



St Vincent de Paul Society
CANBERRA/GOULBURN
good works

ANNUAL REPORT

2025–2026

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ABOUT US

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/ Goulburn (the Society) is part of an international lay Catholic organisation supporting people experiencing poverty and hardship. Across our region, we provide practical assistance, compassionate connection and advocacy, walking alongside people with dignity, choice and hope.

Founded in Paris in 1833 by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and a group of young people, the Society was named after St Vincent de Paul, patron saint of Christian charity. Today, members, volunteers and employees continue this mission worldwide, generously sharing their time, skills and care in service of others.

VISION

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering a hand up to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

MISSION

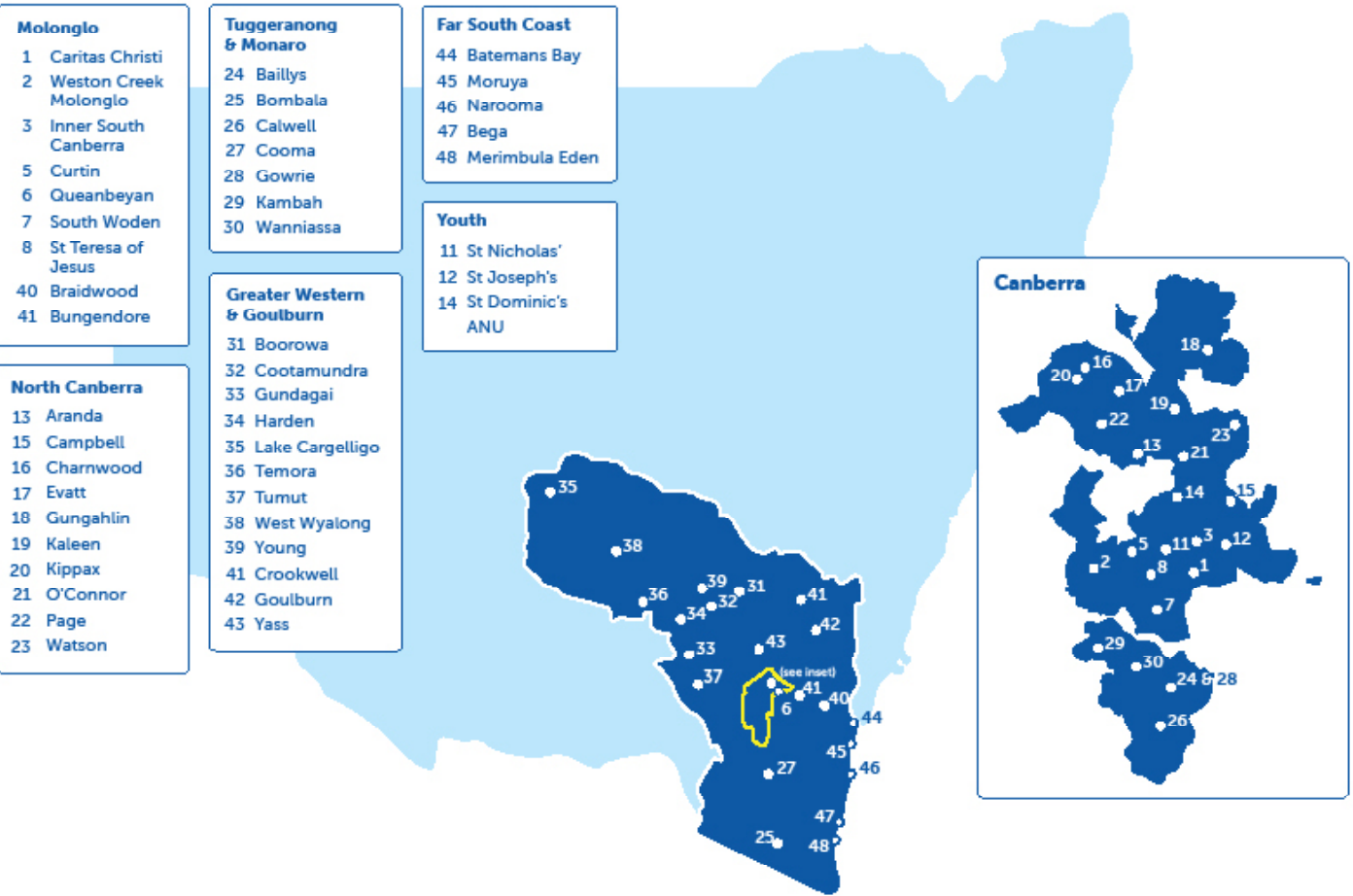
The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

VALUES

Our work is guided by the values of compassion, dignity, justice, hope, service and respect. These values shape how we listen, how we respond and how we walk alongside people, families and communities across the ACT and surrounding regions.

