

Annual Report



Moving Forward



St Vincent de Paul Society
CANBERRA/GOULBURN
good works

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn acknowledges with deep respect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We pay respect to their cultures, Elders past, present and emerging, and we commit to working together for our shared future based on compassion, justice and hope.

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John Feint, President,

St Vincent de Paul Society

Canberra/Goulburn

PRESIDENT'S *Message*

When I was considering taking on the role of President in 2019, I was encouraged by the professional way the Society is managed and its reach across many areas of need.

I was also very much aware of the way the Society builds self-reliance and resilience through its strong positive relationship with our community and especially our donors – who contribute significantly to our achievements.

2019-20 has been a year where the Society has faced some of the most significant challenges to its operations since it was formed in Canberra/ Goulburn. We faced bushfires that affected our coastal and mountain communities as well as drought affecting our rural communities. If that were not enough to address, the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent shutdown has significantly impacted the capacity of the Society. We took unprecedented action such as temporarily closing many centres, reducing staff hours to 4 days a week, and employees working from home.

Despite the challenges, the Society's members, volunteers and employees have shone. They have remained positive throughout, looking for new ways to address the needs of those we help – our companions. We adapted programs, new delivery methods tried, and importantly, new and stronger relationships built. These come from the perspective that 'we are all in this together' and so we need to work together to find solutions.

Our Night Patrol vans continued providing support every night, Bushfire Recovery Assistance went to over the phone and online, conferences continued to support companions whilst maintaining social distancing measures and our centres that remained open traded strongly. In Canberra, key centres remained open throughout the COVID-19 lockdown as part of the Canberra Support Network, providing critical support hubs for those in need. Programs like Blue Door at Ainslie Village, where we would normally provide sit-down meals and companionship, moved to take-away. Compeer and Clemente, which provide support and companionship to companions with mental health issues and

those returning to post-secondary studies respectively, continued to provide this support over the phone or internet. Our youth programs moved to providing support and activity packs for children and young carers.

Fundraising also adapted to the changed environment. Due to dangerous levels of bushfire smoke in Canberra, our traditional February Doorknock Appeal moved from individual door knocks to collection stations at shopping centres. Whilst this modified approach did not raise as much money as the traditional appeal, it did raise the profile of the Society in the wider community. It also helped to build relationships with businesses operating in shopping centres and other collection locations.

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout also went online. This too provided an opportunity to try a new approach, with participants encouraged to sleep out at their homes or workplaces. This increased the number of participants and resulted in Canberra/Goulburn achieving well above our target of \$350,000. Nationally, the event raised over \$5.7 million.

Whilst I have been impressed with how well we have adapted and managed during this year of crisis, we are still working hard on our financial recovery. Important capital works to improve our centres and management of donations is being delayed as we have had to refocus our priorities to areas of most critical need.

Bushfire recovery in Canberra/Goulburn continues to be a priority. We know from our experience of the January 2003 Canberra bushfire and the March 2018 Tathra bushfire that recovery takes years. The scale of the 2019-20 summer bushfires in our region was immense, stretching our resources along the coast and into the mountains and slopes. Our work is supported by the Federal Government funding and the Society's bushfire relief appeal. Yet, I know from my personal contact with hundreds of fire victims, that recovery is complex and made even more difficult by COVID-19.

The Society is there with victims for the long haul through the support and companionship provided by our conferences. This work is supported significantly by our donors and I thank you for that support. It makes a difference and I hear it in the comments from companions. Being there in the crisis to help with bills, accommodation, transport, utilities, referrals or just be someone to talk to is incredibly important.

The Society is also mindful that many of our companions have benefited from enhanced Commonwealth payments under JobSeeker and there is no clear indication about what long term arrangements will apply. We are expecting that if there is a return to previous assistance arrangements there will be increased calls on our service. This will be compounded by the impact of COVID-19 on employment across our region, pushing more to seek assistance.

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn does a lot given our size. We could not provide these services on the scale we do without the dedicated service of our 638 members, 2164 volunteers, and 146 employees. I am very proud of them for their generosity with their time and dedication to continuing the work that our founders Frederic Ozanam, and his companions, commenced 187 years ago. Lastly, we must not forget all those who support our work – the ACT and Commonwealth Governments, our sponsors and donors. A very sincere thank you. We could not do what we do without your continuing help and support.



Barnie van Wyk, CEO,

St Vincent de Paul Society

Canberra/Goulburn

CEO REPORT

Annual Review

2019-20

The Strategic Plan of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn 2018-2022 set the Society on a path of responsive growth of membership, revenue, social impact, and engagement with companions and the communities that we serve.

This year, we have made significant progress towards these strategic goals despite the impact of devastating bushfires on communities, businesses, volunteers, members and employees, and the uncertainty and impact COVID-19 has brought.

The Society has been forced to rely on proactive innovations to navigate these uncharted waters ensuring the support of all our companions, including those who have never before had to approach Vinnies for support.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST STRATEGIC GOALS

SPIRITUALITY GOALS

The Society's Vision, Mission and Values are at the core of all decisions and undertakings. Over the year we have introduced members, employees and volunteers to the Vincentian Spirituality through induction, orientation and training programs. We have initiated a 'Living the Values' program which will be rolled out at a future date.

The role of 'Spiritual Facilitator' in our conferences has received renewed focus with a training program launched late in 2019, however interrupted by the bushfires and COVID-19. This training program is being developed as part of an online solution.

COMMUNICATION GOALS

A Territory Council Communications Committee has been established to support the communication requirements of the Society. The key focus of the committee is to work collaboratively with all members, volunteers and employees to finalise a streamlined communication strategy for all stakeholders whilst phasing out dated practices and embracing the updated technology of the Society.

The introduction of the new Litmos system has ensured the distribution of the Society's mandatory training modules to all employees. It has also been helpful to be able to offer relevant courses at appropriate times, for example, mental health training after the bushfires.

In March 2020, the ICT platform moved to cloud storage for safer and more sustainable file management. The shift to new technologies occurred against the backdrop of a global pandemic. While this added further challenges to the transition, the greater capabilities of the new systems enabled our people to work effectively from home and ensured communication across departments and cohorts did not drop off during this period.



In fact, due to members embracing video conferences and other online technologies, we can have greater input from our regional peers which was a priority for the Communications Committee.

SOCIETY WORKS GOALS

Confronted with the uncertainty of the impact of COVID-19 on the Society, several organisational changes were introduced to support the mission of the Society and the ability to provide a 'hand up' to companions. These changes have supported the efficiency and performance of the Society. All elements of the Society have presented evidence of effective collaboration, both internally by reallocating employees, and with external partners to continue to provide support to the most vulnerable in our communities.

The Society was confronted with the withdrawal of provider support services within 24 hours of COVID-19 announcements by the relevant health representatives, yet through strong relationships with stakeholders managed to continue the provision of support to all who required it. Examples are the redirection of food held by the Society to support companions to the Canberra Relief Network collaborating with Foodbank, and arrangements with businesses including Canberra Southern Cross Club's support of Oaks Estate residents with food donations, and their contribution to Night

Patrol companions helping to care for rough sleepers and those experiencing isolation.

PARTNERSHIP GOALS

A positive outcome from the pandemic is that it forced the engagement of not-for-profit organisations to share data and services and develop innovative practices to combat potential shortfalls. Evidence of an efficient collaboration was the introduction of Axial Housing in a collaboration of the Society's Street to Home Services and CatholicCare. This collaboration ensured the housing of 19 companions at the end of the financial year with quality wrap-around services to support them. Our partnership with schools through our Youth and Young Adult Team has been significantly affected by COVID-19 with students restricted to online learning. We have provided resources on social justice topics which teachers have used in their virtual classrooms. Since face to face learning recommenced in Term 2 (early June), schools have actively engaged in fundraising and material aid appeals.

Other partnership examples include a container deposit scheme promoting 'matching donations' over the Christmas period in partnership with Return.It, and the University of Canberra developing a volunteer rostering application for the Night Patrol program.

ADVOCACY GOALS

In October 2019, to introduce Anti-Poverty Week, the Society facilitated a panel discussion focused on the Raise the Rate campaign. It was a good opportunity to reinforce partnerships with the business sector and cement the debate around significant issues directly affecting our people experiencing poverty.

The Advisor to the Social Justice Committee of the Territory Council participated in the 'Our Booris Our Way' Steering Committee report to the ACT Government in December 2019 on measures that can be taken to reduce the disproportionate number of Indigenous children in out-of-home care.

In early March we took part in an advocacy workshop to engage more people across the Society in our advocacy endeavours, and to start planning for the ACT election in October 2020.

Due to COVID-19 the annual Palm Sunday rally for refugees was cancelled, but the Vinnies community instead engaged in online rallying calling for humane treatment of refugees and highlighting the hygiene issues faced by people in detention particularly throughout a global health crisis. Our people strongly advocated on community housing, income adequacy, homelessness issues and exit strategies for people temporarily housed as result of COVID-19 at state and federal level.

Through Caritas Christi, we participated in advocating for fair treatment of migrants and people seeking asylum, including a stop to cuts of the Status Resolution Support Services payments.

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

The Society has adopted several new standards to achieve its Quality Improvement Program Accreditation to be finalised in the next financial year.

Outsourcing our ICT platform to St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has ensured access to

modern technologies and additional supports. This will ensure greater security and opportunities for growth. The timing of this update allowed the seamless transition of employees to work from home during the pandemic minimising the impact on the Society's programs.

The Society commissioned a report to analyse the property portfolio, formulating an investment strategy and capital plan. A strong focus has been placed on evaluating the Mitchell Warehouse operation that has run out of capacity to store stock and support the growth experienced in the Vinnies shops.

Our Vinnies shops were an example of exemplary community support this year. When bushfires first swept through the South Coast, people turned to the centres for immediate support and material aid. The shops continued to be crucial support hubs even after recovery centres were established.

Throughout the height of COVID-19, we operated as an essential service when businesses were closed to ensure that food hampers were available for vulnerable and disadvantaged companions. The shops also served as an initial contact point for many companions experiencing homelessness as public buildings and facilities were closed making it challenging for those without phone or internet access to receive necessary assistance.

Volunteers at risk were requested not to participate and the number of Vinnies shops open were reduced and operating hours limited. There is strong acknowledgement of Vinnies serving the poor under difficult circumstances often with only two employees keeping a shop open, navigating between supporting a customer and receiving donations.

OUR PEOPLE

The resilience of our members, volunteers and employees has never been tested to the extent experienced this financial year and we have achieved exemplary results.

When the Black Summer fires devastated communities, employees immediately engaged with food, garments, and accommodation requirements. The Society were not first responders but assisted other organisations with the mammoth task. Many employees and volunteers were operating Vinnies shops unsure of the impact of the fires on them personally. Employees cancelled leave arrangements and assisted with the Bushfire “Emergency Response” Phase initiated by the Society on 5 January 2020, mostly driven by conference members on the Far South Coast to support people affected and provide assistance and information.

A Bushfire Taskforce was stood up consisting of Territory Council members and, together with local conference members and volunteers, set up in Batemans Bay and Bega Disaster Recovery Centres and local conference facilities to support people impacted by the fires. The team completed interviews and assessments of all those seeking help, and applications for assistance were supported by the Society’s Mission, Spirituality and Conference Team and Finance Team. By 30 June the Society had distributed \$1,909,950 in DSS Emergency Relief Funds and \$4,503,708 in appeal funds, assisting 3032 households.

The Society initiated preparations for a Bushfire Community Grants Program and a Bushfire Community Recovery Program to be rolled out in August 2020 to further support communities with their bushfire recovery requirements.

COVID-19 has impacted the delivery of bushfire relief with the focus shifting to the health and protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged companions, members, volunteers and employees. The following were highlighted as successes in the management of the pandemic:

- The transparency of management and excellence of communication on a regular basis
- The speed and efficiency of ICT infrastructure deployment to homes ensuring the continuance of operations (staff were set up with ‘nighthawk’ wi-fi devices, allowed to take their computers, screens and chairs home)
- Rapid response of government to introduce workshops addressing emergency relief, rough sleepers and homelessness and the engagement of the sector to introduce response plans to address clusters and break outs
- The approach of management to minimise the financial impact on the Society whilst ensuring capacity to care for companions
- Serving the community and mission of the Society keeping some Vinnies shops open creating ‘a beacon of hope’ in the Society.

Regardless of where COVID-19 will take us or what impact it will have in the future, Vinnies is focusing on what matters the most: the people and communities we serve.

On behalf of the Executive Team, I would like to sincerely thank all our members, volunteers and employees for their dedication during these times. The strength and resilience you have shown, sometimes in the face of great personal sacrifice, have not only supported but have saved lives.

Finally, I would also like to thank the members of the Territory Council for their leadership and commitment to the mission and governance of the organisation and all it stands for.





*John Vance, Director of Mission,
Spirituality and Membership*

SPIRITUAL *Reflection*

When I look at this painting, I am reminded of the extraordinary events that we all have gone and continue to go through over these last 12 months.

The yellowy orange of the drought coupled with the red of the fires, then the dark hues of the smoke and finally the creeping blackness of COVID-19. Yet amid all this despair, loss, grief and sorrow is the universal symbol of sacrifice, service and triumph - the Cross

Throughout this time our prayers have always been, and will continue to be, for everyone who has suffered loss in any way due to these extraordinary events. The St Vincent de Paul Society remains steadfast in its resolve to provide for the needs of all who call upon us

now and to walk with them into the future. We continue to offer support, material goods and help, as well as making available the means by which they can achieve the 'hand up' in their lives.

So many journeys ahead will be filled with reflection, replanting, rebuilding, re-stocking, re-adjustment, replenishing, recuperating and re-establishing. Throughout all of this the Society will be there, as service to others is the heart of what we do as Vincentians. Members, volunteers, employees and benefactors hold this service to others central to their lives by respecting each's dignity, providing hope, and encouraging everyone to take control of their lives. Blessed Frederic talked about times such as those currently and those we will continue

to experience for some time, reminding us that if we 'stay the path' good will come.

'For, whatever far-reaching changes the future may have in store for the world, sympathy for others and singleness of purpose will always be understood and appreciated by all honest minded people'. (1)

The pages of our Annual Report show the extent to which the Society's vision has been fulfilled over the last 12. The enormous lengths that everyone who volunteers, supports or works for the Society have taken and continue to take is truly inspiring. It is the embodiment of our Mission of service to bring love, respect, justice, hope and joy to all.

As you would expect, several of our major fundraising events have suffered because of the events of these last 12.

Yet, with the amazing help of our supporters the results that we have achieved have been beyond our expectations, so thank you. Due to these wonderful efforts all our companions will continue to be supported.

Moving forward in these uncertain times we have the words of St Teresa of Avila to guide and strengthen us:

'Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things pass, God does not change. Patience achieves everything, whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eyes through which Christ looks out with compassion to the world, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; yours are the hands with which he is to bless everyone now.

Christ has no body now but yours'

St Teresa of Avila (2)

On behalf of all of our companions, we extend a huge thank you to all of our members, volunteers, employees and benefactors for all you have done and will continue to do ensuring everyone has a right to a life lived to the fullest.

