Mini Vinnies VInsider

TERM 2 2026

It has been a busy start to the year, with many returning and new Mini Vinnies groups launching throughout the state.

This year we have 32 Mini Vinnies and Young Vinnies groups onboard!

While the students are the heart of our work, I would like to give a very special thank you to the teachers and staff who make this possible.

Your ongoing support ensures students are offered the opportunity to engage with the mission, vision, and Good Works of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Without you, our work would not be possible.

In Term Two, our focus is on addressing homelessness and highlighting the factors that lead to homelessness. Additionally, we explore why people may seek support from their community and how we can help.

The included community-focused activities and our upcoming Winter Appeal Kit will offer opportunities for your students to engage with the issues that Vinnies WA addresses while supporting our work through the 2026 Winter Appeal.

Term Two is also a great opportunity to think about scheduling a speaking engagement for the year! Our amazing team has presentations and activities that offer students a deeper understanding of poverty, homelessness, and how we are addressing these issues at Vinnies. More details on these speaking engagements and how to request them can be found in this issue of The VInsider.

Wishing you all the best for a fantastic Easter break and a great start to Term Two.

Hannah Taylor
Youth Engagement Coordinator

Vinnies Winter Appeal 2026

This winter we are focusing on the causes of sudden homelessness. Additionally, we look at the practical supports needed to move out of this situation.

Information about homelessness, activities, case studies, and ways to support can be found in our 2026 School Winter Appeal kit, which will be sent out in early Term Two.

Our most vulnerable community members are at increased risk as the weather cools. This winter, Vinnies WA is asking for food donations to refresh your local Conference's pantry, blankets to keep our community warm, and funds to support families.

If you would like more information about the Winter Appeal or to learn about the specific needs of your Conference, please reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au**

Term Two Activities

Help your primary school students connect to the work of Vinnies WA and the importance of their support through hands-on activities!

This Term, learn why people might ask for support from Vinnies, and brainstorm ideas to support your local community.

Access resources here
www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/youth-and-schools-wa/primary-school-resources

- Mini Vinnies - In Their Shoes
- OMini Vinnies - Kindness Brainstorm

2026 Planning

Engage with Vinnies WA throughout the year!

We've crafted a plan for your engagement this year, ensuring each term is brimming with opportunities to contribute to our shared mission. Each school is unique, so always feel free to adjust as needed.

Term 1

- Establish a Mini Vinnies group within your school or year group to give students the chance to engage with Vinnies throughout the year. Don't forget to order your Mini Vinnies badges!
- Schedule a Vinnies speaker for 2026 to enhance students' understanding and connection to Vinnies WA.
  www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/youth-and-schools-wa/primary-school-resources

Term 2

- Continue your work with Mini Vinnies, meeting regularly and offering ongoing learning and engagement opportunities.
- Participate in the 2026 Winter Appeal, collecting non-perishable food or funds to support vulnerable community members through the cold winter months.
- Engage your students in celebrating the history, culture and achievements of First Nations people in advance of NAIDOC Week 2026.

Term 3

- Share knowledge and engage with the issue of homelessness during Homelessness Week- the first week in August.
- Maintain the momentum of your Mini Vinnies group- consider running an educational poster campaign for the wider school.
- Build empathy through experiential learning by participating in the School Sleepout program.
  www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/fundraise-for-vinnies-wa

Term 4

- Start Term 4 by learning about those doing it tough during Anti-Poverty Week 2026.
- Wrap up the year on a heart-warming note by engaging in the Christmas Appeal to support your local Conference.
- Encourage students to write Christmas cards, spreading joy to those who may need it most.
- Ask students to volunteer their time after school to sort food donated for Christmas hampers, ensuring it is all in date and connecting them to the impact of their involvement.

If you have any questions, need guidance, or want to explore more ways to get involved, don't hesitate to reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au**. Together, let's make this school year one filled with compassion, connection, and positive change.

Meet Assumption Catholic Primary School

Since 2022, Assumption Catholic Primary School (ACPS) has been actively involved in supporting Vinnies WA through their Mini Vinnies Team. The ACPS Mini Vinnies team, made up of students from Years 4 to 6, meets weekly to support those in need within our school and local community. Through Mini Vinnies, students explore social justice issues, learn about the St Vincent de Paul Society, and live out their faith through service learning. The program provides opportunities for students to share ideas, raise concerns, and collaborate on projects that make a positive impact in the Peel Region, particularly for low-income families and individuals.