WHERE SUPPORT MEETS COMMUNITY

OUR LOCATIONS (BY REGION)



ORGANISATIONAL
MEMBER
CODE COMPLIANT



St Vincent de Paul Society (Canberra/Goulburn) Limited
ACN 666 715 028 | ABN 16 732 852 554

Privacy Statement

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn respects the privacy and dignity of the people it assists, our members, volunteers and employees. For more information about how the Society manages privacy information please refer to our Privacy Policy on our website at vinnies.link/privacy-policy.

Image Disclaimer

To safeguard the privacy of individuals and families supported by the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/ Goulburn, some photographs contained in this Annual Report feature actors or models and are for illustrative purposes only. Any personal stories or case studies have been published with consent or have been de-identified to protect confidentiality.

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.

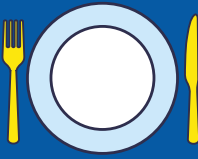
IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Growing need shaped our response in 2025–2026. More than 20,000 calls for help were met with practical support, dignity and connection, with around one in three calls coming from people seeking assistance for the first time. Across regional communities, we are seeing more people reach out for support as need continues to grow. Through our programs, thousands of people accessed essential food and supplies, safer housing, warmer homes, education and a stronger sense of belonging.

\$2.5 
MILLION

in cash and in-kind
emergency relief

37,896 
units of assistance
provided by conferences

51,736 
MEALS
shared at Roadhouse
and Blue Door

19,062
instances of support
provided by
Night Patrol 

20,000+
CALLS
 to our Emergency
Relief Helpline

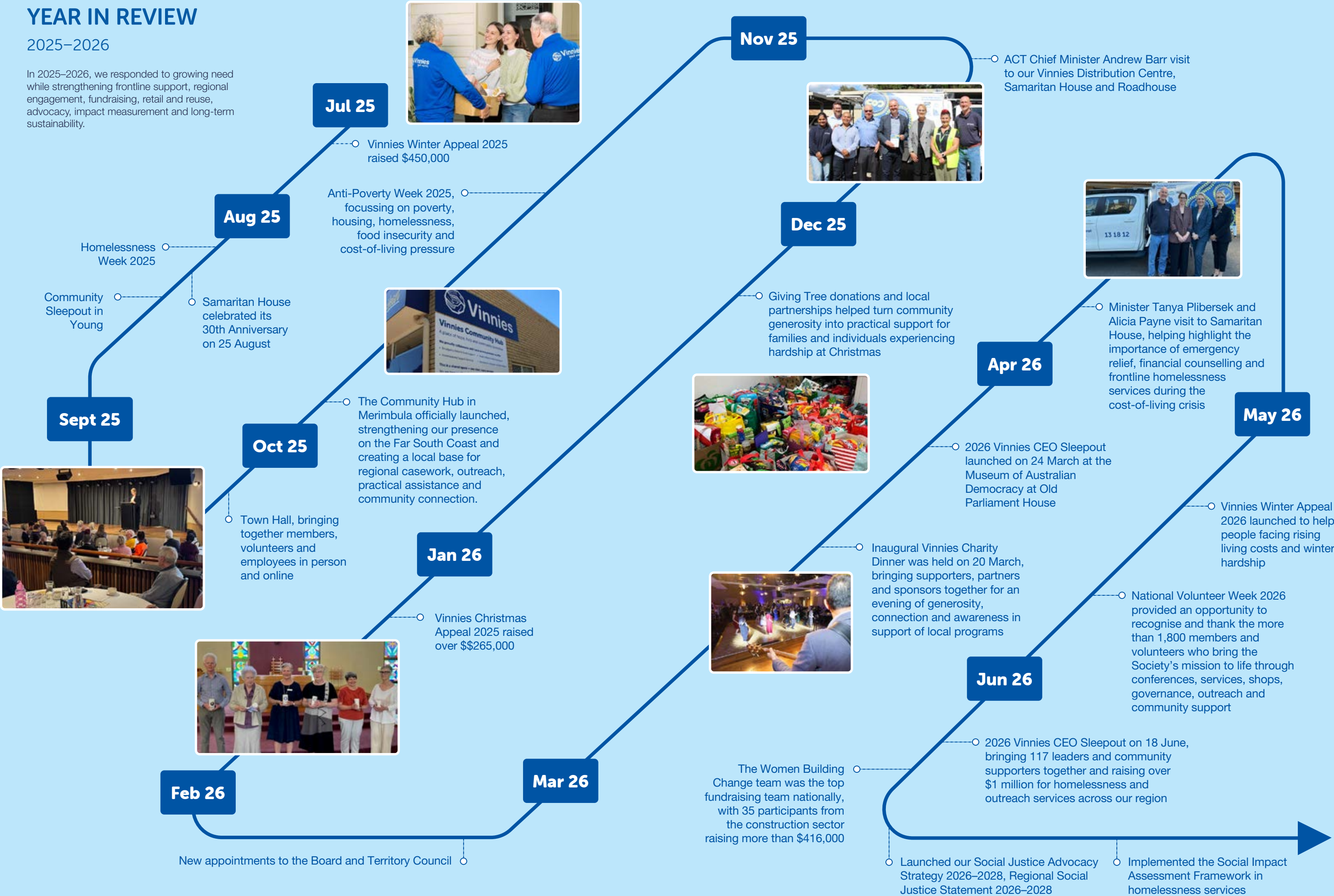
23,172
clothing and material
aid items provided 