1. Rev Henry Louis Hughes *Frederic Ozanam*

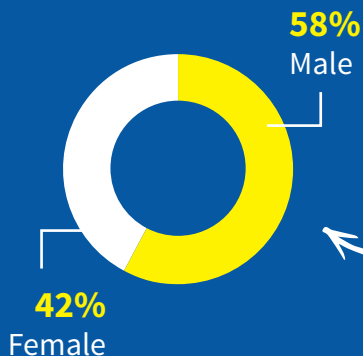
2. <https://www.catholicity.com/prayer/prayer-of-saint-teresa-of-avila.htmls>



Blessed Frederic Ozanam,

Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society

WHY WE Help

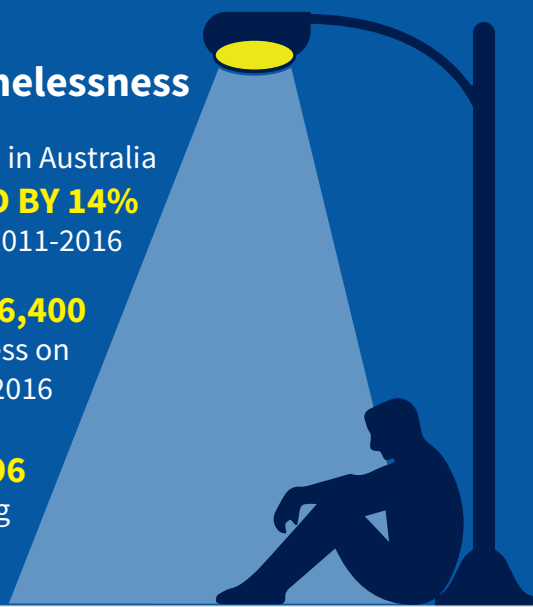


Homelessness

Homelessness in Australia **INCREASED BY 14%** between 2011-2016

116,400 estimated as homeless on the census night of 2016

1596 experiencing homelessness in the ACT



Poverty



739,000 Australian children

(more than 1 in 8) live below the poverty line



26,000 Canberrans are living below the poverty line, with **8000 of these being children**



People on Newstart get **\$272.90 per week** but median rent in Canberra is: **\$430 a week for a unit or \$540 a week for a house**

Housing



There is a shortfall of 3000 social housing dwellings in the ACT, signifying the need for social housing

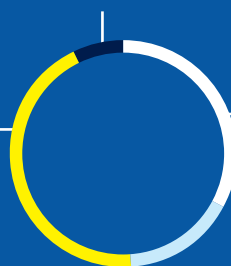
▲ 230% increase in number of people in overcrowded dwellings in ACT & NSW between 2001 & 2016



Over 14% of those in public house dwellings are on Newstart, suffering from rental stress whilst paying a median amount of **\$240 a week.**

Rough sleepers represent only **7%** of the homeless population

And **44%** in severely over-crowded dwellings



33% in temporary or supported accommodation

16% in boarding houses or temporary lodgings



Sources

Homelessness in Australia – Parliament of Australia. (2020). Retrieved from https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/FlagPost/2018/March/Homelessness_in_Australia

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Housing affordability in Australia – Parliament of Australia. (2020). Retrieved from https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BriefingBook45p/HousingAffordability

*Saunders, P., Wong, M., & Bradbury, B. (2016). Poverty in Australia since the financial crisis: the role of housing costs, income growth and unemployment. *Journal Of Poverty And Social Justice*, 24(2), 97-112. doi: 10.1332/175982716x14650295704614*

2016 Census. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/2016>

Who We Are

The St Vincent de Paul Society is an international, lay Catholic organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing assistance to anyone in need.

The Society was founded in France by a group of young men in 1833, the principal founder being the Blessed Frederic Ozanam. This group of young people named the Society 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 members of the Society volunteer their time and are at the core of what the Society does.

In addition to our members, we also have volunteers and employees who dedicate their time to serving the Canberra/Goulburn region, enabling the Society to carry out its good works.

VISION

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

OUR PEOPLE

People are the core of our good works and the manner in which we operate. The passion of our members, volunteers, and employees for the most marginalized in our society is evident across the Society and all the programs. Our people believe in our Mission and aspire to provide a 'hand up' to people in need, covering

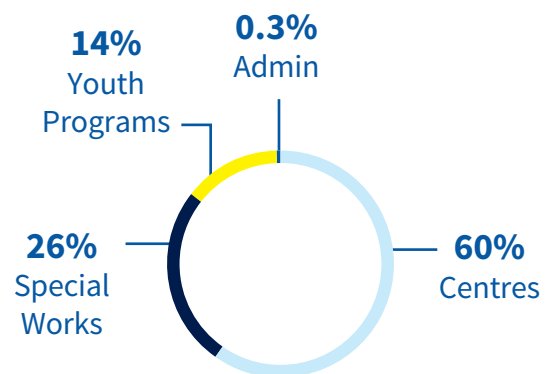
a broad range of roles focusing on supporting our companions. With a team of 638 members, 2164 volunteers and 146 employees we are working directly in the communities we serve; in the local schools, parishes, and wherever help is needed.

638 MEMBERS

Members are the backbone of the Society, providing support to companions, and determining the strategic direction of the Society and how best to provide our programs and services to people in need.

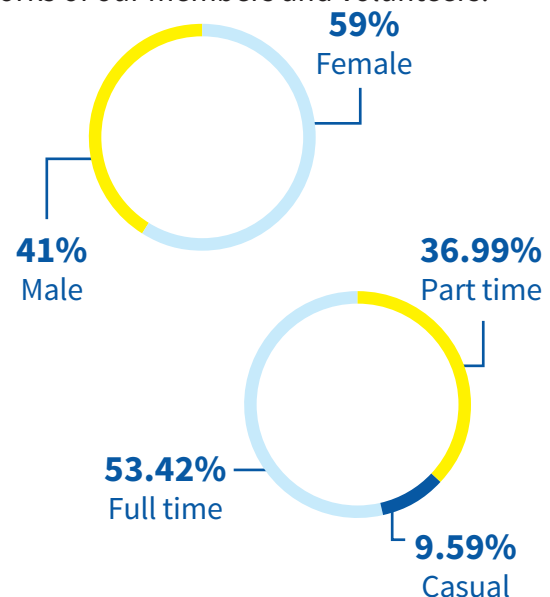
2164 VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers extend their skills and abilities across the breadth of the Society.



146 EMPLOYEES

Our paid employee base is kept to a minimum, to allow our resources to be directed at people in need. We acknowledge the expertise of our employees which complements the good works of our members and volunteers.



How We Help

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn helps people in need in a number of ways, giving them a 'hand up' to make life-changing decisions.

The type of support offered differs from situation to situation, but our conferences

remain central to the Society's good works and governance.

The Special Works of the Society focus on services that require professional staff and full-time support, though most are reliant on the generous donation of time from volunteers.



CENTRES



**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**



**HOMELESSNESS
SERVICES**



**MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES**



**EDUCATION
SERVICES**



**YOUTH
PROGRAMS**



**SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT**



**SOCIAL
JUSTICE ADVOCACY**



Governance

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Canberra/Goulburn operates under The Rule approved by the International Council General of the Society in Paris and the National Council in Australia.

The core of the Society is the 'conference'. A conference is a group of members, or Vincentians, who seek to live out their faith by helping those in need in our community. The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn has 638 members in 51 conferences, who offer people in crisis a 'hand up', not just a hand out. They operate in accordance with The Rule of the Society and may be established within any community, such as a parish, town, suburb, school, university, workplace, ethnic or social group. Members operate through their local conferences at the grassroots level by visiting people in need in their homes or conducting interviews with them in our centres to best find ways to support them.

Many conferences are parish-based but special conferences are formed to address certain needs including youth and young adults, spirituality, and migrants and refugees. Each conference elects a President and the Conference Presidents together form a Regional Council in their area. There are six Regional Councils in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese. A Vice President for Conferences, Training and Development provides high level support for conference work, and is supported by the Director of Mission, Spirituality and Membership.

Three of our conferences are youth and young adult conferences. Two of these focus on youth holiday camps helping to support young people. The third is populated by students at the Australian National University. These conferences are supported by a Vice President for Youth and Young Adults.



Sarah Clifton,

Director Secretariat

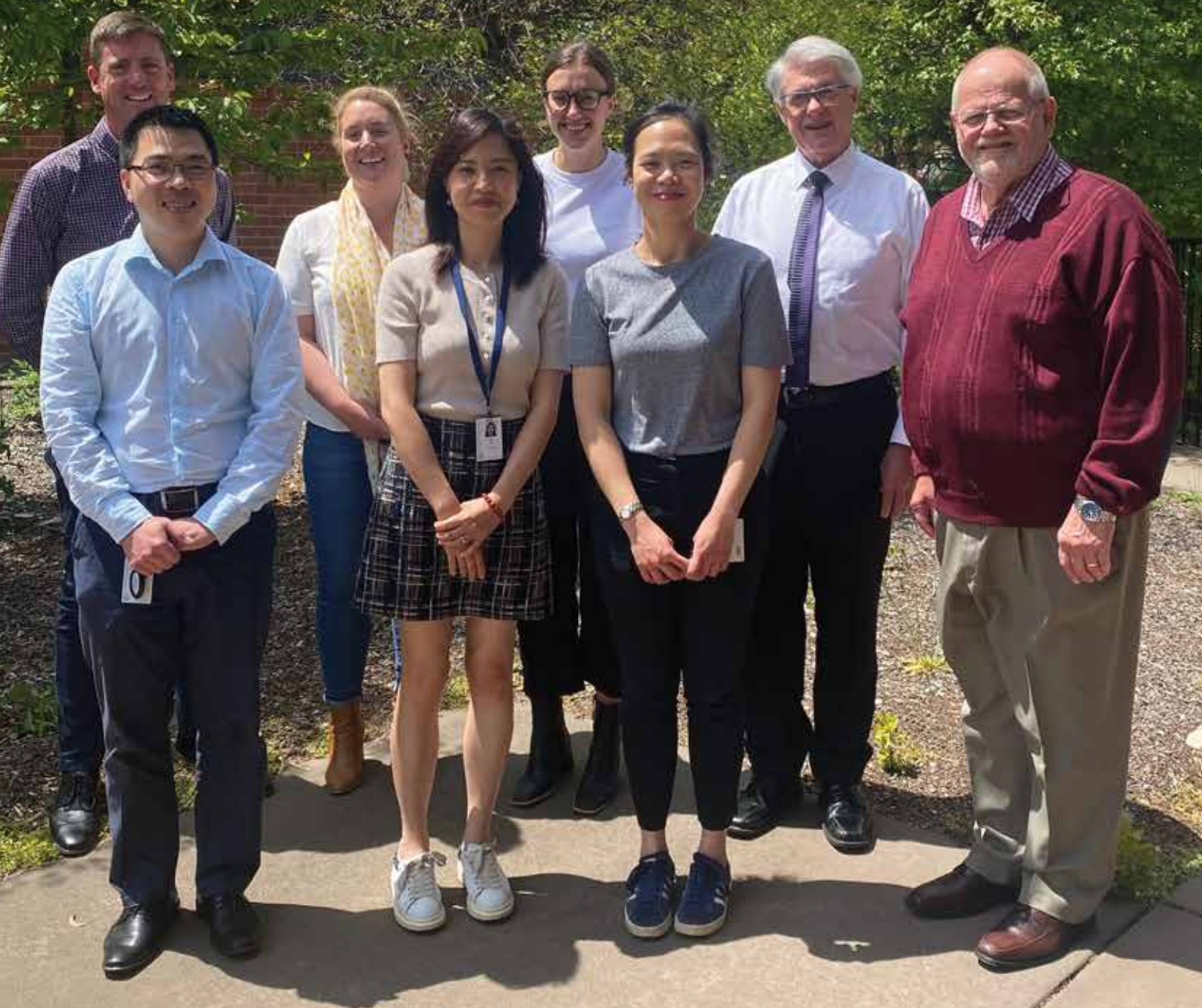
The governing body for the Society in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese is the Territory Council. The Council is comprised of the six Regional Presidents elected as above, and the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Spiritual Advisor. The Council is advised by a Legal Counsel, Twinning Advisor, Social Justice and Advocacy Advisor, and the CEO. The President of the Council is elected by the Council members. The Council met seven times during the financial year. There are several sub-committees formed by members of the Council and external experts who meet regularly and provide guidance to the Council on matters such as audit, risk, finance, and social justice.

The CEO manages all employees and business operations for the Society, and reports to the Territory Council. The CEO is responsible for providing input to, and implementing, the Territory Council's Strategic Plan. The current Public Officer is the Chief Financial Officer and the Director Secretariat is responsible for the Society's governance framework.

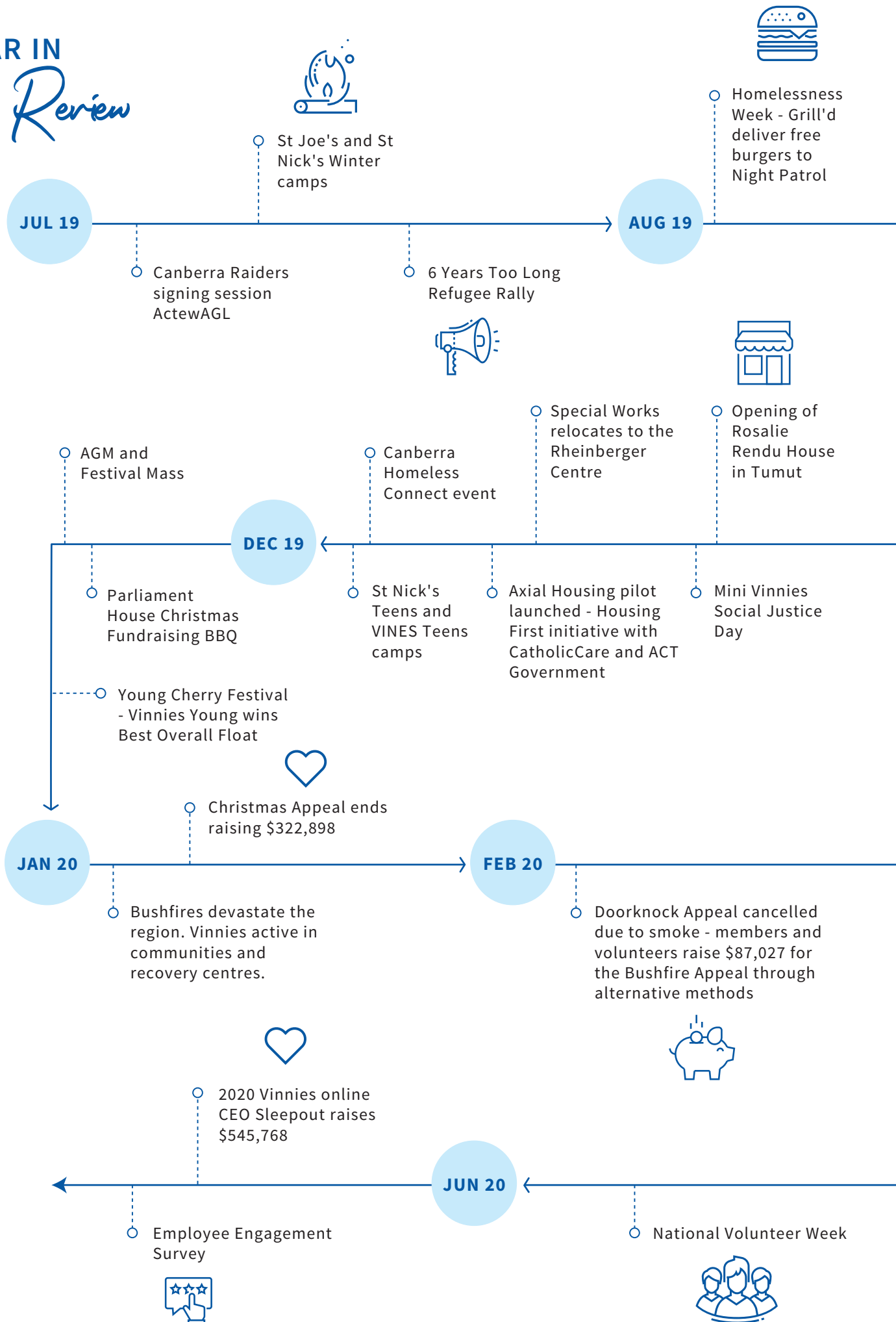
Under The Rule, the Society can undertake Special Works, the largest being our 27 Vinnies centres. The centres are managed by a Director of Commercial Operations who oversees Area Managers and Retail Managers.