Since 2024, ACPS Mini Vinnies has led a variety of whole-school initiatives, including the annual Winter and Christmas appeals. These campaigns involved collecting donations such as toiletries, food, and toys to support those in need within the local community. To engage the whole school, Mini Vinnies members visited classrooms to explain each initiative, answer questions, and encourage participation. They also created posters and displays to promote awareness and inspire involvement of students and families. In 2025, Mini Vinnies also donated funds raised from a whole-school Pyjama Day to the St Vincent de Paul Society's Winter Appeal.

In addition to these appeals, Year 6 Mini Vinnies members have also participated in an excursion to the Peel Foodbank. During the visit, students learned about the importance and impact of Foodbank and assisted with moving and packing stock.

Thank you for your amazing work and support, Assumption Catholic Primary School!

Schools like yours support Conferences to do their work through your financial donations, food drives, and item collections. If you would like to learn more about your local Conference, reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au**.

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ASSUMPTION
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
MANDURAH

Conference Connection

There are 75 St Vincent de Paul Society Conferences in Western Australia. These Conferences are made up of volunteers, or Members, who live or work in a specific area.

Each Conference works to support their communities through Emergency Relief and other programs that meet the needs of their neighbours.

Each term we will feature a local Conference to share a little about who they are and what they do in their communities.

Meet the Woodvale Conference

The Woodvale Conference, established in 2009, serves the communities of Woodvale, Kingsley, and Edgewater, and extends support to Joondalup, Maddley, and Hocking with Emergency Relief services.

The Conference has between 12 and 18 active members, conducting home visits five days a week. With the assistance of St Luke's Parish, they provide food hampers, vouchers, and utility bill support to those in need.

Conference President Travice expresses gratitude for the strong partnerships with St Luke's Catholic Primary School and Mater Dei College, whose ongoing donations of toiletries and blankets greatly support their Winter Appeal.

Looking Ahead - School Sleepout

While we have just begun Term Two, there is a Term Three activity worth an early mention. The School Sleepout is a unique program that offers students the opportunity to learn about homelessness and rough sleeping through an immersive, hands-on event. The event is run at your school either in an overnight or evening program.

The Youth Engagement team is here to help, and resources are available at https://www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/fundraise-for-vinnies-wa

Speakers are available based on scheduling, so if you have a date in mind please reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au** as soon as possible.

School Spotlight

Each Term we will highlight the work of a special school that supports Vinnies WA.

Would you like to share your school's successes through the School Spotlight? Reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au** to register your interest.

Support Vinnies in Term Two

Want to start the year with a hands-on donation activity that supports people struggling with the cost of living crisis? Consider hosting a pyjama day blanket drive!

Get warm and snuggly while collecting blankets to allow vulnerable community members the opportunity to do the same.

Have a classroom, year group, or school-wide collection goal and then celebrate your achievement with a fun and cosy themed day.

Alternatively, as we enter into our Winter Appeal, Conferences are asking for food donations to refresh their pantry and funds to support families.

If you would like more ideas on how to support Vinnies, or to learn about the specific needs of your Conference, please reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au**

Join Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies program supports schools to offer education around social justice issues, empathy building activities, and leadership opportunities. This program is designed to flex to your school's individual needs, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have, and you can review our Mini Vinnies Starter Kit **www.vinnies.org.au/media/gqtpmtff/mini-vinnies-starter-kit.pdf**

If your school is ready to sign up to participate in Mini Vinnies, or if you would like to learn more about the program, now is a great time to register your interest for 2024. Simply fill out the survey **www.surveymonkey.com/r/VinniesSchoolGroupReg** and we will reach out with next steps.

Mini Vinnies Badges

We're thrilled to offer a streamlined process for requesting your Mini Vinnies badges.

Follow these simple steps:

- Complete a brief survey with your details - **www.surveymonkey.com/r/VinniesBadgeRequest**
- Share a brief overview of your involvement with Mini Vinnies.
- Sit back and look forward to receiving your Mini Vinnies badge that proudly reflects your students' commitment.

We can't wait to see your badges proudly displayed throughout the year!

Request a Speaker

Are you interested in having a Vinnies representative speak with your students?

Presentations for up to 40 students at a time can be an amazing way for your students to better understand the St Vincent de Paul Society and the work we do to support people experiencing homelessness and poverty in WA.

We would love to connect with your students and show them the incredible impact they can have as young people.

Simply email **youth@svdpwa.org.au** to inquire about a speaking event.

Vinnies good works

vinnies.org.au/wa

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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.