10,057 
INTERVIEWS
conducted by Far South Coast
and Western Region conferences

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025–2026

In 2025–2026, we responded to growing need while strengthening frontline support, regional engagement, fundraising, retail and reuse, advocacy, impact measurement and long-term sustainability.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on 2025–2026, I am deeply grateful for the commitment shown by our members, volunteers, employees, donors, and supporters including the ACT Government. Together, you have continued to bring hope, dignity, and practical assistance to our companions experiencing hardship across the ACT and surrounding region.

This year, we have made progress on key priorities of the Territory Council drawn from the Society's 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, particularly to build our services and programs in our NSW regions, to sustain our membership in conferences and making our leadership more inclusive. We still have a long way to go as these are all big challenges to achieve. They require us to remain focussed on our mission, Catholic identity and values that have guided the Society for more than 130 years.

While the hardship facing our companions continues to evolve, our commitment to serving those most in need remains unchanged. Every act of service, whether through a home visit by conference members, a meal shared, a conversation, advocacy, fundraising, or support delivered through one of our programs, reflects our Vincentian spirit in action.

I acknowledge the dedication of our Territory Council and Board Directors, who continue to provide strong governance and stewardship. Dianne Fee, the President of the Far South Coast region, became the Vice-President of the Territory Council. We were also pleased to welcome to the Territory Council Andrew Rice, the President of the Molonglo region, Jenny McGee, a Kippax Conference member, and the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox, Queanbeyan Conference President. Their experience and commitment will help guide the Society as we continue to grow and evolve. I also acknowledge Kym Duggan, who stepped down from the Territory Council after a decade of dedicated service while continuing his contribution through the Social Justice Committee.

The most important and rewarding responsibility of the Territory Council President is attending meetings of conferences to discuss with members their needs and priorities. For 2025–2026, I focussed on meeting conferences in NSW and I am pleased to report that in places such as Queanbeyan, Braidwood and Crookwell, we have seen significant growth in their membership. For the Territory Council this is the greatest achievement, as conferences are the core of the Society which do not just deliver emergency relief to companions but also provide its leaders.

Thank you for your continued support.

BRIAN STACEY PSM
PRESIDENT OF TERRITORY COUNCIL
CHAIR OF THE BOARD



“
Every act of service, whether through a home visit by conference members, a meal shared, a conversation, advocacy, fundraising, or support delivered through one of our programs, reflects our Vincentian spirit in action.
”

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

This year, our mission has felt more important than ever, to stand alongside people facing hardship in our community and offer practical help, compassion and hope when it is needed most.

Across the ACT and the surrounding regions, ongoing cost-of-living pressures, housing stress and social isolation continued to place enormous pressure on individuals and families. In response, our incredible members, volunteers and employees showed extraordinary care, kindness and a deep commitment to the dignity of every person we support.

Together we provided nearly \$2.5 million in emergency relief, responded to more than 20,000 calls for assistance through our Emergency Relief Helpline and delivered more than 63,000 meals through our frontline programs. These numbers matter, but they only tell part of the story. Behind each one is a person welcomed without judgement, a family helped through a difficult week, a young person supported to stay connected, or someone experiencing homelessness met with warmth, food and a conversation.

Our work is grounded in simple but powerful values, and in the belief that everyone deserves the chance to live with dignity. This year, those values were visible in thousands of everyday acts of service - in home visits, meals shared, conversations held, vouchers provided, referrals made and doors opened.

We also continued to build for the future by strengthening our presence in regional communities, deepening our advocacy and community relationships, growing our services, and investing in the people, systems and governance that support our mission.

Importantly, we are strengthening how we measure and understand our social impact, so we can better listen, learn and improve the difference our work makes in people's lives.

A major milestone was the opening of our new Merimbula Community Hub, creating a stronger foundation for support across the NSW Far South Coast. We also opened a new community drop-in centre in Young, a welcoming place where people can access support, connect with others and feel part of their local community.

Across our Special Works, outreach services and conference network, our teams continued to meet people where they are. From homelessness and youth programs to migrant and refugee support, community meals and local assistance, we provided practical support, connection and a sense of belonging for people navigating hardship.

Our commercial teams have also worked incredibly hard to ensure we have the funding needed to respond to increasing demand for our help.