Other Special Works focus on services that require professional staff and full-time support and cannot be easily managed under the conference model. There are 12 other Special Works programs which are managed by the Director of Special Works and supported by a Vice President.

The Society is incorporated as an association under the *ACT Associations Incorporation Act 1991* and holds a subsidiary company limited by shares under the *Corporations Act 2001*. The Territory Council has identified that a single Company Limited by Guarantee would be the most appropriate legal entity for the Society and will pursue the steps to achieve this desired legal structure.



YEAR IN Review





Vinnies Social Justice Workshop delivered at SHINE Youth Conference held at Marist College, over 500 students from Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese attended



Spring Appeal raises \$35,021

SEP 19

Ten years of Compeer in ACT

ANU Youth Homelessness panel event



Dressed by Vinnies Day - Repurpose with Purpose



St Joe's ROCKtober camp

Anti Poverty Week - Raise the Rate panel breakfast

NOV 19

OCT 19

Members, Volunteers and Employees participate in 2 day Communication and Collaboration workshop

South Coast Mini Vinnies Social Justice Day

Night Patrol secures grant funding from Parliament House Press Gallery Midwinter Ball



Hands Up for Canberra Giving Day



Street to Home 10 year anniversary - celebration postponed due to Covid-19

MAR 20

Small group of employees participate in Advocacy Training, focusing on the ACT election

Covid-19 restrictions begin



Covid-19 restrictions start to ease

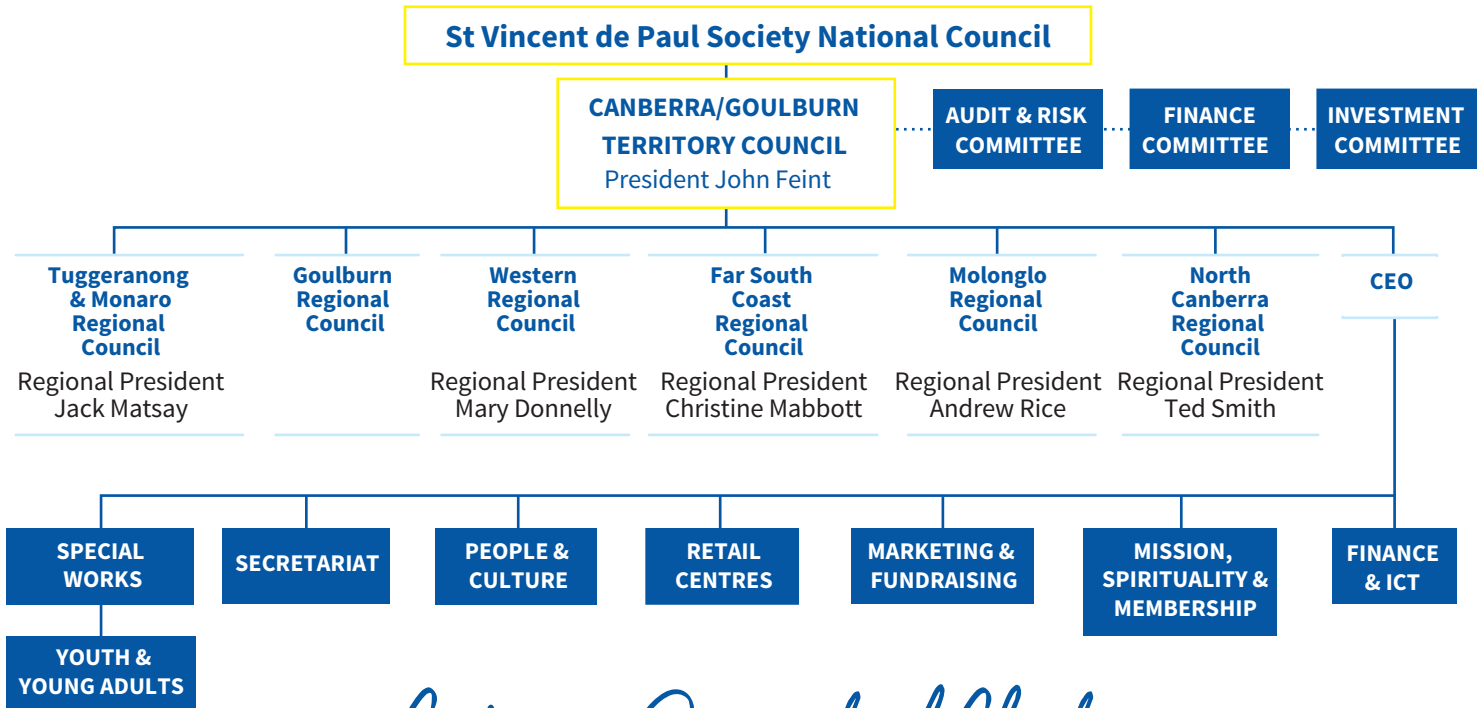
Palm Sunday Refugee Action Digital Campaign

MAY 20

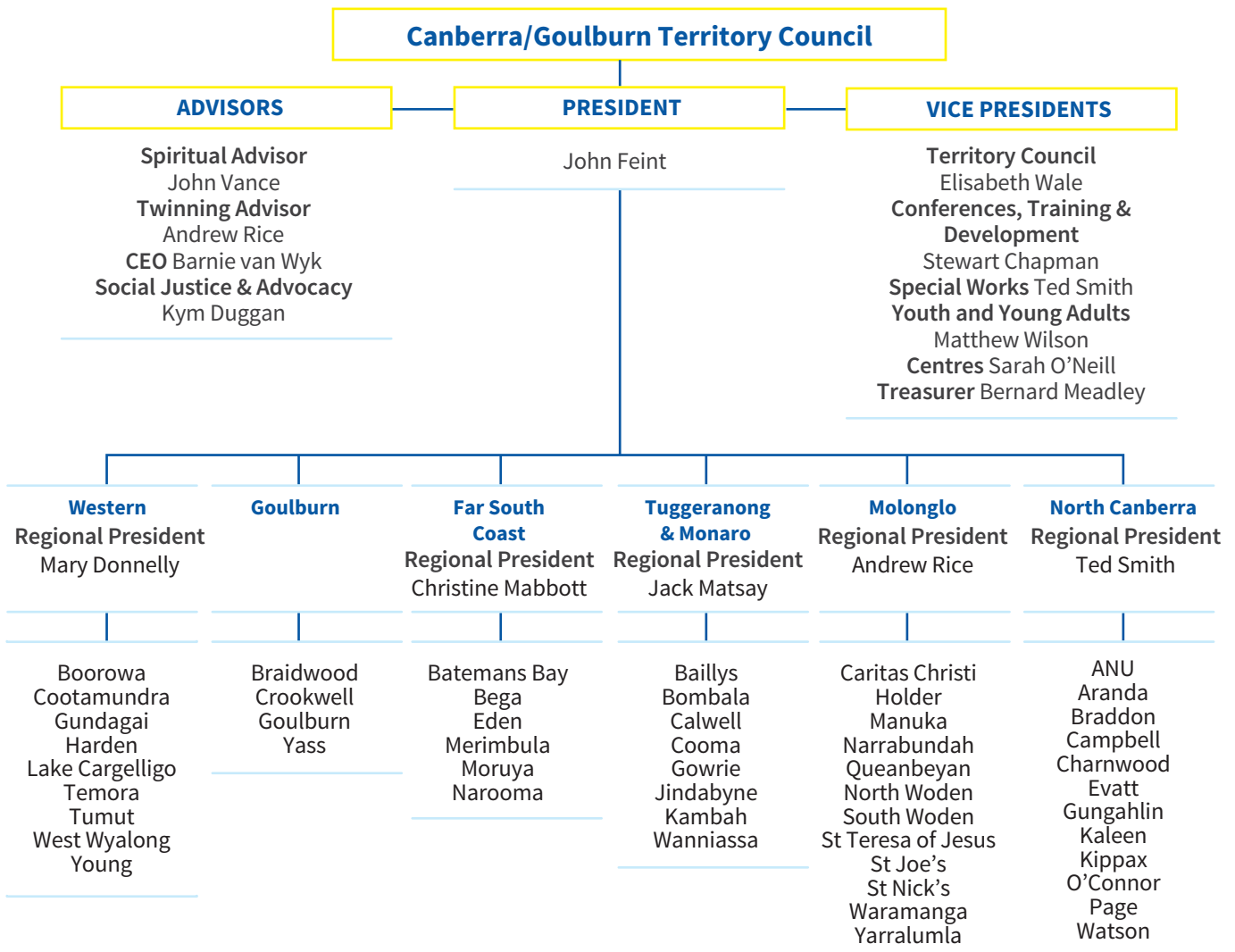
APR 20

ICT transitioned to the cloud, Office365 and Microsoft Teams

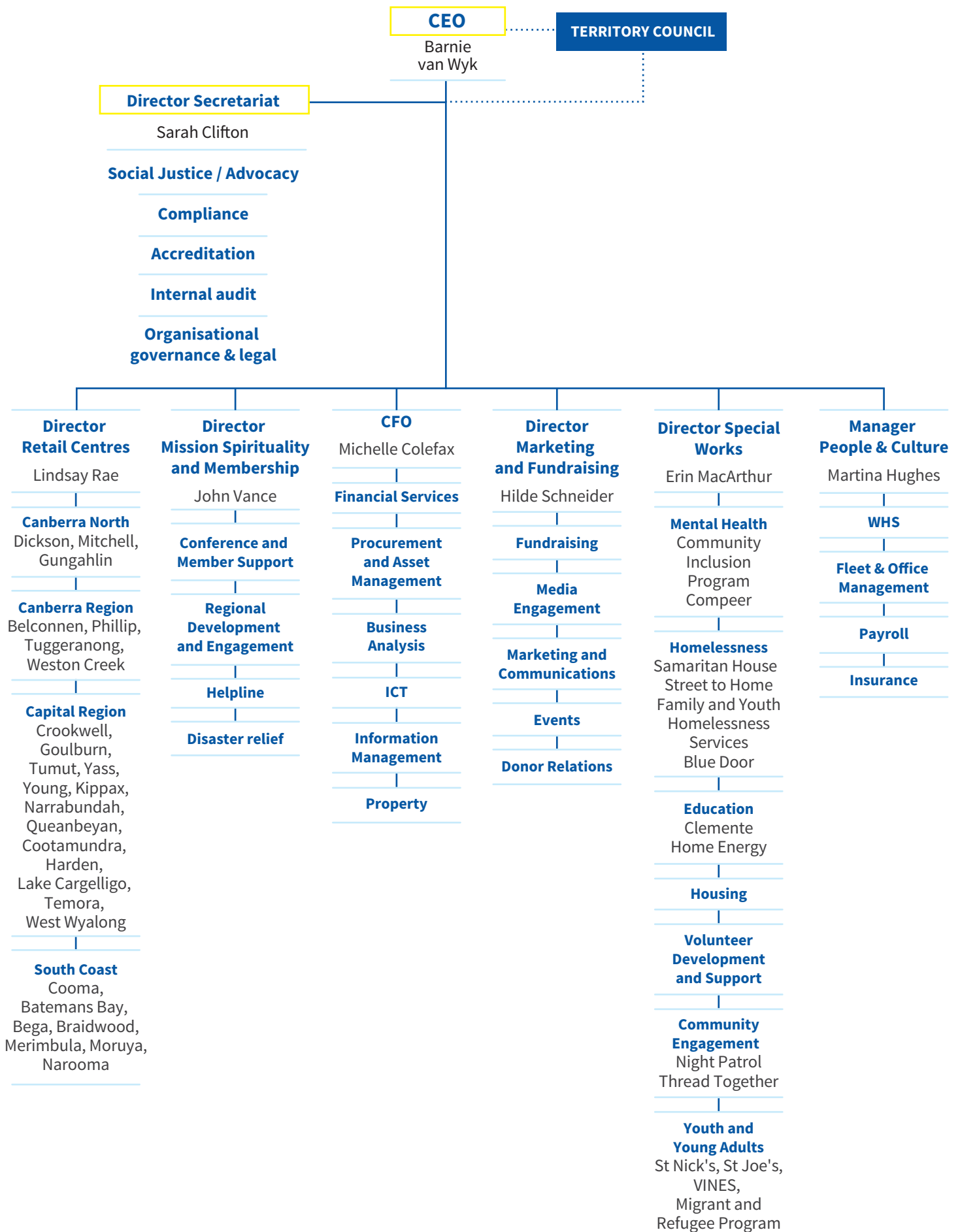
Governance Structure



Conference Organisational Chart



Employee Structure





CONFERENCES ACROSS *Canberra/Goulburn*

As always, the conferences across the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese are the central foundation to the work of the St Vincent De Paul Society. This continues to be the case despite the challenges faced by the Society and its conferences. Specifically, this year has proved to be one of the most difficult faced by the Society. The year can generally be seen in two halves - the first six months where the usual activities and services of conference work was the norm. Then from December onwards large parts of the Archdiocese were impacted by summer bushfires, followed by the severe impact of COVID-19 across the whole region from early March.

The main service provided by conferences continues to be the provision of emergency food relief. Homelessness of companions across the Archdiocese is still a major issue coupled with the reliance on social service payments.

Stewart Chapman,

Vice President, Conferences,

Training & Recruitment

The conferences have been vital in providing a huge volume of assistance to those impacted by the summer bushfires. It was the conferences that were on the frontline, providing a range of immediate assistance and working closely with government and service agencies in providing help at and/or through the link to bushfire recovery centres such as at Batemans Bay. It should also be noted the great collaboration and coordination that occurred between conferences and employees in Canberra in identifying and providing a huge range of assistance to those affected.

The work of conferences in the bushfire recovery phase is very much ongoing and conferences will play a key role in working with companions and community groups well into the future. Indeed, the role of conferences in the bushfire recovery stages is crucial in ensuring a positive and productive way forward for all of those communities.

