



St Vincent de Paul Society  
CANBERRA/GOULBURN  
*good works*

# Corporate Overview

2024



# BACKGROUND

The St Vincent de Paul Society (the Society) Canberra/Goulburn is a registered charity and is structured as a Company Limited by Guarantee governed by a Board. It has served the Canberra region for over 100 years and is comprised of a mix of professional staff, volunteers and members of the Society.

Whilst part of the wider Society in Australia, comprised of independent entities in each jurisdiction who work together collaboratively, Vinnies Canberra / Goulburn uniquely operates across both the ACT and part of New South Wales serving communities from the far south coast, to the snowy mountains and out to Lake Cargelligo in the west.

The Society delivers 21 programs and services as well as runs 50 volunteer based support centres, a network of 28 stores and manages the ACT's reuse facilities. Most of our operational funding is self generated through our retail operations and fundraising activities, with some services being funded by the government.

Through the work of its members, volunteers and staff, the Society works to bring about lasting change to the lives of people in need. It provides practical frontline support, advocacy, and friendship to the most vulnerable members of our community.

The objective is to provide assistance to any person in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions. This is achieved by providing a 'hand up' not a 'hand out'.

Predominantly a volunteer run organisation, the Society prides itself on employing talented and enthusiastic individuals. Our employees undertake a cross section of administrative, case management, community service and management roles in varied programs and services.

Our network of member volunteers have deep roots in the communities they serve and provide practical and compassionate support on a daily basis for life's essentials. This work is supported by our professional specialist staff and our other volunteers. Our work is also supported by the community through in-kind and material and financial support.

The Society is also proactive in the social justice and advocacy space, engaging constructively with policy makers on issues that impact the people we serve in supporting our mission to shape a more just and fair society for all.

## Where you'll find us giving a 'hand up'



# WHO WE ARE

The 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 Frédéric Ozanam, who named it after the Patron Saint of Christian charity, St Vincent de Paul. Today, the 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 Society in carrying out its good works.

## OUR PEOPLE

Offering a hand up to the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society, known as “Companions”, is at the heart of our good works. We are Companion-centred. Members, volunteers and employees are the backbone of our organisation and work closely to deliver person-centred care in the most efficient way possible. The passion and dedication of our members, volunteers and employees is evident in the many programs and services we operate, whether this be at local schools, parishes, centres, or outreach services like Vinnies Street to Home or Night Patrol services.

### 415 Members

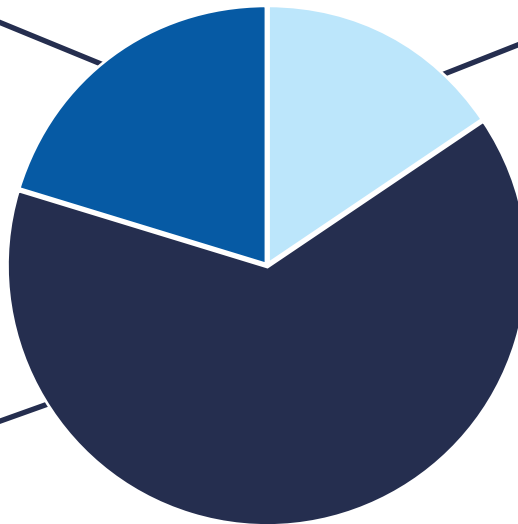
Our members are the backbone of the Society, providing support to Companions, determining our strategic direction, and guiding the effective delivery of programs and services to those in need.

### 342 Employees

Our paid employees are kept to a minimum to allow resources to be directed to people in need. We acknowledge the expertise of our employees in supporting the good works of our members and volunteers.

### 1,317 Volunteers

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



# FRAMEWORK FOR SUCCESS

## VISION

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring 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 St Vincent de Paul 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.

## VIRTUES

Bringing our vision to life and fulfilling our mission begins with an affirmation of the five essential virtues for Vincentians:

### **Simplicity**

Frankness, integrity, genuineness

### **Humility**

Accepting the truth about our frailties, gifts, talents and charisms, yet knowing that all that God gives us is for others, and that we can achieve nothing of eternal value without His grace

### **Gentleness**

Friendly assurance and invincible goodwill, which mean kindness, sweetness and patience in our relationship with others

### **Selflessness**

Dying to their ego with a life of self-sacrifice; members share their time, their possessions, their talents and themselves in a spirit of generosity

### **Zeal**

A passion for the full flourishing and eternal happiness of every person



## VALUES

Our values bind us together and guide our behaviours, our decision making and how we work with each other and our stakeholders.

### **Commitment**

Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values

### **Compassion**

Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgement

### **Respect**

Service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions

### **Integrity**

Promoting, maintaining and adhering to our mission, vision and values

### **Empathy**

Establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception

### **Advocacy**

Working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the causes of human injustice

### **Courage**

Encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future

## FOCUS AREAS

Our focus areas outline the things that matter to us and provides the road map for our growth.