We were also deeply encouraged by the generosity of our community. The 2026 Vinnies CEO Sleepout raised more than \$1 million for homelessness and outreach services, while our inaugural Vinnies Charity Dinner created a new opportunity to bring people together, strengthen partnerships and shine a light on the realities facing people in our region.

I thank all our members, volunteers, employees, donors, partners and supporters: thank you for your generosity and belief in our mission. Together, we are not only helping people through immediate hardship; we are building stronger, fairer and more connected communities.

LUCY HOHNEN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rising housing, food and energy costs placed greater pressure on households across our region in 2025–2026. The Emergency Relief Helpline received 20,000 calls, with around one in three coming from people seeking assistance for the first time. Behind each call was a person or family facing difficult choices about how to afford housing, food, energy or their children’s education.

While the challenges facing communities across the ACT, Western Region and Far South Coast varied, the need for local, practical and compassionate support remained consistent. We responded by providing immediate relief, building trusted relationships, reaching people through outreach, advocating for change and strengthening connections within communities.

These pressures reflected broader issues raised in the Society’s 2025–2026 ACT Budget consultation submission, including shortages of affordable and public housing, demand for specialist homelessness services, energy hardship and food insecurity. The submission also highlighted gaps in support for people seeking asylum, migrants and refugees and First Nations communities.

Our specialist homelessness services experienced increasingly complex and urgent needs. Samaritan House reported longer stays and fewer pathways into secure housing, while Family Services supported families sleeping in cars, couch surfing, living in overcrowded homes or escaping family and domestic violence. Demand also increased among First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse, and newly arrived families navigating unfamiliar systems and limited housing options.

HOW WE RESPOND

The Society responds to hardship through immediate relief, specialist support, trusted community connection and advocacy. Our work begins with listening to what people need and responding in ways that protect dignity, build trust and help people take the next step. What we see through frontline support also informs what we advocate for, helping connect individual experience with broader change across housing, homelessness, cost of living, food security and social inclusion.

Responding to hardship requires more than a single form of support. Through local conferences, specialist programs, outreach and advocacy, the Society works alongside people facing challenges, helping address immediate needs while supporting longer-term wellbeing and inclusion.

242 PEOPLE provided with accommodation by Samaritan House and Justice Housing Program



“Our work begins with listening to what people need and responding in ways that protect dignity, build trust and help people take the next step.”

Samaritan House Resident
Through gardening, this resident has enjoyed improved wellbeing, connection and confidence.

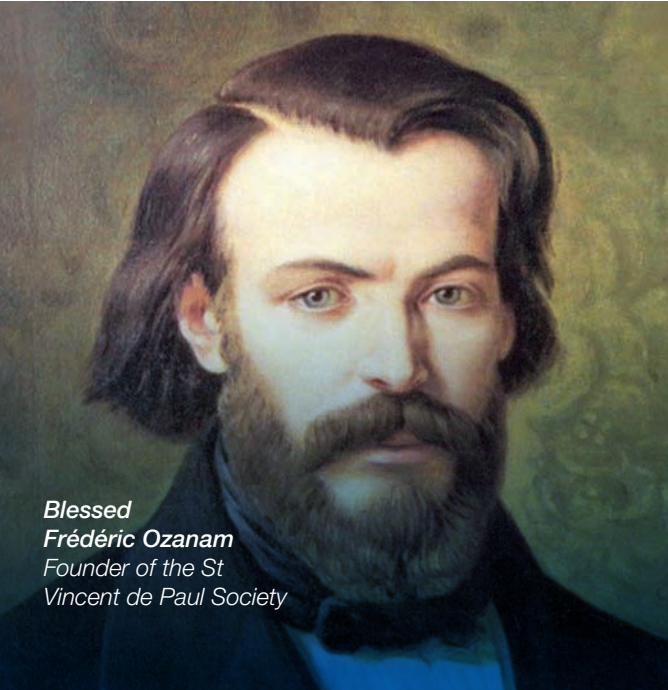
SPIRITUALITY & SERVICE

In 2025–2026, the spiritual heart of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn continued to be expressed through service. In the quiet visit, the shared conversation, the meal offered, the goods sorted, the prayer spoken and the practical support given to someone in need.

The Vincentian Way is shaped by three connected journeys; our own journey as Vincentians, our journey in community with other Vincentians, and our journey alongside those we serve. Together, these three dimensions give life to our mission and help us grow in faith, friendship and compassion.

“Across homes, community spaces, services, shops and outreach programs, the Vincentian spirit is made visible through presence as much as provision.”

Grounded in the example of St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, our mission calls us to see Christ in those who are poor, isolated or experiencing hardship, and to walk alongside each person with dignity, respect, justice, hope and love. Our spirituality is not separate from our service; it is deepened through prayer, reflection, friendship and compassionate action.