The impact of COVID-19 has of course been immense and all of us have been affected. The work of conferences has been impacted in three ways; the nature of visits to companions – safe distancing, the range of services that can be provided (mainly food needs) and also importantly, the impact on our members such as who could assist and how. While the number of visits to companions decreased during the last three months of the year, it was still a challenging experience for all. As a requirement of social distancing, conferences have been meeting online which, for the most part, has proved to be quite effective and productive although the spiritual aspect has been impacted.

This year more than ever has highlighted the need to increase and renew conference membership. Several conferences, both in the rural towns and in Canberra, have very small membership numbers. This poses a great challenge in looking at new means to attract and retain members along with considering different forms of conducting conference meetings and general contact.

Normally, in these reports extensive statistics are provided to demonstrate the work of conferences through the year, however, on account of the impact of COVID-19 along with assistance provided by governments it is not meaningful to draw comparisons.

Nevertheless, general statistics demonstrate that about 65% of assistance is provided to female companions and that the percentage of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander companions is much greater than the overall percentage of the population. Mention should be made of the drought relief assistance that was provided in the Western region of the Diocese. The number of members declined slightly in 2019-20.

It is very likely that the full impact of COVID-19, coupled with the 2019-20 bushfires will continue to have a lasting effect on the community, especially in terms of poverty and mental health.



**MONEY RAISED
FROM SHOPS AND
FUNDRAISING
PROVIDED
\$1,015,138
TO FUND
CONFERENCE
WORK**

I would like to thank all conference members and volunteers in this very trying year for their work, resilience and hope. The severe impact on older members must be recognised. The next year is also likely to be a very testing time for all members.

In addition, a big thank you to the great and vital work of the Conference Support Team including the Helpline, led by John Vance, Jaime Lee Kelleher and Jemma Rossetto. Conferences could not function effectively without the vital efforts and work of this group in assisting conferences and being at the frontline of calls.

I would also like to thank the parishes, the various centres and community groups for their tremendous support. The donations which feed into conference work are very much needed and appreciated.



Far South Coast

Christine Mabbott

What a year this has been! 2019 ended with a bang as bushfires raged along the South Coast with the situation escalating as the new year was about to start. I don't believe any of us realised the far-reaching consequences of the fires and the devastating impact they would have on our communities.

All conferences were outstanding in their efforts to support those in need, and welcomed the assistance provided by members from Canberra. The effects of the fires are still being felt but now coupled with COVID-19 our lives and economy continue to be impacted. Those who lost homes and other properties in the fires have felt neglected as people tried to isolate and avoid COVID-19. We are still trying to ensure that all who need help receive it.

During this time conferences have suspended face to face interviews and have relied on food drops and other methods to meet companions' needs. Some conferences have begun to use Zoom for their meetings, and this has been very successful and helped by the Conference Support Team in Canberra. Fortunately, there has been a drop in requests for assistance as the Government implemented the JobSeeker and JobKeeper payment which has improved the lives of those previously on Newstart.

We have all been impressed by the speed with which plans have been put into place to cope with both the bushfires and the virus.

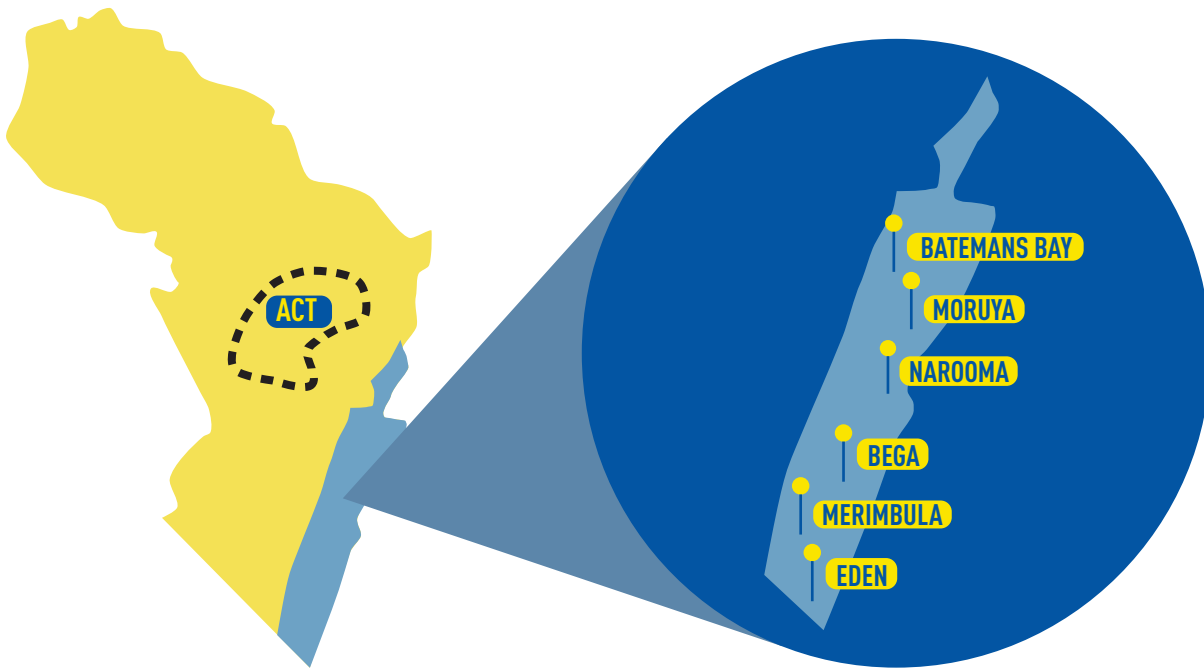
Last Christmas was a successful period with hampers being collected and gifts distributed. Most conferences received generous grants from local Clubs and other groups in their areas.

In the 2nd part of this financial year there has not been the opportunity to continue with some programs, but conferences have been visiting outlying communities and undertaking extra tasks associated with the fires.

Two conferences have new presidents and Eden Conference is about to open new premises. This is a wonderful opportunity for both the people and the conference, making our presence there more visible and accessible for our companions.

I applaud the commitment and resilience of all our members and volunteers during this time of crisis. The centres were amazing contributors to the relief efforts, and it was wonderful the way everyone rallied and did what they could. Contributions came from far and wide, including schools and parishes from other states.

To finish with a positive; there has been a good deal of rain in the past weeks so hopefully we can look forward to a better summer and the return of tourists to our coast!



The numbers...



MEMBER
NUMBERS

79



BIGGEST AREAS
OF SPEND;

**BUSHFIRE RELIEF,
FOOD, UTILITIES**



% OF MALE
COMPANIONS

43%



% OF FEMALE
COMPANIONS

57%



% OF COMPANIONS BEING
ABORIGINAL / TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDERS

24%



TOTAL TIMES
OF ASSISTANCE

19,187



TOTAL TIMES
CHILDREN ASSISTED

7152



CASH ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$6,062,371



IN KIND ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$178,207



CHRISTMAS
HAMPERs PROVIDED

313

**These figures include bushfire relief*



Goulburn

Judith Williams

and Wendy Wise

This year has been an interesting one with the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020. We reduced the number of operating days of centres and adhered to social distancing and appropriate hygiene. The conferences communicated via email, telephone and Zoom rather than in-person during COVID-19, but have now almost reverted to normal hours whilst adhering to safe practices. The Yass conference continues to conduct interviews via Zoom, but have introduced a telephone contact line to deliver assistance within social distancing guidelines. A testament to conferences' ability to adapt. A thank you goes to members who assisted others in learning the new technologies.

Conferences were able to continue their distribution of food with bulk orders of groceries and frozen meat, and are also fortunate to receive generous donations of baked goods to add to the food hampers. Although the call for resources is not as strong as before COVID- 19, there are still people in need.

Goulburn members were able to arrange EAPA assistance for those struggling to pay gas and electricity accounts, and provide assistance with Telstra phone accounts and PBS prescriptions.

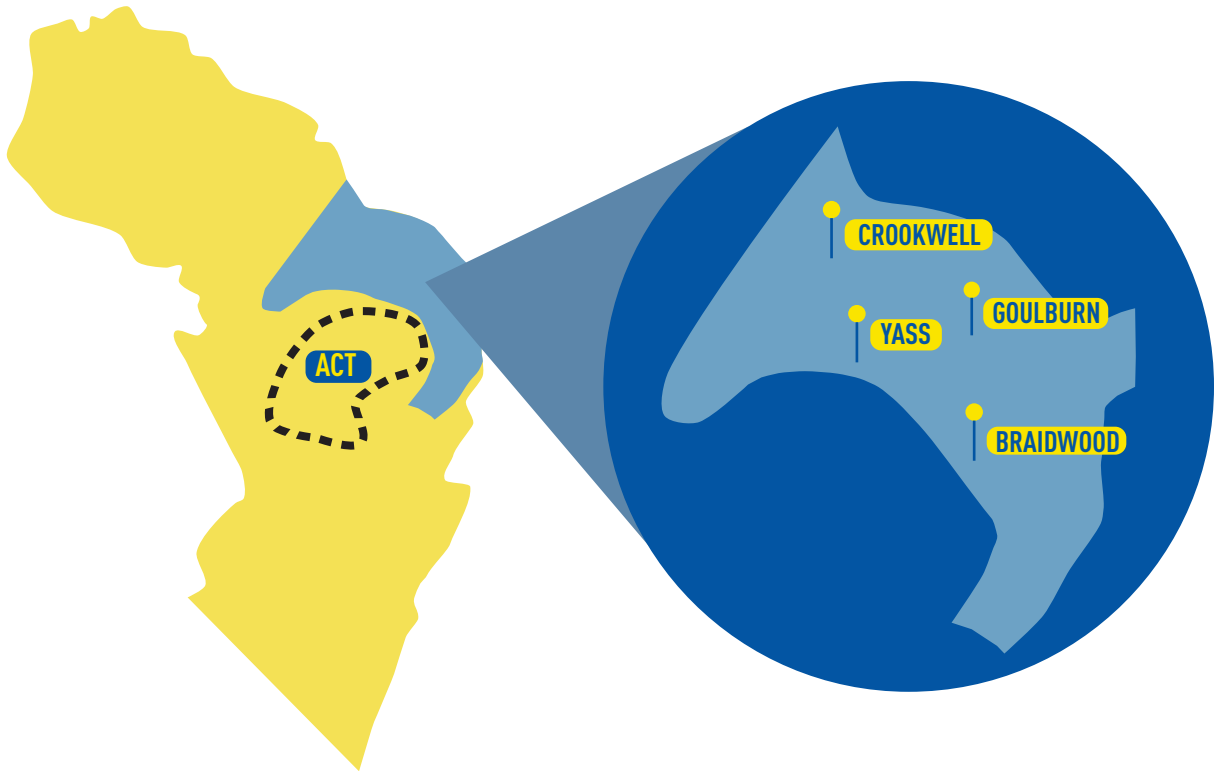
To increase community presence, in July of 2019 different members of the Goulburn Conference spoke about the work of the

conference at Masses, and retiring collections were held. The conference also benefited from a toy donation run at Christmas time by the local Lions club. This also helped encourage locals to become members after seeing the extent of our work.

The conferences within the region also participated in financially successful Ozanam, Christmas and Winter appeals and are appreciative and grateful for the generosity and support of local communities. We were also able to continue to distribute Christmas hampers to our companions this year, alongside Foodbank hampers, and Christmas goodies to those in need. There is a lot of work that goes into ensuring the appropriate gifts get handed out, so thank you to all those involved.

Thank you also goes out to the generous people and schools who work very hard for us especially during the Winter appeal and donations of Christmas hampers.

This year we have seen many of our companions coping better than they have been able to in the past. With the increased government payments, they have not had to return to seek further help, a success in our eyes. Despite it being a challenging time for all involved, we have been able to continue our work and are heartened to see so many doing well.



The numbers...



MEMBER
NUMBERS

45



BIGGEST AREAS
OF SPEND;

UTILITIES, FOOD,
BUSHFIRE RELIEF



% OF MALE
COMPANIONS

40%



% OF FEMALE
COMPANIONS

60%



% OF COMPANIONS BEING
ABORIGINAL / TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDERS

13%



TOTAL TIMES
OF ASSISTANCE

5620



TOTAL TIMES
CHILDREN ASSISTED

1863



CASH ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$161,196



IN KIND ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$108,573



CHRISTMAS
HAMPER PROVIDED

220

*These figures include bushfire relief



Andrew Rice

Molonglo

Molonglo Regional Council conferences continued their range of companion support activities during the reporting period, however normal activities were significantly impacted by COVID -19 from March onwards.

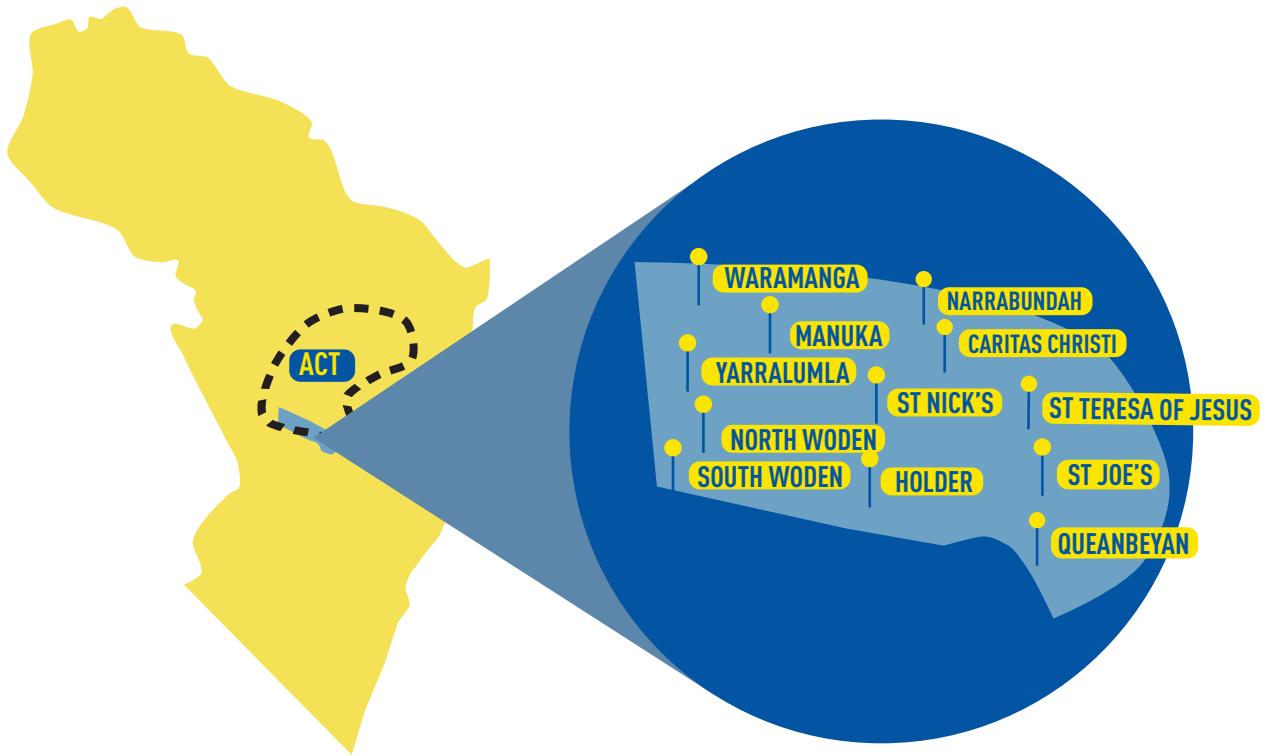
During the period, conferences provided 5527 instances of support, in the process assisting individuals and families alike. Over 90% of companions were on Government benefits with 65% of the primary contacts being female. The primary need was for food; although utilities, clothing and travel costs also featured. Overall, conferences provided over \$470,000 in cash and in-kind assistance. The Caritas Christi refugees, and asylum seeker support conference continued to deal with a range of complex cases for individuals seeking immigration status outcomes.

