MINI VINNIES VINSIDER

TERM 1 2026

Welcome to the 2026 school year and our Term 1 edition of The VInsider! We are thrilled to be starting out a new year together.

We have an exciting year planned, full of engaging activities, educational resources, and opportunities to support the Good Works of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Our goal is to make your connection with Vinnies as enjoyable, accessible, and impactful as possible.

As your Youth Engagement Coordinator, I am excited to work with you to meet the unique needs and interests of your school. While this newsletter will offer a range of resources and activities that you can engage with throughout the year, please don't hesitate to reach out if you're looking for something more, I am a call or email away.

To start off the year, we are offering resources to engage your students in understanding and connecting with the idea of social justice.

What does it mean, who benefits from community support, and how they can engage and participate in social justice as young members of the community.

If you are interested starting a Mini Vinnies program at your school, booking in a time for a speaking event, or organising a Sleepout, this a great time to begin! Additional information about all of these opportunities and more can be found throughout this email.

Thank you for being a vital part of The VInsider community. Together we are making an impact on the issues of poverty and homelessness now and for generations to come. As always, thank you for your ongoing support of Vinnies WA.

Hannah Taylor
Youth Engagement Coordinator

Meet the Team

Hannah Taylor, Youth Engagement Coordinator, is here to ensure that your journey with Vinnies is smooth, enjoyable, and impactful.

With a passion for community engagement and a commitment to making a positive difference, Hannah is your connection to the heart of our shared mission!

Contact Hannah with questions, ideas, or areas of support- she is always keen to connect and just an email or call away.

E **youth@svdpwa.org.au**

Term One 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, consider the meaning behind Social Justice, create a Mini Vinnies logo, think about the communities you are part of and issues they may face, and learn about community organisations that are making a difference in Western Australia.

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

- Social Justice Factsheet
- Mini Vinnies Logo activity
- Our Community activity
- Services that help our Community activity

School Spotlight

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

2026 Planning

Get ready for a full and exciting year of making a positive impact with St Vincent de Paul Society of WA. 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 Emmaus Catholic Primary School

Emmaus Catholic Primary School has embraced its partnership with Vinnies WA since its inception in 2023. From the very beginning, the school community demonstrated a strong commitment to social justice, coordinating a successful Christmas Appeal with just a small group of senior students. In 2025, their commitment deepened with the launch of Emmaus's first official Mini Vinnies team, empowering students to take a more active role in supporting those in need.

Throughout the year, Emmaus students engaged in a variety of meaningful initiatives. From hosting the Youth Engagement Coordinator for a session on local challenges, to supporting the Winter and Christmas Appeals, their actions reflected a deep understanding of community needs. Notably, the students initiated a school-wide drive for freezer-friendly meals to support families in crisis and partnered with the Swan Valley Dementia Group to host the Swan Valley Memory Café- an intergenerational program fostering connection and dignity. These efforts, alongside their Easter donations to Foodbank, highlight the school's holistic approach to service, blending practical support with heartfelt engagement.

In 2026, Emmaus students are preparing to launch "Heart to Home," a student inspired initiative aimed at supporting individuals experiencing homelessness. This student-led project will provide care packs filled with essential self-care items, donated by peers across all year levels. With plans to unite the school community around this cause, the Mini Vinnies team hopes to offer not just practical help, but a powerful message of compassion and solidarity to those who need it most.

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.

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 Joondalup Support Centre

Joondalup Support Centre opened in May 2021 to meet growing needs in Perth's northern suburbs, extending over 30km north of Joondalup to Two Rocks. Operating three days a week with around 45 volunteers, the Centre provides emergency relief and confidential support for companions facing hardship. Services include food, petrol, and clothing assistance, help with utility bills, rent, and medical costs, plus a well-stocked pantry, prepared meals from community support, and fresh food deliveries from OzHarvest.

Assisting an average of 35 households weekly, Joondalup Support Centre is a vital lifeline for people experiencing homelessness, family violence, and financial stress. The Centre supports complex needs through free financial counselling, advocacy, and referrals to specialist services. The team works closely with agencies like Red Cross and Salvation Army to secure safe accommodation and holistic support. By addressing both immediate and long-term needs, the Centre helps improve wellbeing and life outcomes for those most in need.

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.

Tidy up and support Vinnies!

Work with your school families to support Vinnies shops! Add the following to your next school newsletter to encourage families to make a difference through their next cleanout.

If you're clearing out at home, Vinnies would love your good quality donations. We're looking for men's, women's, and kids' clothing, as well as homewares and bric-a-brac. Your generosity helps families in need across our community. Stop by your local shop and make a difference!

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.