that we expect no reward and act without judgement."

VINNIES
RENEWS



A show of support received, a show of support provided

AT AN AGE WHERE THE JOYS OF ADOLESCENCE ARE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, ROBERT PATRICK MANNERY (BOB) WAS FORCED TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSISTING HIS WIDOWED MOTHER IN THE WAKE OF HIS FATHER'S SUDDEN PASSING.

Going from a 13-year-old schoolboy to taking on an apprenticeship at Rylands Bros (Aust) Pty Ltd, his late father's employer in Newcastle, he was forced to grow up quickly in order to assist his mother and three younger sisters.

In those life-altering moments, dealing with the grief of a father passing at the all too young age of 46, a hand-up from the St Vincent de Paul Society carried Bob through the upheaval of life as he knew it.

It was this support that stayed with him all his life, culminating in a generous bequest to the St Vincent de Paul Society for, in his own words, its "work in helping the needy."

Born on 21 April 1944, he spent his first five years living alongside his maternal grandparents before moving to nearby Wallsend, where he attended the local school and, subsequently, Marist Brothers.

Upon the death of his father, Rylands Bros (Aust) Pty Ltd, his father's employer, promised Bob an apprenticeship when he left school. This helped supplement the income his mother brought in as a cleaner at a fish and chip shop while attending night school classes to attain his leaving certificate.

In the face of great hardship, assistance provided by local St Vincent de Paul Society conference members served as a much-needed source of comfort for Bob and his family. In his youth, he was the secretary of the Young Christian Workers Association.

Bob's studious application to hard work led him to become an electrical engineer. Working on ships for BHP, Caltex, and H C Sleight Limited he went to sea as a ship's engineer in the Merchant Navy. During this time, he moved to Sydney and whilst not at sea he invested in property and pursued small business ventures such as becoming a founding member of the South Dowling Street Antique Centre in Surry Hills in 1976.

Retiring from his engineering career in 1988 after an injury revealed the same heart condition as his late father, he then turned his interest to jointly



running the Belmont Garden Vogue Nursery. The nursery sold at the turn of the millennium, together with the antique store.

Living between Sydney and Newcastle, and for some time with friend of 40 years, Terry, Bob lived out his last 11 years of life in Bathurst where he died, aged 74, on 19 January 2019.

In reflecting on the memory of his late life-long friend, Terry regarded Bob as "a thoroughly honest man with grand ideas, jovial with a deep sonorous voice." He was a bass singer in numerous choirs including The Mountains Opera Chorus.

Recalling Bob's love of music, Terry fondly recalls time spent in Newcastle where, assisted by life-long friend Philip Sketchley of the Newcastle Conservatorium, "He would host numerous evening concerts – *Soirees* – to raise money for music students."

A man generous with money and entertainment (it was said that he could bang two saucepans together and produce a banquet at a moment's notice); a good conversationalist interested in the arts and science, architecture, languages, and literature; a union man, yet a private man – Bob was all these things and more.

We thank Bob for his kindness and extend our sympathy to his loved ones for their loss.





Returning and earning milestones

AS PART OF THE RETURN AND EARN SCHEME, THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY COLLECTS DRINK CONTAINERS AT OUR BULK PROCESSING SITES IN CARDIFF, DUBBO, NEPEAN, SHOALHAVEN, TAMWORTH, TWEED HEADS, UNANDERRA, AND WAGGA AS WELL AS SELECTED VINNIES SHOPS.

For each eligible container a customer brings in, there is a 10 cent rebate. This can be donated to the Society. It's good for the Society even if a customer chooses to keep the rebate as we get a handling fee from the Government either way and it's good for everyone because it means less waste going to landfill or winding up as litter.

The Return and Earn depots have been meeting

and exceeding targets and container counts at all collection points.

This means that over a million tonnes of cans and other containers will have been diverted from landfill.

The container processing sites are also partnering to support their local communities through initiatives such as an initiative by a group of tradies in Dubbo to support men's mental health. These initiatives reduce litter, protect the environment, and build sustainable futures for those in the community.

We have plans to open more Return and Earn depots in NSW, following on from our latest location in Tamworth which opened in January.

VINNIES RESTORES

WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Supporter No. _____

Title _____ First Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb/Town _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Tel _____ M _____ Email _____

☐ I would like to make a recurring donation of \$ _____ per month

OR ☐ I would like to increase my recurring donation by \$ _____

OR ☐ I would like to make a single gift of \$ _____

**DONATIONS OF
\$2 OR MORE ARE
TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Please debit the amount indicated to my credit card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Diners

Card Number _____

Card Holder's Name _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

OR ☐ Please find enclosed my Cheque/Money Order made payable to 'St Vincent de Paul Society NSW'

☐ Please tick here if you would like information about remembering the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW in your Will

☐ I have already left a gift to the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW in my Will

All communications are treated in the strictest confidence. The St Vincent de Paul Society NSW follows the Australian Privacy Principles. If you do not wish your details to be used for future fundraising activities please tick this box. ☐

SVA23/MTA23



To make a regular or single donation, simply complete your details and post to:

St Vincent de Paul Society
PO Box 19
Petersham NSW 2049
(02) 9568 0262
vinnies@vinnies.org.au
vinnies.org.au
Donation hotline: 13 18 12
ABN: 91 161 127 340

**ON BEHALF OF ALL THE
PEOPLE WHO WERE ASSISTED
BY VINNIES LAST YEAR...
THANK YOU.**



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works