Conferences adapted to COVID-19 by moving to online meetings, delivering emergency assistance in line with social distancing rules and making social telephone calls to companions. The latter were well-received as many of our companions experienced loneliness in the lockdown period.

Conferences in the region delivered nearly 813 hampers at Christmas time to companions in their local area. Conferences received strong food and donation support from local Parish communities and Catholic schools which significantly reduced the financial cost of hampers for the Society.

Warramanga Conference operated a collection table at Cooleman Court shopping centre at various times during the year. Both South Woden and Yarralumla sold Society Christmas Cards in Parishes in the run up to the festive season. South Woden Conference also continued to deliver bread from Bakers Delight Woden to around 30 companions weekly until COVID-19 caused a cessation to the activity.

Where possible, conferences maintained contact with our conference twins in Indonesia, in particular with new forms of communication. For example, messaging applications helped to provide new ways to connect and share information on Society activities in both countries and provided companionship and support during the difficult COVID-19 days.



The numbers...



MEMBER
NUMBERS

120



BIGGEST AREAS
OF SPEND;

UTILITIES, FOOD,
TRANSPORT



% OF MALE
COMPANIONS

34%



% OF FEMALE
COMPANIONS

66%



% OF COMPANIONS BEING
ABORIGINAL / TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDERS

21%



TOTAL TIMES
OF ASSISTANCE

15,362



TOTAL TIMES
CHILDREN ASSISTED

6953



CASH ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$311,617



IN KIND ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$173,501



CHRISTMAS
HAMPER PROVIDED

813

*These figures include bushfire relief

The major activity for North Canberra conferences is assistance to people in need. Calls for assistance includes requests from refugees, individuals and families.

Some of those we assist have mental health issues and addressing these issues is a long-term task requiring specialist assistance. We can only work to support them in their current situation while other organisations provide the professional help they require.

The majority of assistance given in 2019-20 has been emergency food and clothing to local families and individuals. Other types of assistance provided include furniture, white goods, assistance with medical expenses and utility costs such as electricity, gas and car registration. We have again been assisted in our task by local food pantries who provide food at a reduced cost. Parishes and local parish schools, through Mini-Vinnies, have also provided major support for our work through the donations of non-perishable food and winter clothing. We thank them for their continued support.

The North Canberra Region undertakes several support activities in addition to home visitations. These include support for the Blue Door at Ainslie Village, fruit and vegetable runs from the Belconnen Markets, and bread runs from Bakers Delight. Due to COVID-19 restrictions these activities have been restricted since March 2020.

We have delivered Christmas hampers to companions with the support of Rotary and school communities. When required we continue to support Karinya House for mums and bubs.

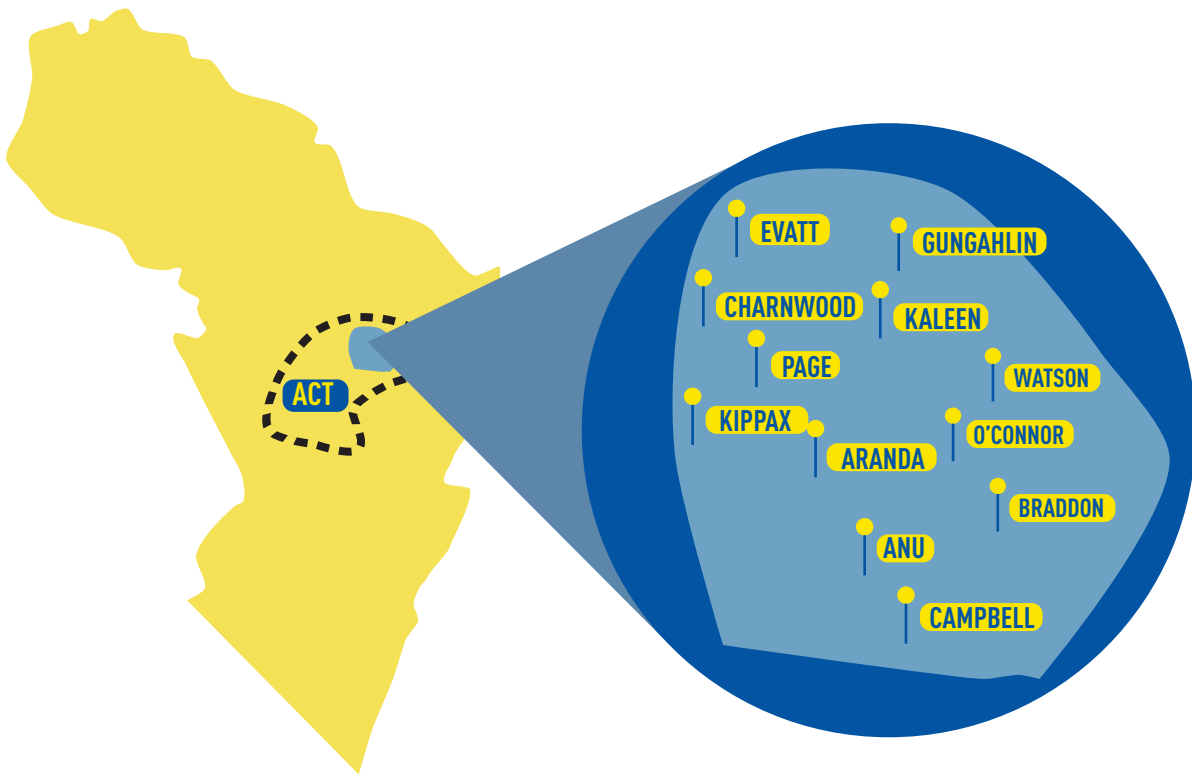
Some of the individuals we assist are experiencing homelessness. We have continued to work very hard to help these

most vulnerable persons in our society and will continue our mission of making a fundamental difference. We have received invaluable assistance from the Canberra Relief Network helping to provide hampers for companions during the COVID-19 crisis. We thank the network for its support. The COVID-19 restrictions have forced conferences to re-think the best way to assist companions. We have managed to continue to contact companions and have found alternative ways to deliver the support required.

Where considered beneficial we referred people to Care Inc. Financial Counselling for budgeting help and to other organizations who provide specialist assistance. Those who have used these services have found them to be most beneficial in providing them with options on navigating their way forward. In looking beyond the immediate needs of the people we support, our focus is on trying to help them to get a better quality of life both short-term and long-term. Although it is challenging to gauge success in this endeavor, we do feel that we have been able to make a difference.

I acknowledge the dedication of our members to the values of the Society and the generous gift of their time to support those in need.





The numbers...



MEMBER
NUMBERS

200



BIGGEST AREAS
OF SPEND;

**FOOD, WHITEGOODS,
FURNITURE/HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS**



% OF MALE
COMPANIONS

36%



% OF FEMALE
COMPANIONS

64%



% OF COMPANIONS BEING
ABORIGINAL / TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDERS

16%



TOTAL TIMES
OF ASSISTANCE

24,936



TOTAL TIMES
CHILDREN ASSISTED

11,606



CASH ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$291,204



IN KIND ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$152,367



CHRISTMAS
HAMPER PROVIDED

517

**These figures include bushfire relief*

The conferences of Tuggeranong and Monaro have had a challenging yet successful year. November saw myself elected as the new Regional President, as John Feint assumed the role of Territory Council President. I also have had the pleasure of working alongside Damien Keneally, the newly elected Vice President of the region.

As expressed at my initial election, I desired to visit and consult with as many conferences within the region. I have visited conferences in Cooma, Calwell, Gowrie, Bombala and Jindabyne among others. The warm hospitality, resourcefulness and ability to pivot during COVID-19 is a great point of admiration for both myself and Damien.

As the Tuggeranong and Monaro region spans across a large geographic region, we see a range of issues presented amongst our companions. With over 800 individuals seeking assistance, we were able to provide both cash and in-kind assistance with the biggest areas of spend being utilities, food and transport. These were carried out whilst respecting the social distancing and hygiene measures required. Conferences within the region were also able to provide 272 Christmas hampers to ensure that those needing it felt love and kindness during the festive season.

Although our activities were restricted due to COVID-19, conferences were still able to provide companionship, donations and connections to greater Vinnies resources such as the Compeer program (helping companions with mental health issues) and Street to Home (helping companions experiencing homelessness).

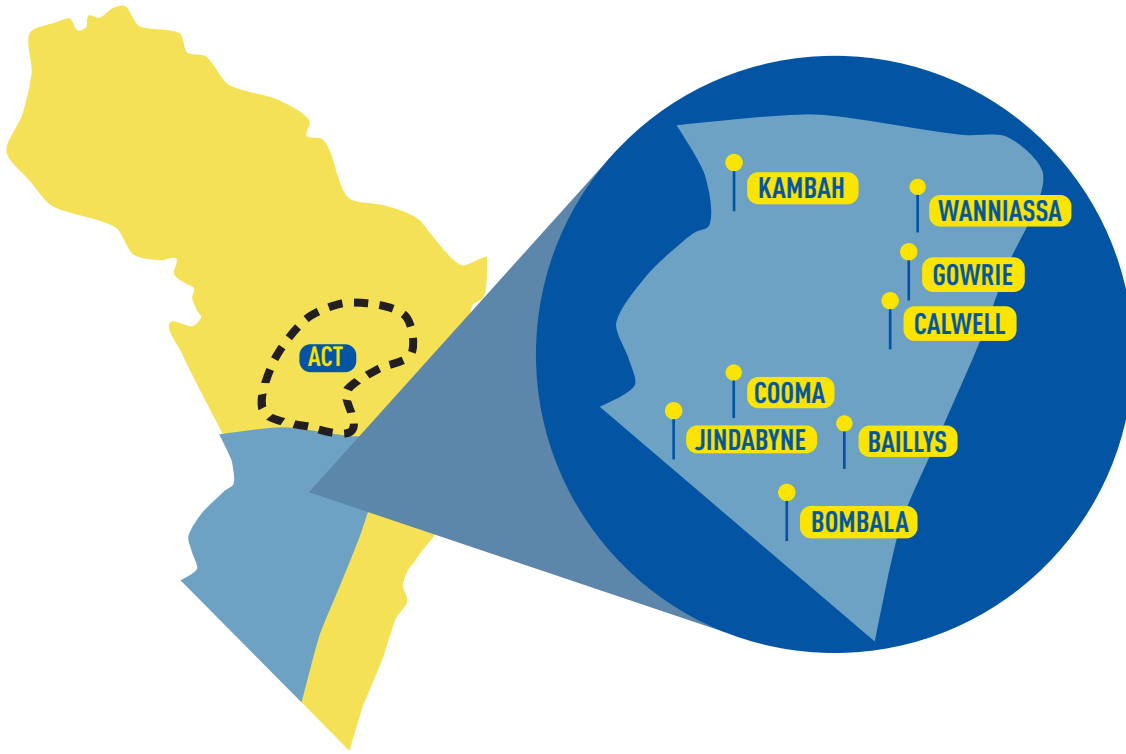
We were able to advocate on behalf of companions on issues such as social housing, medical assistance and transport. Where regular social visits would have occurred

pre-COVID-19, conference members were still able to check on companions using alternative methods. Referrals were also made to supporting organisations such as Communities at Work, Care Inc. Financial Counselling, Anglicare, Salvation Army and CatholicCare.

It is important to remember that those needing a 'hand-up' will feel the consequences even greater than those in more fortunate positions. We continue to support and recognise companions' needs and help where we are able to.

In this particularly difficult and trying year, there were times that proved challenging. It is often evident the stress and struggles that our companions face, however we sometimes forget the same stress and struggles can be faced by conference members. We must reflect on the importance of love, compassion and friendship for both conference members and companions.

Overall, this year has been like no other. Yet we are united by the Vinnies values and our passion of helping provide a 'hand-up' to those in need. I look forward in my role to observing what these conferences achieve and the impact we will have next year.



The numbers...



MEMBER
NUMBERS

117



BIGGEST AREAS
OF SPEND;

FOOD, BUSHFIRE
RELIEF, UTILITIES



% OF MALE
COMPANIONS

36%



% OF FEMALE
COMPANIONS

64%



% OF COMPANIONS BEING
ABORIGINAL / TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDERS

15%



TOTAL TIMES
OF ASSISTANCE

10,904



TOTAL TIMES
CHILDREN ASSISTED

5278



CASH ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$227,898



IN KIND ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$113,731



CHRISTMAS
HAMPERs PROVIDED

272

**These figures include bushfire relief*



Western Region

Mary Donnelly

We can all agree that 2020 has been unlike any other year but this year especially has truly highlighted the need for compassion and support for those in need.

The Western Region within Canberra/Goulburn covers a great geographic area with over 1000 companions with differing needs. Not only do we help those experiencing homelessness but we provide services and help for a range of other issues such as help with food, clothing, household items, assistance with utility bills and more.

The Western region conferences provided both in-kind and cash assistance, mainly helping companions with utilities, food and transport. We were also able to provide 224 Christmas hampers to people within our region, to help ensure that those facing hardship are supported during the festive season. A true triumph.

The Hilltops area within our region is a drought declared area and we helped wherever needed. Conferences provided support to farmers, those affected by drought and the drought relief program. Those impacted by the fires were also then further assisted by local Vinnies conferences for ongoing support.

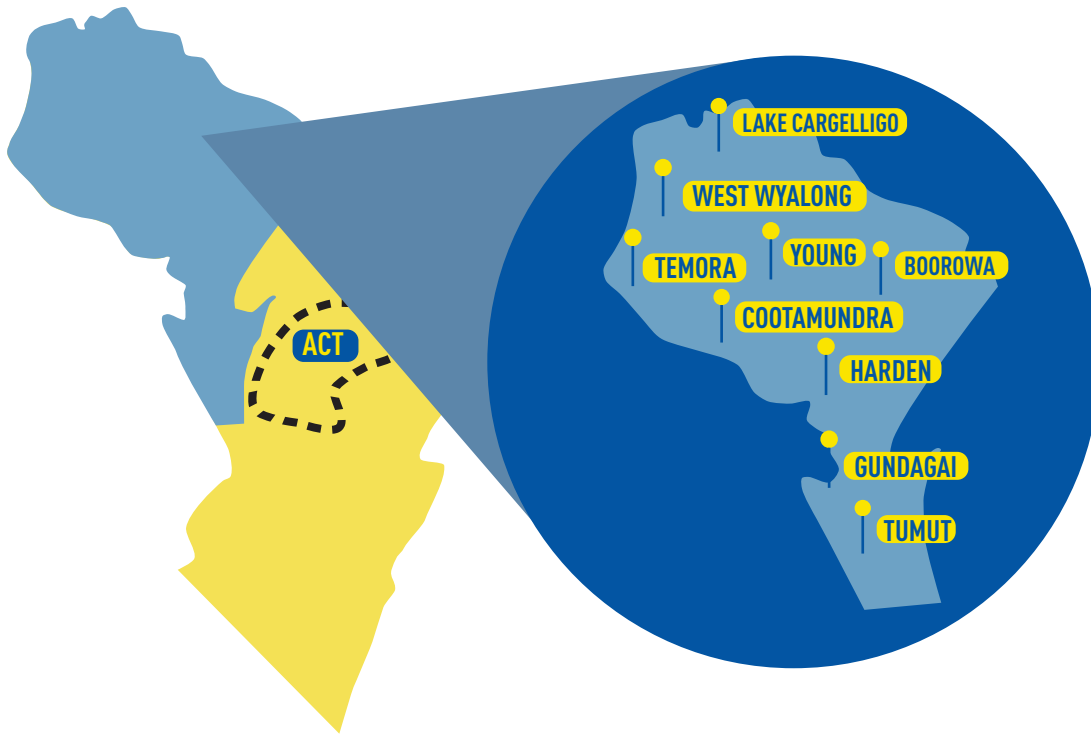
A success story of this year has been the

development of the flourishing Tumut Conference. Not only have they opened the new Rosalie Rendu Centre, they have done invaluable work in the local community and further to this have had the pleasure of 13 additional new conference members. This conference has also provided incredible support to those impacted by the bushfires and continue to provide dynamic and imperative help.