Blessed Frédéric Ozanam
Founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society

Our conferences remain central to Vincentian life. They are places where members gather in friendship, prayer and reflection, supporting one another as they grow in faith and respond to the needs of their local communities. Across homes, community spaces, services, shops and outreach programs, the Vincentian spirit is made visible through presence as much as provision.

During the year, I convened the new Spirituality Leadership Conference, bringing together spiritual advisers from each conference for monthly support, shared learning and reflection on their role in nurturing the Vincentian way across our network.

We give thanks for the many members, volunteers and employees whose service reflects the Gospel message in practical and deeply human ways. We also remember with gratitude those members of our Vincentian family who have died during the year and hold their families and friends in prayer.

As we look ahead, may we remain attentive to new opportunities to serve, faithful to our mission and united in hope. May our work continue to be a living expression of Christ’s love for those experiencing poverty, homelessness, loneliness and hardship across the ACT and surrounding regions.

JOHN FEINT
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

“Good works”

Good works is the practical expression of the Society’s mission. Through emergency relief, home visitation, food assistance, material aid and community-based support, we help people navigate moments of crisis and move towards greater stability.

MEMBERSHIP & CONFERENCES

Our conference network connects the Society with communities across the ACT and surrounding regions. Members provide person-to-person support, listening without judgement and responding to immediate needs including food, bills, rent, fuel, clothing and household essentials.

In 2025–2026, conferences supported nearly 6,000 individuals and families. Members’ strong local relationships also helped connect people with services and identify emerging pressures within their communities.

The strength of the conference model lies in its local presence. Members understand the pressures facing their communities and can respond with flexibility, care and dignity. Their connection to local parishes, schools, businesses, services and community networks helps create pathways to support that go beyond a single request for help.

5,952



individuals and families supported by conferences

Conferences also play an important role in shaping our broader response. The insights members gain through home visits and direct support help identify emerging pressures such as food insecurity, housing stress, energy hardship and social isolation. This local knowledge strengthens service planning and ensures our advocacy remains grounded in the lived experience of people experiencing hardship.

Through friendship, prayer and service, members continue to provide compassionate support when it is needed most.

FINDING CONFIDENCE AND CONNECTION

When a group of siblings* entered foster care following significant family adversity, they faced significant challenges beyond finding safety. The children, aged between four and ten, had experienced trauma, developmental delays and difficulties forming relationships with others. As they adjusted to a new home and new routines, they often felt anxious, withdrawn and uncertain in social situations.

Building trust took time. The children were hesitant to participate in group activities and struggled with confidence and connection. With support from our Youth Programs, they were welcomed into a safe and supportive environment where they could engage at their own pace, develop new skills and build positive relationships.

Over several years, the siblings became regular participants in weekend activities and camps. The consistency of the program provided structure, stability and opportunities to form friendships, try new experiences and build confidence. Our Youth Programs also worked with their foster carer, helping the family access community activities and

additional supports that strengthened their ability to thrive.

As their confidence grew, so did their sense of belonging. The children began participating more actively in group activities, forming strong friendships and developing trust in the adults around them. The older children started expressing their needs more confidently and taking on leadership roles, while all four siblings became valued members of the program community.

Today, the children are more confident, connected and optimistic about the future. They are engaged in community activities, have developed meaningful peer relationships and continue to build the skills and resilience needed to navigate life’s challenges. Their journey demonstrates the impact of long-term, trauma-informed support in helping children move from fear and isolation towards hope, connection and belonging.

**Details have been changed to protect the privacy and identities of the people involved.*

SPECIAL WORKS

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Our Special Works provide specialist support across homelessness and housing, providing meals, education, community inclusion and home energy assistance. These programs help people move from crisis towards greater stability, connection and choice, while providing frontline insights and evidence to strengthen our advocacy.

79



PEOPLE

sleeping rough were supported by Street to Home, connecting them with income support, health services, housing pathways and practical assistance.

676



HOUSEHOLDS

were assisted by our Home Energy Efficiency Program to create warmer, safer and more energy efficient homes, helping make household energy costs more affordable.

24



PEOPLE

matched by Compeer Friendship Program in supportive friendships with volunteers to reduce social isolation, while combatting the stigma attached to mental health.

166



PEOPLE

supported by Justice Housing Program in 10 properties, providing housing and intensive case management for people on parole, bail or leaving custody.

96



FAMILIES

at risk of or experiencing homelessness were case managed through Family Services.

72



PEOPLE

supported by Community Inclusion Program at Oaks Estate.

76



MEN

were provided safe accommodation by Samaritan House. Longer stays reflected increasingly complex needs and limited long-term housing options.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach brings support directly to people in familiar, accessible and trusted settings. Through a range of outreach services and our community programs, we provide practical help, connection and pathways to further support. In 2025–2026, we provided over 63,000 meals and 23,172 items of clothing and material aid.

