MINI VINNIES VINSIDER

TERM 4 2026

Vinnies WA is deeply grateful for your support and involvement this year. We are here to help school year wrap up with some meaningful engagement opportunities and resources for 2027.

We have seen some incredible activities and donations take place in Term Three, with a special shoutout to the schools who participated in our Winter Appeal and School Sleepout.

As a team, we work hard to make sure the resources, information, and events we provide are as useful as possible.

To better understand the impact of our work, and how we can improve, we are asking all schools to fill out this short survey (**https://vinnies.link/Survey**) about your involvement with the St Vincent de Paul Society this year.

Doing so will help us offer the best possible resources to your school and others across the state.

Thank you.

This Term we are bringing you a range of ways to engage with our work. Check out our **School Christmas Appeal Kit**, featuring activities, learning opportunities, and a key facts to drive your students' understanding of community need.

Now is also a great time to start thinking about the 2027 school year. If you would like information about our workshops, to book in a speaker, or to start a Mini Vinnies program at your school, the Youth Engagement Team is here to help. Additionally, this year we have created a 2027 School Engagement Kit which outlines ways to get involved throughout the year.

Wishing you all the best for a fantastic break and a wonderful end of the 2026 school year!

Hannah Taylor
Youth Engagement Coordinator

What's in store:

- End of Year Survey - Your Feedback Needed
- Christmas Appeal 2026
- Winter Appeal and School Sleepouts 2026!
- Take the Plunge for Vinnies WA!
- School Spotlight- St Helena's Catholic Primary School
- Conference Connection- Mandurah Conference
- Start a Mini Vinnies Group in 2027

End of Year Survey - Your Feedback Needed!

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Thank you for your support.

Christmas Appeal 2026

This Christmas season we are focusing on the cost of living crisis, a timely topic affecting us all in Western Australia. Information about the cost of living, activities, case studies, and ways to support can be found in our 2026 School Christmas Appeal Kit.

As families plan to come together and celebrate, the financial stress caused by the cost of living can be felt even more harshly.
This Christmas, your school can bring joy to families in your local community by donating non-perishable and festive food items to your local conference.

Add in a decorated Christmas card with a message of cheer from your students for a fun, hands-on way to support your neighbours. And don't forget the volunteering opportunities for students to sort through items to make sure items are in date and in safe shape.

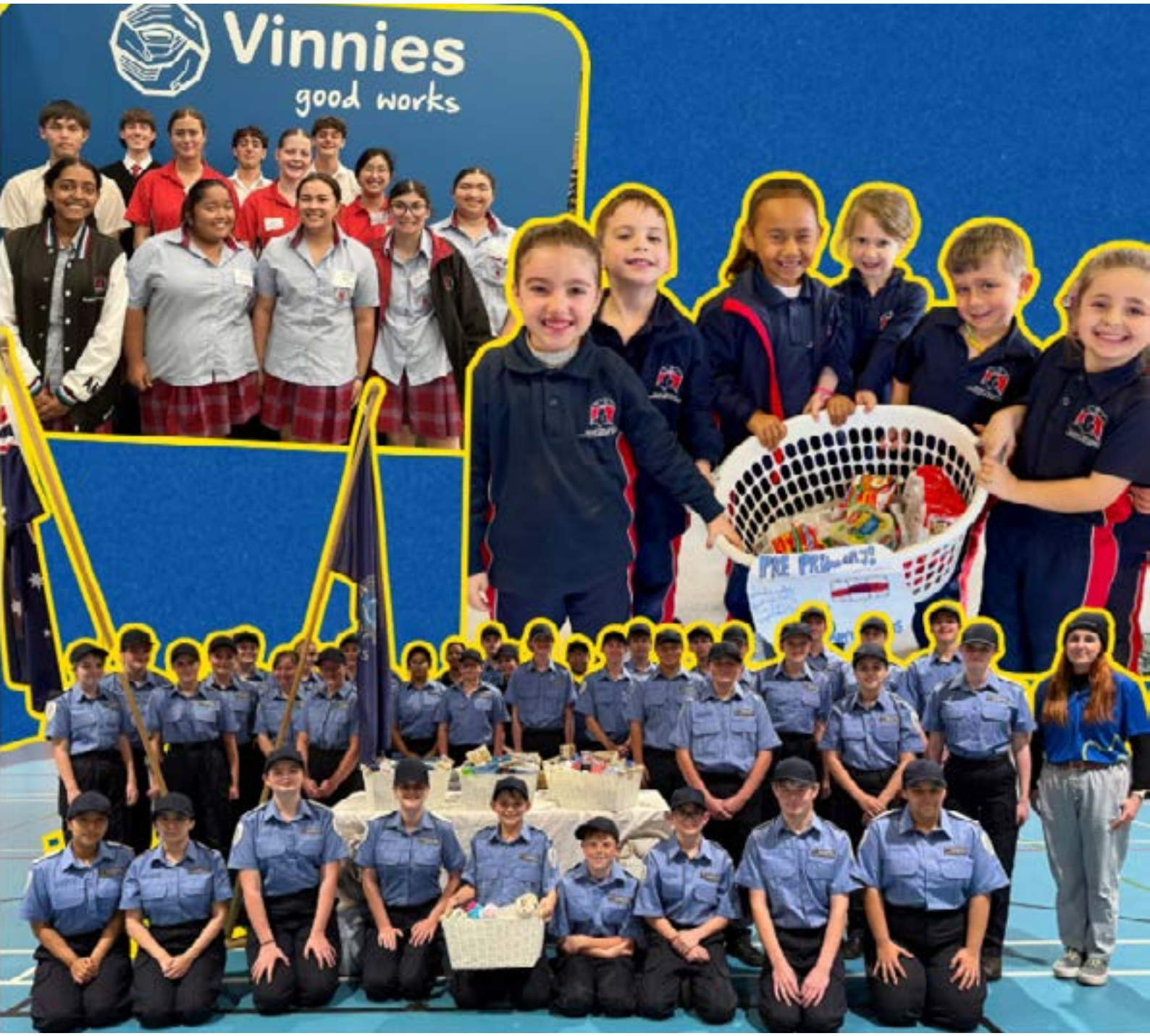
If you would like more information about the Christmas Appeal or to learn about the specific needs of your Conference, please reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au**.