This year forced our conferences to change their methods of delivery of services due to COVID-19. Challengingly, we were unable to hold face to face meetings and activities were limited. However through adhering to social distancing and hygiene requirements we were able to still provide companionship, support and donations to those in need.

COVID-19 reminded us all that we are feeling the consequences of this trying time, but those needing a 'hand-up' will face even greater hardships and are in need of Vinnies support and assistance even more.

This year has shown the determination and magnitude of support that the conferences can supply. I am confident in future that the Western Region will continue to exemplify the Vinnies values and help those needing a 'hand-up'.



The numbers...



MEMBER
NUMBERS

77



BIGGEST AREAS
OF SPEND;

**BUSHFIRE RELIEF,
FOOD, UTILITIES**



% OF MALE
COMPANIONS

43%



% OF FEMALE
COMPANIONS

57%



% OF COMPANIONS BEING
ABORIGINAL / TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDERS

14%



TOTAL TIMES
OF ASSISTANCE

7703



TOTAL TIMES
CHILDREN ASSISTED

2669



CASH ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$519,193



IN KIND ASSISTANCE
SOUGHT

\$154,202



CHRISTMAS
HAMPER PROVIDED

224

**These figures include bushfire relief*



REPORT ON

bushfire recovery and assistance

Ray Akhurst,

Bushfire Recovery Coordinator

The spring and summer of 2019-20 saw our country ravaged by monumental bushfires from Queensland through to South Australia. Some of the greatest impact occurred in the region covered by St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn.

Within this region some 945 houses were destroyed, and many others rendered uninhabitable due to a loss of water tanks and septic systems and/or inaccessible as the result of road closures due to burnt bridges, etc. Some in the region lost their livelihoods due to an inability to work, and others whose houses or belongings were partially damaged by fire, smoke or even by the waterbombing action of firefighters saving lives. In addition, many outbuildings were destroyed, often containing the income-producing machinery and equipment of the residents, as well as much livestock and fodder, and hundreds of kilometres of fencing.

The fires took a huge toll on those in and around the fire grounds. Many had to evacuate to safety, some several times, and all had to endure the stress of dealing with the

uncertainty. Those who lost their homes have had months upon months of being unsettled and dealing with the emotional and financial impact of this.

The members, volunteers and employees of the St Vincent de Paul Society quickly rose to the challenge of assisting those affected. Members of those conferences in the bushfire zones, supported by the volunteers and employees at our Vinnies shops, responded by working in the various recovery centres to provide material aid and a sympathetic ear. When the pressure on local conferences threatened to overwhelm them, members of the Canberra conferences travelled to the recovery centres to assist. Employees in our Canberra office also worked above and beyond duty to provide logistical support and more. The Society is justifiably proud of the way its three elements – members, volunteers and employees – contributed their time and skills so generously.

A Bushfire Taskforce was established to help the processing of applications for assistance. The taskforce is comprised of members of the

Territory Council who had spent time in the recovery centres and who had first-hand experience of dealing with companions impacted by the bushfires. The taskforce members took on the role of assessing applications and contacting applicants for further information where necessary. The taskforce continues to oversee the roll-out of bushfire recovery activities and one member has taken on the role of coordinating our recovery activities.

Following the immediate response of providing material and emotional support to those affected, the Society began providing direct cash grants. There were two components to these grants, which were paid into the companions' bank accounts. Initially the funds raised through the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal were allocated to any companion seeking assistance. However, it became evident that the funds needed to be allocated and distributed to those who had lost their homes.

The second component was the distribution of emergency relief funds provided by the Department of Social Services (DSS). These were grants of \$1000 for people who lived or worked in a bushfire-impacted zone.

The distribution of both Vinnies Bushfire Appeal and DSS funds continues, with 3032 households assisted and \$4,829,217 distributed from the Vinnies appeal and \$1,909,950 from the DSS funds.

Experience shows that recovery from any disastrous event, such as the 2019-20 bushfires, is a lengthy process. Consequently, we have built into our Bushfire Recovery Plan activities to facilitate community recovery. The first of these, the Community Grants Program, will be launched in August 2020. It will provide grants to existing organisations for projects aiding community recovery. The aim is to utilise local knowledge of community needs and skills and resources of existing organisations to streamline the impact of Bushfire Appeal funds. The Community Grants and Development Program will involve extensive consultation with communities to prioritise recovery projects.

In addition to working with Vinnies NSW, we are coordinating our efforts with other agencies (Anglicare, Salvos, Red Cross, etc.) to avoid duplication and to develop synergies where possible.





CASE STUDY

A 'hand up' to become self-sufficient again

Elaine and Gordon own and operate an eco-tourism agency on the South Coast. On the 4th of January this year the 'border fire' was threatening their region and residents were warned to prepare as the weather pushed the fire their way.

Elaine and Gordon spent the day preparing the house for bushfire and took all the kayaks and camping gear for their business into Eden. The pair then evacuated to Eden to wait. They went to the wharf and waited all night at the harbour master's office with hundreds of others.

The next day they knew the fire had gone through their town but didn't know how it had affected their property. They were eventually told their house was standing, but they weren't allowed home yet.

When they were able to return home, three days after evacuating, they saw the entire property had been burnt, except for the house.

"We did a lot of work to prepare the house – and clearly it was the right thing to do," said Elaine.

However, the sheds, the garden, garage and bridge to the house were all destroyed.

Worried about looters, the couple moved back into the house but spent 17 days without power, water, phone or internet connection.

"Having a shower was a planned event. We were camping in our house. It's definitely not as much fun as our camping trips!" said Elaine.

"This is our busiest season, and we were heavily booked. We were looking forward to the biggest year ever," said Elaine.

However, the damage from the fire, to their property and to the surrounding wilderness, meant that all tours had to be cancelled.

"We have a lot of clients from Victoria, and those roads were closed for 6 weeks, so even if people wanted to come on tour, they couldn't reach us," said Elaine.

Even once they thought they could get back to their tours, the river flooded.

“At first it was, ‘Thank God it’s raining’, but then further tours had to be cancelled - you can’t kayak on a flooded river!” said Elaine. “This year we’ve also missed out on eight cruise ship tours,” she added.

Without income coming in, the couple were starting to feel the financial strain.

“Our house didn’t burn down, but we don’t have an income,” said Elaine.

“We were insured, but, like a lot of people, have discovered we are underinsured. Like, people have told us we should have insured the bridge on our property- but who insures a bridge?!”

“We were eating into our profits, and then the bills started coming in and we had no money for us.”

A few weeks after the bushfire destroyed their property, Elaine and Gordon eventually went to the Bega Recovery Centre to seek assistance.

“It was hard to go in and ask for help. We are usually proud small business operators and support two incomes with our tours and campsites. We are very self-sufficient people.”

“A lot of people aren’t asking for help. People saying, ‘there are people a lot worse off than me’, and we are also among the lucky ones – our house is still standing,” said Elaine.

For all the damage caused, the fires bring out a lot of good in people.

“It’s just amazing how it affected everyone. We are all in this together. Some days are full of tears, and others are building us up, and other days we are the ones building others up while they have tears.”

Help and support comes in varied and beautiful ways. After Elaine posted on Instagram a picture of a destroyed protea, somebody who had been on a kayak tour two

years earlier got in touch to say they worked for a protea wholesaler and delivered some plants to replace the burnt ones.

Elaine and Gordon received emergency assistance from Vinnies that allowed them to buy food, pay for fuel, and get back on their feet until their tours could start again, and income started coming back in.

“We are extremely grateful to Vinnies for the ‘hand up’. We were reluctant to ask for help, but we had no option. We needed to get back on the tours so that business could resume, and we could become self-sufficient again,” said Elaine. “We are so grateful. Thank you.”

**name changed for privacy*





Kym Duggan

Social Justice Report

Advocating on issues of Social Justice is at the heart of our mission as Vincentians. Both the National and Canberra/Goulburn Strategic Plans make speaking out for our companions a major priority.

A key principle of the National Strategic Plan is that we will have a role in 'prioritising advocacy and speaking out for the sake of the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are over-represented among our companions'. The impact of COVID-19 and the dreadful bushfires has meant that some of our work has given way to the more immediate needs of so many at these very difficult times.

However, the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, in connection with other conferences, particularly Caritas Christi, and the staff of our region, have again been advocating for key issues throughout this year.

As Pope Francis has said;

“To live charitably means not looking out for our own interests but carrying the burdens of the weakest and poorest amongst us.”

Priority issues for us have been carrying on work that we commenced last year in particular the 'Raise the Rate' campaign where real progress has been made. Vinnies has been a leader both Nationally and here in the ACT.

This includes the launch of Anti-Poverty week last year with a powerful and well-supported breakfast forum featuring one of our companions speaking about his lived experience, as well as representatives from ACOSS, senior business leaders and our own CEO.

We have continued our work pressuring the ACT Government on making adequate housing a human right and recognised under the ACT *Human Rights Act*. We have created an online petition and have been making extensive use of social media to promote this campaign.

We have continued to advocate on the need for major reform of the Child Protection system in the ACT, which is particularly important given the continuing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in this system. We have also joined many others in the community sector to highlight the ongoing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our prison system.

In relation to Asylum Seekers and Refugees the Caritas Christi Conference has been at the forefront of both local and national advocacy. They have also had a significantly enhanced role in directly supporting asylum seekers and refugees in the Canberra community who were not eligible for any Federal Government support during the pandemic.





Erin MacArthur,

Director of Special Works

Special Works Update

This last financial year has been both successful and challenging for the programs within Special Works.

Homelessness services remain the core purpose of Special Works and are funded by the ACT Government to provide a range of services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Samaritan House provides crisis accommodation to men in Canberra. Our Family and Young Parents Homelessness Services provides accommodation and support to families at risk of homelessness. Blue Door is a drop-in centre based in Ainslie Village that provides meals and light case management, and Street to Home provides intervention and support to people experiencing chronic rough sleeping in the ACT. The aim of these programs is to transition people to permanent accommodation whilst improving their health and wellbeing.

The Directorate has welcomed the amalgamation of both the Community Engagement Directorate and The Youth and Young Adults Directorate, centralising service delivery into one portfolio. The merge of support services proved highly successful for improving productivity, synergies and collaboration between programs, and we hope

this will lead to the best possible outcomes for the people we support.

This year our services have been vitally important to the lives of those we support as the impacts of COVID-19 have left many people across our community at increased risk of social and economic disadvantage. The direct effects of the pandemic have increased social isolation, financial and housing insecurity and an overall sense of uncertainty. Through our services, and the support of our amazing members, volunteers and employees, the Society has ensured those in most need have access to critical service delivery and an everyday message of hope.

In addition to the people-power behind our operations, the Society's services and those we support have been complemented by stimulus packages provided by the ACT Government. This includes help for those living below the poverty line and in isolated communities, rapid response grant funding and new homelessness initiatives. The Society has welcomed the extension of the JobSeeker payment during COVID-19, however we continue to advocate for a sustained increase in the rate so that people can have a liveable income.

Meaningful engagement has played a major role throughout times of physical distancing. All programs have increased support to those in need including the Compeer program, a friendship program for people with mental health issues run in partnership with the ACT Health Directorate. The Community Inclusion Program (CIP), funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency through an Information, Linkages and Capacity Building grant has also received increased support. Among others are the Clemente program, run in partnership with Australian Catholic University (ACU), which provides people who have experienced disadvantage with the opportunity to engage in tertiary education. The Thread Together Clothing Hub@Vinnies continues to provide thousands of wardrobes a year to people across Canberra, helping uphold people's dignity and improve self-esteem.

The Night Patrol vans, supported by community donations and sponsorships, have highlighted compassion for others in this challenging time. Each service has achieved its aim to improve the quality of life of those we support, strengthen social inclusion, and build positive relationships. The programs assist in empowering people to take part in enjoyable engagement, gain the confidence to drive desired changes in their lives and help shape their community.

In addition to homelessness services, the Society was successful in re-securing the Actsmart Home Energy Efficiency Program on behalf of the ACT Government Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. The Home Energy Efficiency Program looks at the energy usage of low-income households and teaches household members the best ways to reduce their energy bills and carbon emissions. By ensuring the efficiency of energy consumption, in turn allowing for greater temperature control, service users' health improves.

The Society's support will remain powerful during and long after the pandemic.





**MONEY RAISED
FROM SHOPS AND
FUNDRAISING
PROVIDED
\$151,073
TO FUND NIGHT
PATROL**

Night Patrol Update

Night Patrol is an integral service Vinnies provides. This year saw over 14,000 serves provided across the Canberra region, with an average of 37 people served a night. The vans also attended local community events such as the Handmade Markets Blanket Drive and Homeless Connect.

It also saw the induction of 60 new volunteers, and a \$55,000 grant for the van fit-out projects. The ability and reach of the Night Patrol vans

have been a vital service during COVID-19 times. During the pandemic, the service was carried out by a reduced 240 person volunteer team, with only two volunteers working each shift.

It is with great honour and care that Vinnies was still able to provide the vans' essential work and services to those in need during the unprecedented and difficult times.



VOLUNTEERS

430



**MATERIAL AID
ITEMS PROVIDED**

6,961

SOCKS, JACKETS
AND HYGIENE PACKS
WERE THE TOP
DEMANDED ITEMS



**TOTAL NUMBER OF
SERVES PROVIDED**

14,724

75% MALES
20% FEMALE
3% UNDER 18

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY: *Street to Home*



March 2020 marked the ten-year anniversary of a significantly valuable community program.

In March 2010, with the support of the ACT Government, the Society initiated the Street to Home program in Canberra, the second of its kind in Australia.

As homelessness is a core issue for the Society, we are dedicated to eradicating it. We believe housing is a Human Right, and no one in Australia should be without adequate shelter and a safe place to sleep each night. The Street to Home program matches the Society's ethos to provide a 'hand up',

meeting rough sleepers where they are and providing flexible support to transition people into accommodation, and support to maintain tenancies.