Night Patrol supported 19,062 people, a 38% increase and expanded its reach with a new stop Belconnen. Blue Door provided 32,101 meals, while Roadhouse served 19,635 meals across 17,763 visits. Demand across both services increased by 9%.

At the Community Inclusion Program at Oaks Estate, the model of support shifted towards a more person-centred casework and community development framework. This strengthened the focus on trust, local connection and long-term stability for people living in the community.

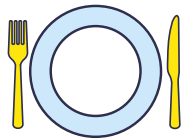
19,062

instances of support provided by Night Patrol



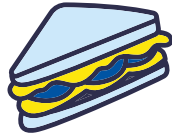
38% increase from the previous year

19,635 MEALS



served at Roadhouse

32,101 MEALS



provided by Blue Door

A PATH BACK TO STABILITY

When Roadhouse first met Bill*, he was experiencing homelessness following the loss of his accommodation. Living on the streets, he faced daily uncertainty about where he would sleep, how he would access food and whether his belongings would still be there when he returned.

Bill was managing the impacts of a previous brain injury, as well as other health and personal challenges that made it difficult to maintain routines and engage consistently with support services. While he occasionally stayed with friends, most nights were spent sleeping rough, often relying on tents, clothing and basic supplies to get by.

Like many people experiencing homelessness, navigating appointments, paperwork and service systems proved challenging. As a result, Bill found it difficult to stay connected with the support needed to improve his circumstances. Roadhouse became a consistent point of contact, providing meals, groceries and practical assistance in a familiar

and welcoming environment where he could seek support when he was ready.

Over time, Roadhouse staff worked alongside Bill to help him take important steps towards greater stability. With support, he obtained the identification he needed, completed an accommodation application and attended an intake process that ultimately resulted in him securing housing.

Today, Bill is maintaining his accommodation and engaging more consistently with the supports available to him. He continues to visit Roadhouse and values the relationships he has built there, describing them as an important source of encouragement and connection. His story highlights the importance of accessible, relationship-based support in helping people move towards greater stability, independence and community connection.

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy and identity of the people involved.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE & ADVOCACY

CREATING LASTING CHANGE

Lasting change requires addressing the systems that contribute to poverty, homelessness and exclusion. In 2025–2026, we drew on frontline experience, local evidence and the voices of people we support to advocate for practical, compassionate policy reform.

Our priorities included housing and homelessness, cost-of-living pressures, food and energy security, mental health access, Indigenous justice, and support for migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum. Through our submissions, sector partnerships, public engagement and conversations with decision-makers, we connected lived experience with opportunities for reform.

37,896

units of assistance provided by conferences



Our ACT Budget submission called for greater investment in affordable and public housing, homelessness services, transitional accommodation and targeted support for communities experiencing disadvantage. The new Social Justice Advocacy Strategy 2026–2028 and Regional Social Justice Statement 2026–2028 provide a clear framework for non-partisan, evidence-based advocacy shaped by lived experience and regional voices.

We will continue working with communities and partners to advance practical solutions and lasting change for people experiencing hardship.

VINNIES CHANGES LIVES EVERYDAY
Volunteer or donate to Vinnies

13 18 12
vinnies.org.au



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

Understanding what changes for people, not only what services are delivered, helps us improve our work and demonstrate its impact.

In 2025–2026, we moved from measuring mainly what we deliver to building a clearer understanding of the difference our work makes in people's lives. We developed and piloted a Social Impact Assessment Framework across housing and homelessness services, Night Patrol, youth programs and regional conference casework.

We established theories of change and shared outcome measures, trained employees to collect information in culturally safe and trauma-informed ways, and gathered evidence through service data, interviews, focus groups, case studies and staff insights. This work has created our first baseline for tracking outcomes such as housing stability, safety, wellbeing, connection, confidence and hope, and will help us strengthen services, guide advocacy and investment, and report more clearly on the lasting change we seek to achieve.



RETAIL, REUSE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Through Vinnies Shops, Goodies Junction and the Vinnies Distribution Centre, donated goods become affordable essentials, reduce waste and generate vital funding for the Society's Good Works.



DONATE

Quality goods are given by the community.



SORT

Goods are processed and directed where they can have most value.



REUSE

Items are resold, recycled or provided directly to people and community partners.



GENERATE

Sales create revenue and help offset the costs of collection, sorting and transport.



SUPPORT

Resources are reinvested in the Society's good works across the region.

REUSE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Our reuse and circular economy operations play an important role in keeping donated goods in use and out of landfill. By giving quality items a second life through our shops and reuse operations, we reduce waste while making affordable goods available to the community. The revenue generated is reinvested in our community programs and services, helping us provide practical support to people experiencing hardship across the region.

VINNIES SHOPS

Vinnies Shops provide affordable goods and are welcoming places to donate, shop and volunteer. Every purchase and quality donation helps fund services for people experiencing hardship.