### **1. Good Works**

Providing services and support to Companions to ensure financial, social and housing security.

### **2. Our people**

Ensuring members, volunteers and employees are enabled to work together to best serve our Companions.

### **3. Advocacy**

Shaping policy that affects our Companions and advocate on their behalf at a national and local level.

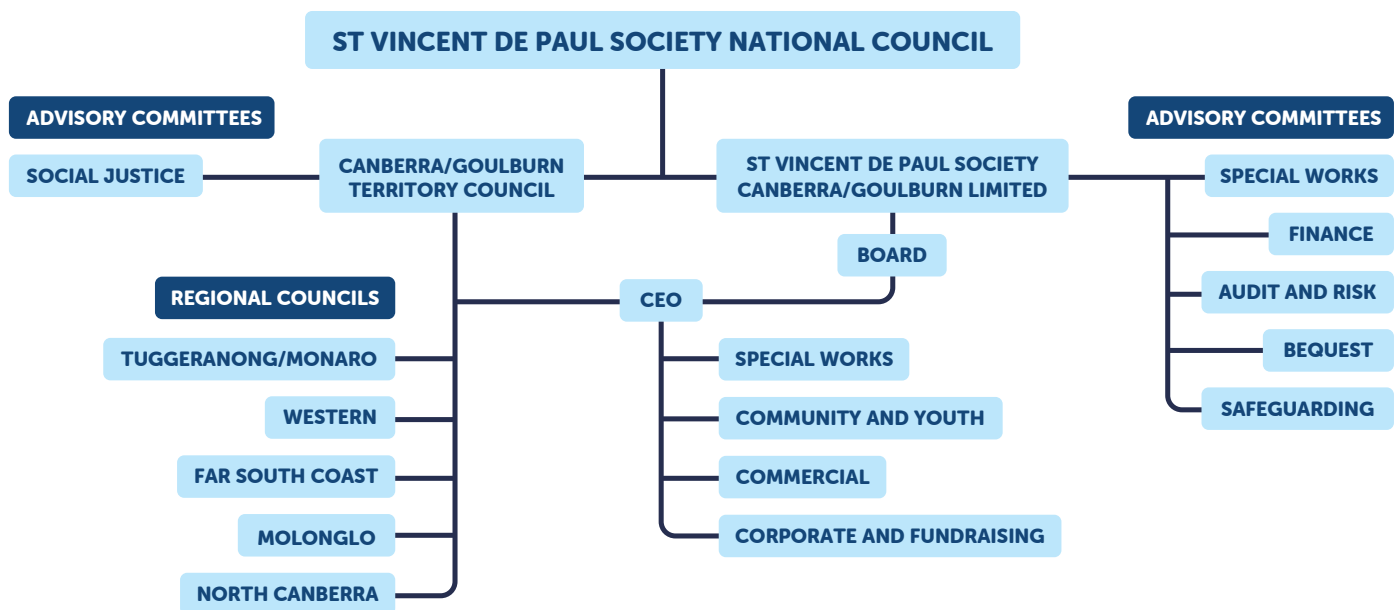
### **4. Sustainability, leadership and governance**

Securing our long-term sustainability and supporting Companions in an environmentally responsible manner.

### **5. Faith in action**

Putting our Vincentian spirituality to work by giving a hand up to Companions.

# ENTITY STRUCTURE



# WORKFORCE SNAPSHOT

as of 30 June 2024

**2,074** Total workforce



**415** members, **1,317** volunteers and **342** employees

# HOW WE HELP

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
OUR PROGRAMS AND  
SERVICES



The Society has provided a 'hand up' to the community for nearly 100 years across the ACT and surrounding southern and western regional areas of NSW with a network of shops and volunteer conferences.

Support differs from situation to situation, but our conferences remain central to the Society's good works and governance. Our volunteers members provide food, clothing, everyday essentials, assistance with bills, a listening ear, and much more.

At the same time, our 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. These services include crisis support, youth programs, family services, homelessness support, refugee and migrant services and a range of other programs.

## FOOD, HOUSING AND CLOTHING SERVICES



- Emergency Relief
- Blue Door Drop-in Centre
- Night Patrol
- Samaritan House
- Street to Home
- Thread Together Clothing Hub
- Justice Housing Program
- Vinnies Roadhouse

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

- Compeer Friendship Program
- Community Inclusion Program



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Clemente Education Program
- Home Energy Efficiency Program
- Wodens Monaro Highway Civil Taster Program
- Women's Return to Work Program



## FAMILY AND PARENTS SUPPORT

- Family Services Program



## YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Migrant and Refugee Program
- St Nick's Young Carers Program
- St Joe's Youth Program
- VINES Youth Program
- Mini Vinnies



## Be a part of our online community



[vinnies.org.au/act-surrounds](http://vinnies.org.au/act-surrounds)



[instagram.com/vinniescanberraregion/](https://www.instagram.com/vinniescanberraregion/)



[facebook.com/VinniesACT](https://www.facebook.com/VinniesACT)



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