The program's Housing First premise acknowledges the importance of shelter for supporting people's wellness. Once someone is safely and securely housed, addressing multiple other complex needs become possible.

Due to COVID-19 the celebration to mark ten years of Street to Home had to be postponed.

Special Works in numbers

PROGRAM	SUPPORT PROVIDED	NUMBER
Samaritan House	Men provided with crisis accommodation	139
Blue Door	Meals	47,000
Street to Home	Case management	70
	Outreach	153
Family and Young Parents Homelessness Service	Individuals case managed	417
	The total number of families across both services placed into transitional housing was (total of 126 individuals).	30
	The total number of families across both services placed into permanent housing was (total of 64 individuals).	21
Home Energy Efficiency	Energy assessments & draught-proofing	776
Clemente	Students graduated with Certificate in Liberal Studies	3
	Students enrolled in Pathways	23
	Number of participants	85
Community Inclusion	Number of participants accessing support	133
	Number of service providers supporting the Community Inclusion Program	22
	Number of participants who found employment	15
Compeer	Number of participants	26



CASE STUDY

Learning a reward and relief

Richard* has a Fine Arts degree and has been living in crisis accommodation for several months.

After his mental health deteriorated, Richard struggled to find and keep work. Unable to even afford rent while surviving on Newstart, he was desperately looking for ways to make more money and was becoming more and more concerned about the growing gap on his CV as he kept sending it out but getting no response.

Richard ended up falling into homelessness, relying on couch surfing with friends. Eventually he was diagnosed with a chronic mental health condition and placed on the Disability Support Pension. Living in crisis accommodation, Richard was looking for an occupation – something to fill his days.

‘It was only through NDIS that I found activities I could do. Everything else is far too expensive when you have no income,’ he said.

Without purposeful ways in which to spend time, mental health conditions can be exacerbated, and Richard was looking to recovery.

‘My case worker at City Mental Health told me about Clemente,’ said Richard.

Clemente is an adult education program Vinnies runs in partnership with the Australian Catholic University.

**MONEY RAISED
FROM SHOPS AND
FUNDRAISING
PROVIDED
\$92,586
TO FUND
CLEMENTE**

‘Clemente was a way to fill my day. I learned we were going to study philosophy, which I had done years ago at uni.’

‘I’m really enjoying the course and doing really well with it.’

‘It’s rewarding to achieve good results and rewarding to have activities to fill days. I’ve enjoyed studying philosophy as a way to get back into the Arts, and realise that my early days at uni were helpful!’

‘It’s been grounding to study ethics and humanity, and good to check in on my moral compass.’

Richard has now completed his first semester of Clemente, moved into transitional accommodation through CatholicCare and picked up some part time work. He intends to continue studying in the Clemente program as he’s found it incredibly rewarding.

‘I found more and more reasons I was doing it as I got into it.’

‘I definitely recommend Clemente. It’s really well set up and provides a hell of a lot to a lot of people.’

*Name changed to protect privacy



**MONEY RAISED
FROM SHOPS AND
FUNDRAISING
PROVIDED
\$230,114
TO YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULTS
PROGRAMS**

Youth and Young Adults Update

The Society engages with 50 primary and 30 secondary and central schools throughout the Archdiocese. In primary schools, a key highlight is the biennial ACT Mini Vinnies Schools Social Justice Day held on the 22nd of November. The event was attended by approximately 180 students from 13 primary schools and focused on Vinnies programs and services.

In secondary schools, more than \$12,000 worth of food and gifts, plus an additional \$5000 cash was donated to the Christmas Appeal. Daramalan College raised \$12,000 for the St Nick's Young Carers Program, and more than 120 staff and students were trained for the Night Patrol program.

Both primary and secondary schools continue to support the Society in fundraising initiatives and despite the challenging times, have raised an exceptional amount of material and financial donations. Our Social Justice Education programs continue to take place and have transitioned to an online format which can be accessed by schools.

In tertiary, we continue to engage with key stakeholders at the Australian National University, Australian Catholic University and University of Canberra. A key highlight is the Vinnies Day event at ANU John XXIII College on 12 February. As part of the orientation for 120 first year student residents, the event

Gwen Goon, Manager,

Youth and Young Adults

consisted of social justice workshops, op-shop tours and a 'Dressed by Vinnies' event.

The Migrant and Refugee Schools Program continues to run four days a week during the school term, with 40 active volunteers supporting approximately 55 students at North Ainslie Primary IEC and Florey Primary. The program received strong support from the Education Directorate with the English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) team supporting us through volunteer training.

Youth Programs organised a total of five overnight camps and 22 weekend activities for children and young people across St Joe's, VINES and St Nick's. While a number of camps and activities were cancelled due to the bushfire/smoke and COVID-19, youth members and volunteers continue to conduct virtual activities and delivered 330 activity packs consisting of craft, science, and cooking resources to 90 households. We have seen a consistent number of volunteers engaged in the programs whereby over 60 new volunteers were trained, and current volunteers contributed 6500 hours of their time to our camps and weekend activities.



VOLUNTEER REFLECTION

Migrant and Refugee Schools Program

“On one particular morning we had a new student arrive. Her name was Maria* and she walked into the classroom holding her mother’s hand, wide-eyed and apprehensive. In our usual Monday morning activity we would start the day sitting in a circle taking in turns to introduce ourselves to the classroom, state our nationality and share one thing we got up to on the weekend. The only words Maria mentioned in that activity was her name, “Maria”. It was clear that she had little to no English experience.

Over the course of the term each week, I was astounded by the progress made by Maria. She had developed confidence and personality, and despite the fact that she couldn't always express herself fluently in English, we volunteers and her peers could generally

understand and interact with her. By the end of the term, I remember sitting down and working through a reading task with Maria, and not only was she reading a short book but I could tell that she now felt like she belonged in this classroom with her group of friends.

The incredible growth and improvements that I saw in Maria was a testament to the work Vinnies does alongside the support of her teachers. I was lucky enough to observe this firsthand as Maria gained confidence and literacy skills in the classroom.”

– *Thomas, volunteer with Migrant and Refugee Schools Program*

*Name changed to protect privacy



Volunteers

Across the Canberra/Goulburn region, volunteerism remains an invaluable part of the Society. We acknowledge how incredibly lucky we are to have the support of our volunteers who manage their studies, part-time and full-time work, family priorities and other commitments in a way which still allows them to give back to the community.

The implementation of Raisers Edge volunteer management system has increased the Society's ability to foster relationships and care for our 2164 wonderful volunteers. The improved volunteer management system also allows for proactive compliance measures, learning and development opportunities for our volunteers so they are well supported in their roles and confident to support the community.

This year we rolled out new volunteer webpages. The streamlined approach has ensured greater engagement from the community, as demonstrated by the 45% increase in Expression of Interest forms received.

The Society nominated the following for the 2020 Volunteering Awards in the Canberra Region:

- Clare Camilleri –an influential volunteer

who

provides vital support to the community through the St Vincent de Paul Society Night Patrol program.

- Laura Condon –an outstanding long-time volunteer and Vice-President of the St Nick's Young Carers Program who, over four years, has supported hundreds of young carers develop their social skills, self-esteem and resilience.
- Maryanne Gore – an inspiring volunteer mentor who, with positivity and kindness, supports Clemente students to achieve their learning goals.
- St Vincent de Paul Society Conferences with Bushfire Task Force - Vinnies local conferences of the bushfire-affected areas on the South Coast, with support of the St Vincent de Paul Society Bushfire Task Force, provided financial and material assistance as well as emotional support to those affected by the fires.

The conferences of Batemans Bay, Bega, Braidwood, Cooma, Eden, Merimbula, Moruya and Tumut were awarded '2020 NSW Volunteer Team of the Year' for their invaluable support to people affected by bushfires in the region.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Brian & Ruth from West Wyalong

The St Vincent de Paul Society in West Wyalong recently said good-bye to two longstanding members. Brian and Ruth O'Reilly have been active in volunteering in the Vinnies shop as well as in conference work – providing assistance to those in need in the local community.

Brian has been a member for over 20 years, and Ruth has been active for the last 15 years. As they retire to Wagga Wagga, the Vinnies community in West Wyalong are thanking them for their contribution to the Society over many years.

Ray Scott, the President of the St Vincent de Paul Society West Wyalong, commented that Brian was a mainstay in the shop, cleaning the shop, and emptying the collection bin twice daily.

“We’re sorry to see them go,” he said.

The couple both say their motivation for their dedication to Vinnies is to ‘give assistance to those less fortunate. Any little bit you can contribute is some help.’

Ruth added that volunteering was incredibly rewarding, and that the St Vincent de Paul Society in West Wyalong was ‘one big happy family.’

The couple have made good friends through their years of volunteering.

Ruth has this past year been active in providing drought relief to affected families, one of the local members who was awarded for their dedication by receiving the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award in 2019.

“It’s an interesting program, and has meant we can get to really see how we can help. I’ve enjoyed every minute,” she said.

Brian’s highlights from over the years he has volunteered include when he used to drive the truck to pick up and deliver furniture, and his time visiting with people in hospital.

As well as providing material aid to people who come to the centre for assistance, members of the West Wyalong Conference visit the village hospital, mostly to provide companionship to people there although they’re currently unable to maintain visitations due to COVID-19.

Another highlight for the couple has been the recent renovation of the Vinnies shop.

“It’s like a boutique now, like something from the city,” said Ruth.

“It’s been very well received in town and there has definitely been an increase in customers,” she added.

Brian and Ruth’s commitment to Vinnies has been appreciated by all who have witnessed it. *“We will miss them something terrible,”* said Ray, summarising the view of all Vincentians who have encountered this couple.



2020 VINNIES

CEO Sleepout

The 2020 Vinnies CEO Sleepout was held on Thursday 18 June 2020 raising an incredible \$5.7million nationally, and \$545,768 in Canberra.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the decision was made in March to transform the event into an online experience. Subsequently, fundraising targets were also lowered in acknowledgement of the financial difficulties faced by many in the community during this time.

The dedication of our participants and their supporters has meant that nationally we doubled the fundraising goal, and in Canberra/Goulburn we exceeded the COVID-19 adjusted target by almost \$150,000! The original target for this year's event was \$630,000.

This year, participants were given the choice of sleeping out in their backyard, on their couch or in their cars. These options reflect the realities faced by those experiencing homelessness. There was also an option to pledge Vinnies Hours by volunteering time to support Vinnies services and programs or by donating goods.

Unlike previous years, participants did not receive their CEO Sleepout beanies and scarves, nor were they treated to soup and a bread roll, or cardboard on which to set up their sleeping bags. They were, however, all given clear direction to embrace the evening in the full spirit they usually brought to the event and only allow themselves a simple dinner with no fancy snacks.

Another key difference to this year's event was that it was run as one national event, rather than each state having a separate program.



This ran as a live stream for two and a half hours which members of the public were encouraged to view, as well as the CEOs themselves. The stream was hosted by Dr Andrew Rochford who did not let participants go to bed until we hit the \$5million mark! The program included videos of Vinnies services and companions, as well as live interviews with people who had been assisted by Vinnies, and CEO Sleepout participants.

One speaker was Bernie Fehon, who initiated the Vinnies CEO Sleepout 15 years ago. He spoke of the inspiration for the fundraising event saying, 'instead of making people comfortable and entertaining them, let's do the opposite'.

TOP 10 FUNDRAISERS

Mr Mirko Milic	\$33,725
Mr Bernie van Wyk	\$28,855
Mr Neville Tomkins	\$27,283
Mr Todd Wills	\$23,465
Dr Scott Park	\$12,166
Mrs Loretta Wholley	\$12,128
Ms Katrina Bracher	\$11,920
Mrs Sehida Frawley	\$11,439
Ms Noor Blumer	\$10,927

TOP 5 TEAMS

Catholic Education	
Canberra and Goulburn	\$39,606
EY	\$30,809
Preventive Dentistry	\$27,972
SAP Canberra	\$19,842
Team Blumers	\$16,277

Feedback on the interactive event was positive.

“Running it at home so to speak worked really well as I was able to leverage additional challenges I made up to raise money (nearly doubling previous years) which I could not have done in the central location.”

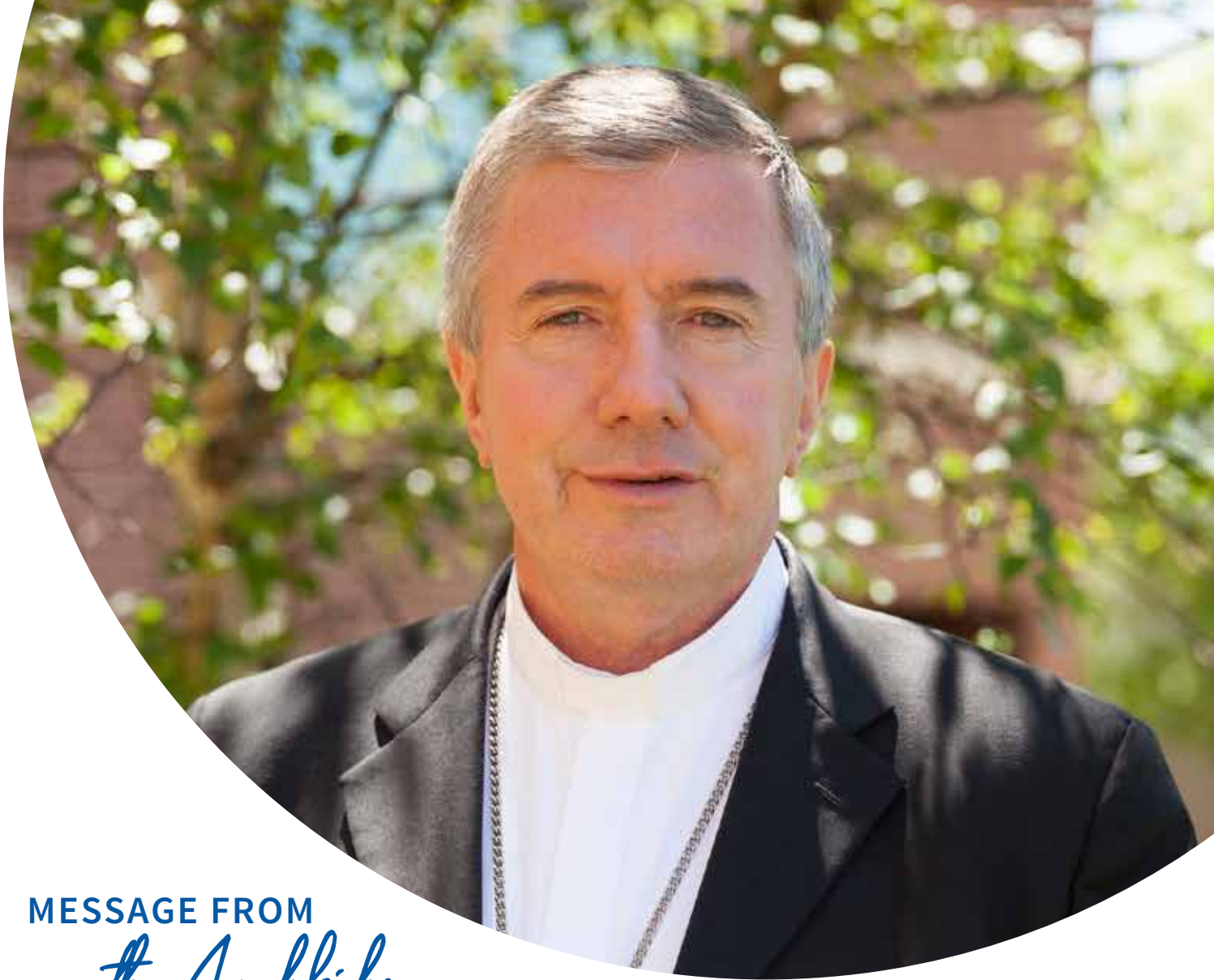
“Sleeping out by myself in Canberra on the back deck in the minus 1 degree temperature while my wife was inside with the dogs and cats gave me a smidgeon of the feeling of loneliness and isolation that those sleeping rough would experience every night. That homelessness, particularly sleeping rough, happens in Australia is a national shame.”