A new five-year Retail Strategy, the Retail Excellence Program and digital growth roadmap are strengthening shop performance, donation quality, customer experience and long-term sustainability. New analytics, reporting and management tools are supporting better decisions, while the 'Shop with Heart' branding refresh is helping attract more shoppers, donors and volunteers.

GOODIES JUNCTION

Goodies Junction turns recovered goods into environmental and social value. In 2025–2026, it received more than 2,500 tonnes of donated material and while furniture support and Do Good vouchers helped people create safer, more stable homes.

Through our Furniture Support Program, Goodies Junction furnished 256 properties, helping people experiencing homelessness or escaping family and domestic violence to establish safe and comfortable homes. We also distributed almost 9,000 kilograms of goods to community organisations, schools and other community groups.

VINNIES DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

The Vinnies Distribution Centre is the operational backbone of the retail network. A redesigned sorting system increased productivity and strengthened stock supply to all 28 Vinnies Shops.

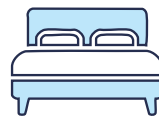
During the year, the Centre processed 2,300 tonnes of material and more than 162,000 bags of donated goods, keeping donations in use, reducing landfill and generating resources for the Society's mission.

2,500
TONNES



of material donated to Goodies Junction

1,666



ITEMS OF FURNITURE

supplied by Goodies Junction through the Furniture Support Program

256



HOMES FURNISHED

in partnership with Belfran Removals at no cost to the people supported

ALMOST

9,000
KILOGRAMS



of goods supplied to external organisations, schools and community groups through our Do Good program

2,300
TONNES



of material handled by Vinnies Distribution Centre

OUR PEOPLE

Our people are at the heart of everything we do. In 2025–2026, 458 members, 1,324 volunteers and 378 employees brought the Vincentian mission to life every day. Through their compassion, commitment and generosity, they supported individuals and families experiencing hardship across communities throughout our region.

In September 2025, around 220 employees, members and volunteers came together for our annual Town Hall, strengthening connections across the Society, sharing stories of impact and exploring new opportunities to collaborate.

Throughout the year, our people were recognised for their outstanding contribution and leadership. The Justice Housing Program Team was named a national finalist in the 2025 Australian Training Awards, Sue Hill was recognised as a finalist for ACT Volunteer Manager of the Year, and Dr Stephen Utick OAM was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the community.

The annual Recognition Awards celebrated excellence across a range of categories, acknowledging innovation, collaboration, leadership, regional service and the dedication of individuals and teams who go above and beyond in support of our mission.

National Volunteer Week provided an opportunity to thank and celebrate the more than 1,780 members and volunteers who give their time, skills and compassion to support our work. Their contribution was recognised through local events, service awards, a thank-you video and the publication of the 2025 Volunteering Yearbook.

Continuing to invest in our people remained a key priority. The People and Culture Team successfully implemented a new payroll and workforce management system, conducted two organisation-wide pulse surveys and supported ongoing learning and development opportunities. Safeguarding also remained a strong focus, with 56 training sessions delivered to almost 586 members, volunteers and employees.

We extend our sincere thanks to every member, volunteer and employee whose dedication, care and commitment continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of others and strengthen communities across our region.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & GIVING



Our community helped generate more than

\$2.25 MILLION

in fundraising revenue

The generosity of our community helped make the Society's Good Works possible throughout 2025–2026. Donors, participants, partners, schools, parishes, clubs, workplaces and community groups contributed more than \$2.25 million, turning compassion into food, emergency relief, housing and outreach support, youth programs and regional assistance.

APPEALS

VINNIES WINTER
APPEAL RAISED
\$450,000+

VINNIES CHRISTMAS
APPEAL RAISED
\$264,600+

THE DIFFERENCE IT MADE

Food, clothing, household essentials, rent and utility assistance during periods of high demand.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

VINNIES CEO
SLEEPOUT RAISED
\$1 MILLION+

VINNIES CHARITY
DINNER RAISED
\$137,000+

THE DIFFERENCE IT MADE

Homelessness and outreach services, emergency assistance, food relief and housing support.

PHILANTHROPY & FUTURE GIVING

REALISED BEQUESTS

WORKPLACE GIVING, CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME AND IN MEMORY GIVING

THE DIFFERENCE IT MADE

Long-term support for food, emergency relief, housing, connection and the Society's ongoing mission.