Winter Appeal and School Sleepouts 2026

A huge thank you to all the schools who participated in our 2026 Winter Appeal! More than 50 schools donated funds, winter warmers, food, and toiletries to Vinnies WA – making a significant difference in the lives of those most vulnerable in their communities while supporting their students to learn more about poverty in WA.

Additionally, we were thrilled to have 22 schools participating in a School Sleepout in 2026. These events were part of a state-wide initiative to give students a small glimpse into the realities of homelessness by 'sleeping rough' for a night. Both full overnight and shortened sleepouts were run at primary and secondary schools with well over 1,000 students attending.

If you would like to learn more about the school sleepout or are interested in running one in 2027, please reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au**.



Take the Plunge for Vinnies WA!

This is not your average school fundraiser: four teammates, four ropes and 130 metres above Perth.

Vinnies WA is calling on parents, staff, family members and friends to rally their own teams of four, whether through school, work, a sporting club or their wider community.

On Sunday, 15 November 2026, teams will abseil side by side down Central Park Tower, raising vital funds to help Vinnies WA support Western Australians experiencing poverty, homelessness and hardship.

No previous abseiling experience is needed, with all equipment, instruction and technical support provided on the day.

Each participant will receive their own online fundraising page and commit to raising a minimum of $1,100 for Vinnies WA.

Ready to take it on? Rally your team of four and register here:
https://vinnies-wa.grassrootz.com/central-park-plunge-2026-vinnies-wa

For any questions, contact Yvette from Vinnies WA on 0481 452 097.

School Spotlight

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

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

Meet St Helena's Catholic Primary School

St Helena's Catholic Primary School has supported the St Vincent de Paul Society WA for well over 6 years through appeals and school-wide engagement.

St Helena's supports Vinnies WA through our annual Winter and Christmas Appeals by collecting food and other essential donations for those in need. We also raise funds through initiatives such as Pyjama Day. Our student Vinnies Committee learns about the mission of Vinnies and develops an understanding of the importance of charity, service, and supporting vulnerable members of the community.

We are excited to continue supporting Vinnies WA and making a positive difference in our community. While we do not yet know what opportunities next year will bring, we look forward to continuing our partnership and finding new ways to serve and support those in need.

Our students are incredibly passionate about helping others. They enthusiastically embrace the responsibility of encouraging their peers to donate and contribute to community initiatives. They consistently bring forward creative ideas, demonstrate strong leadership, and show a genuine commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you for your amazing work and support, St Helena's Catholic Primary School!

Would you like to share your school's successes through the School Spotlight?

Reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au** to register your interest.

Conference Connection

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

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

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

Meet the Mandurah Conference

The Mandurah Conference was started informally in 1978 and later aggregated on 30th June 2004 under the Diocese of Bunbury. It started in an old house on parish property by a small group of dedicated parishioners who saw the need to help people struggling in our community of about 15,000 people.

We now have 28 members and are in our own dedicated Support Centre which opens weekdays from 10am to 1 pm. We endeavour to give a hand up to about 50 families and singles each week. The Cost of Living is forcing more and more low income employed people to seek financial support for food, fuel, utilities, rent, medical appointments etc.

Those facing homelessness are a big cohort of people who access our services- they range from rough sleepers to people living in sheds, couch surfing or on weekly tenancies in caravan parks. They range from older citizens in their 80s to the 20-year-olds. Our population now is over 100,000 from Bouvard to Singleton and out to North Yunderup

We collaborate strongly with other emergency relief agencies in Mandurah, and of course with Peel Passages, and the Conferences in adjoining towns. We are very fortunate to be respected and supported by two parishes- Our Lady's Assumption and St Damien's.

There are 4 Catholic schools in Mandurah, Assumption Catholic Primary School, Mandurah Catholic College, St Damien's Dawesville, and St Marcellin- all of whom offer their support to the society. There is a very strong ethos of caring for those in need, and we feel very supported by the school community.

If you would like to learn more about your local Conference, reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au.**

Join Mini Vinnies

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

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

Mini Vinnies Badges

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

Follow these simple steps:

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

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

Request a Speaker

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

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

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

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

Vinnies good works

vinnies.org.au/wa

9 Brewer Road Canning Vale WA 6155
PO Box 1450 Canning Vale DC WA 6970
P: 08 6323 7500
E: youth@svdpwa.org.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the Traditional Custodians of this land, with deep respect. May Elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, hope, faith, and reconciliation.