“Very different this year to do the event alone. I missed the time with colleagues and other CEOs. But the essence was the same. Very humbling to think that we do this as a once off (with hot showers, comfortable bed and security the norm) but that others do this day after day - and need to face each day after such nights.”

“The main learning this time round was the experience of vulnerability in sleeping on your own. Homeless people must feel on edge the whole time particularly at night knowing they are at risk.”

“At about 2am I started to understand how tough it would be to sleep rough, but it pales in comparison to be on the street every night and day.”





MESSAGE FROM *the Archbishop*

Dear Friends,

Once again, the St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has given great leadership in these terrible COVID-19 pandemic days.

It has been an extraordinary year for us all! We have had bushfires, hailstorms, floods and now a terrible global pandemic. So many of those who work for St Vincent de Paul Society are tired and yet they continue with their great work.

Through this Annual Report you will notice some of the challenges and the good work that has been done by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Please be reassured of my every encouragement and solidarity with all those involved with St Vincent de Paul Society and especially those whom they serve.

Pope Francis often talks about the isolation of the COVID-19 world that we are in. He speaks of us with a mandate of being close to people in their isolation. St Vincent de Paul Society does that in a very practical way. For this I renew my solidarity with the Society and stand alongside them in their important work in the year ahead.

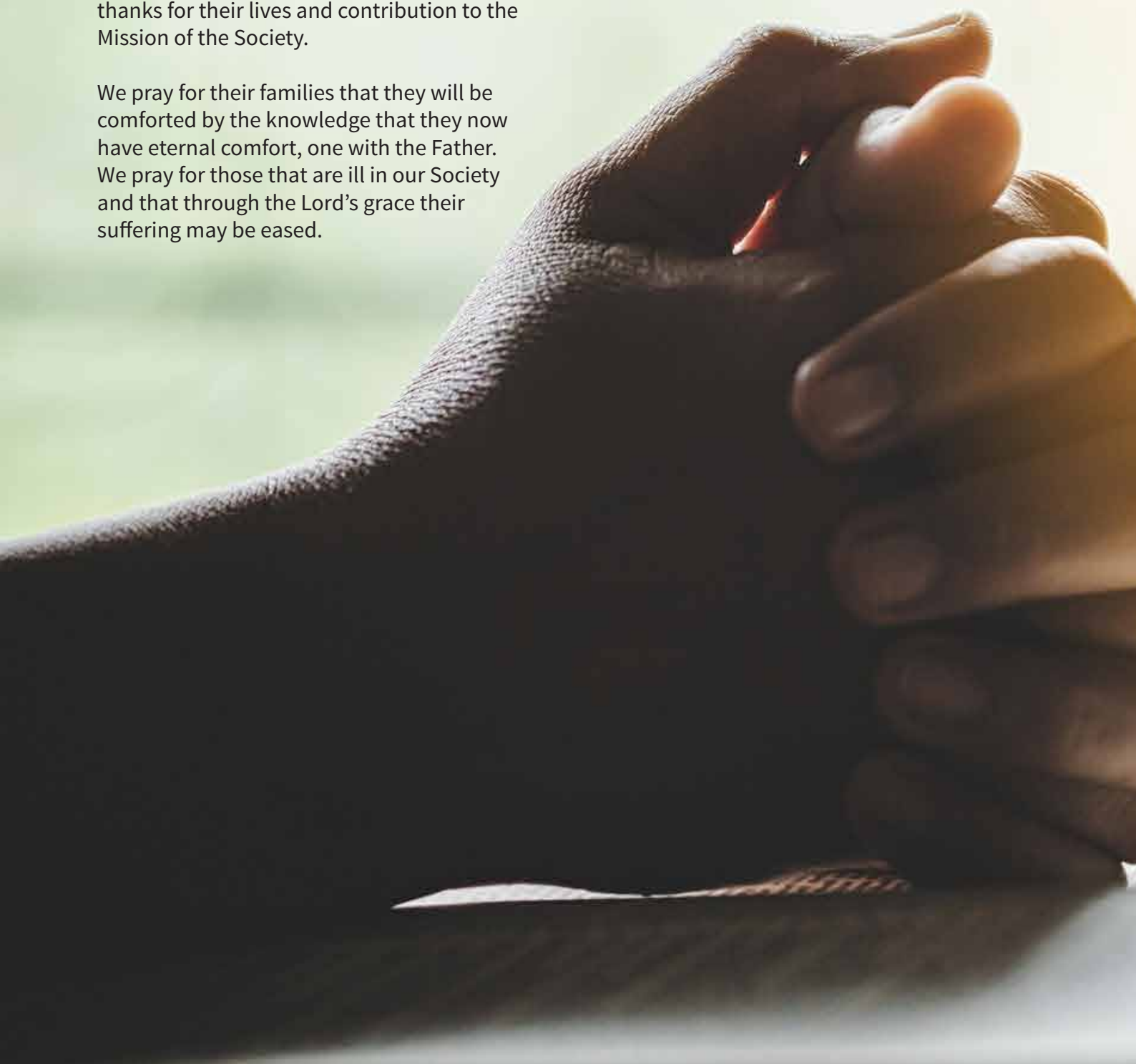
*Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Tuesday, 1 September 2020*

In our Prayers

We remember our brothers, sisters and friends. During this year several of our members and volunteers have passed away or are struggling with illness.

We remember with love and respect those who are no longer with us and we give thanks for their lives and contribution to the Mission of the Society.

We pray for their families that they will be comforted by the knowledge that they now have eternal comfort, one with the Father. We pray for those that are ill in our Society and that through the Lord's grace their suffering may be eased.



Profit and loss

Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
REVENUE		
Government grants	7,142,608	4,690,887
Sale of goods	10,448,239	10,342,808
Client contributions	366,506	1,209,058
Fundraising income	1,658,642	2,472,076
Natural disaster appeals	7,959,502	727,883
Bequest income	847,858	2,091,397
Other revenue	287,013	300,164
TOTAL REVENUE FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	28,710,368	21,834,273
Other income	1,297,335	5,981
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Centres of charity	7,446,333	6,570,859
Administration	3,807,612	3,408,737
Fundraising	737,126	591,258
	11,991,071	10,570,854
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES	18,016,632	11,269,400
COMMUNITY SERVICES EXPENSES		
People in need services	4,925,005	5,261,703
Homeless and mental health services	2,194,271	2,429,911
Migrants, refugees and overseas	37,721	56,209
Natural disaster relief	6,927,863	511,359
	14,084,860	8,259,182
Levies paid to the National Council - related party	139,073	199,550
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	3,792,699	2,810,668
Other comprehensive income	1,977,599	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	5,770,298	2,810,668

Significant changes in the state of affairs:

The housing property management function, with the exception of Samaritan House Services, was transferred to Amelie Housing on 04 November 2019.

The Society's activities have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions imposed by Governments in Canberra and NSW, and the economic downturn that has resulted in Australia. The Society has received financial assistance through Federal Government programs for businesses from both the Job Keeper Subsidy and the Cash Flow Boost programs.

The Society launched specific fundraising initiatives to assist persons affected by the December 2019 and January 2020 catastrophic bushfires in NSW, and also administered cash grants to affected persons from funds allocated by the Federal Government. The support to communities affected by the bushfires is on-going.

Financial position

Consolidated statement of financial position

ASSETS	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and short-term deposits	12,436,678	9,310,491
Trade and other receivables	163,612	228,138
Inventory	64,195	53,117
Investment in shares	2,389	3,420
Other assets	787,242	297,605
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	13,454,116	9,892,771
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	18,490,974	11,376,720
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	18,490,974	11,376,720
TOTAL ASSETS	31,945,090	21,269,491
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	1,751,590	1,364,987
Provisions and employee benefit liabilities	1,014,465	806,669
Lease liability	598,517	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,364,572	2,171,656
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions and employee benefit liabilities	20,282	227,614
Lease liability	3,919,717	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,939,999	227,614
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,304,571	2,399,270
NET ASSETS	24,640,519	18,870,221
FUNDS		
Accumulated funds	18,855,673	15,062,974
Reserves	5,784,846	3,807,247
TOTAL FUNDS	24,640,519	18,870,221

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Reserves

Reserves is the asset revaluation reserve that represents the revaluation surplus of land and buildings.

Officers' Declaration

The officers of the Territory Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn declare that the financial statements:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. At the end date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Territory Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Territory Council: Dated this the 30th day of September 2020.



John Feint
President



Bernard Meadley
Treasurer





Get Involved

MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING

Become a member of a conference or volunteer your time to assist people in need in your community.

DONATE

The Society's major lifeline has been the generous financial assistance our loyal donors have given over the years. This support assists the many activities undertaken by the Society. Donations can be directed to a specific special work or general works. You can make a secure donation online at www.vinnies.org.au/donate or by calling 13 18 12.

Donations of quality secondhand clothing, furniture and household goods can also be made at any Vinnies centre.

GIFTS IN WILLS

You can support those in need by leaving a gift to the Society in your Will. Through remembering the Society in your Will, you will ensure your legacy lives on through the assistance your generosity provides.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Individuals or groups of employees can take part in this program by donating a small amount each fortnight. This pre-tax donation is deducted from employees' salaries by their payroll department, and then forwarded to the Society.

CORPORATE COLLABORATION

If you are a business looking to partner with a charity, you can contact our office to discuss ways in which your company can support one of Australia's largest and most respected charitable organisations.

Thank you

We could not do what we do without the help and support of our loyal donors. We rely on their generosity to enable us to reach out to our companions and to keep going when sometimes the task seems great. Our donors help by providing financial support and material goods; by participating in fundraising events and appeals; and by leaving a gift to the Society in their Will, which is a powerful way to make a difference in improving the lives of future generations.

All of these vital contributions ensure the Society can continue to support, assist and most importantly provide a 'hand up' to those at greatest risk of experiencing social exclusion, disadvantage or homelessness in our community.

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn is grateful for the ongoing financial and in-kind support from the following:

Major Sponsors:



Australian Government
Australian Transport Safety Bureau



Government and Organisations:



National Sponsors:



Our valued supporters:

2CC/2CA	GIVIT ACT
ACT Pathology	Good Shepherd Primary School (Amaroo)
ACU Canberra Campus	Griffin Legal
ANU John XXIII College	Gungahlin College
APSC (Australian Public Service Commission)	Gungahlin Marketplace
AquaHarmony	Handsome Pretty
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference	Hennessy Catholic College
Australian Catholic University Canberra Campus	Holy Family Primary School & ELC (Gowrie)
Australian College of Nursing	Holy Spirit Primary School (Nicholls)
Avenue Hotel (Capital Hotel Group)	Holy Trinity Primary School (Curtin)
Batemans Bay Soldiers Club	House of Representatives Social Club Canberra
Belconnen Lions Club	Hyatt Hotel Canberra
Calvary Community Care ACT	Jerrabomberra School - Kindergarten
Calvary Hospital	John James Hospital
Canberra PCYC Erindale Centre	Lumen Christi Catholic College (Pambula)
Canberra Raiders Rugby League	Marist College
Canberra Southern Cross Club, Jamison	McAuley Catholic Central School (Tumut)
Canberra Southern Cross Club, Tuggeranong	McInnes Wilson Lawyers
Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden	Merici College
Cantlie Recruitment	Mills Oakley Lawyers
Carroll College	Mother Teresa School (Harrison)
CC Beauty	Mt Carmel Primary School (Yass)
Daramalan College	North Ainslie Primary School
Deloitte	Palmerston Primary School
Department of Defence	Raiders Weston Club
Department of Home Affairs - Legal Division	Ray White Yass
Department of Home Affairs, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Program Branch	Residential Reports
Duffy Primary	Rosary Primary School (Watson)
Esteem fitness studio	Sacred Heart Central School (Cootamundra)
F1 Solutions	Sacred Heart Primary School (Pearce)
F45 Training	Scouts ACT
Fast Print Services	Serco
Florey Primary School	St Anne's Central School (Temora)
Forrest Chiropractic	St Anthony's Primary School (Wanniassa)
	St Bede's Primary School (Braidwood)
	St Bede's Primary School (Red Hill)
	St Benedict's Primary School (Narrabundah)

St Bernard's Primary School (Batehaven)

St Christopher's Cathedral

St Clare of Assisi Primary School (Conder)

St Clare's College

St Edmund's College, Canberra

St Francis of Assisi Primary School (Calwell)

St Francis Xavier College (Florey)

St Francis Xavier Primary School (Lake Cargelligo)

St Gregory's Primary School (Queanbeyan)

St John Paul II College

St John Vianney's Primary School (Waramanga)

St Joseph's Primary School (Boorowa)

St Joseph's Primary School (Goulburn)

St Joseph's Primary School (Adelong)

St Joseph's Primary School (Bombala)

St Joseph's Primary School (Grenfell)

St Jude's Primary School (Holder)

St Mary Mackillop College

St Mary's Primary School (Crookwell)

St Mary's Primary School (Moruya)

St Mary's War Memorial Primary School

St Matthew's Primary School (Page)

St Michael's Primary School (Kaleen)

St Monica's Primary School (Evatt)

St Patrick's Primary School (Bega)

St Patrick's Primary School (Gundagai)

St Patrick's Parish School (Cooma)

St Peter and Paul's Primary School (Goulburn)

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School (Charnwood)

St Thomas More's Primary School (Campbell)

St Thomas the Apostle Primary School (Kambah)

St Vincent's Primary School (Aranda)

Stellar Canberra

Sts Peter and Paul Primary School (Garran)

Thai Embassy

The Pier, Kingston Foreshore

The University of Canberra Association of Marketing Students (UCAMS)

Transit Graphics

Trinity Catholic College (Goulburn)

Trinity Primary School (Murrumbah)

Vantage Strata

Watson Blinds

Woodcraft Guild ACT

Young Mercy Network

YWCA Canberra Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre

University of Canberra

The commitment of these organisations is a tremendous help towards the running of the Society's frontline services.

Be a part of our online community at:
www.facebook.com/VinniesACT
www.twitter.com/VinniesACT
www.vinnies.org.au

To discuss opportunities to support the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, please call us on (02) 6282 2722 or email info.cg@vinnies.org.au



To communicate in another language please call the
Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing and/or have a speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. Visit relayservice.gov.au or call 1300 555 727 (speak and listen number).

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