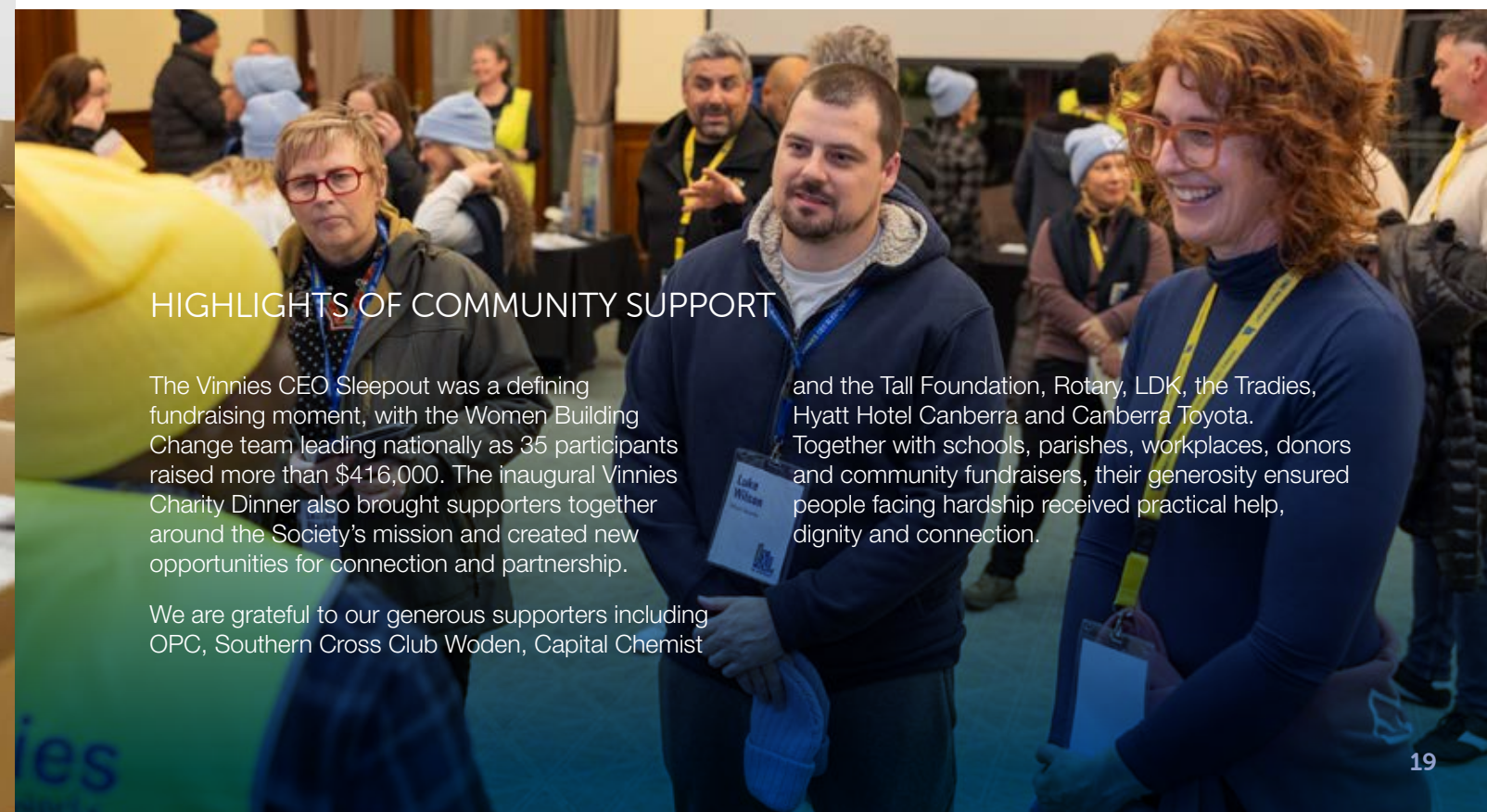


HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout was a defining fundraising moment, with the Women Building Change team leading nationally as 35 participants raised more than \$416,000. The inaugural Vinnies Charity Dinner also brought supporters together around the Society's mission and created new opportunities for connection and partnership.

We are grateful to our generous supporters including OPC, Southern Cross Club Woden, Capital Chemist

and the Tall Foundation, Rotary, LDK, the Tradies, Hyatt Hotel Canberra and Canberra Toyota. Together with schools, parishes, workplaces, donors and community fundraisers, their generosity ensured people facing hardship received practical help, dignity and connection.



REGIONAL IMPACT

Our regional work is shaped by deep local knowledge, trusted community partnerships and flexible, place-based responses that bridge the challenges of distance, limited transport and fewer specialist services. Through local hubs, outreach and strong community networks, we bring support closer to people and ensure regional voices shape both our services and advocacy.

Regional reach: 5,952 individuals and families assisted by conferences, with 37,896 units of assistance provided across the region. Their local

5,952

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

assisted by conferences across our region



knowledge helped connect people with support and identify issues that can be less visible in metropolitan settings.

The Regional Social Justice Statement 2026–2028 brings these insights together so regional voices and evidence shape the Society’s advocacy and inform solutions suited to communities where services are dispersed and local capacity varies.

NSW FAR SOUTH COAST REGION

Opened in October 2025, the Merimbula Community Hub provides a stronger local base for conference support, casework and community collaboration. By welcoming other community organisations into the hub, we are strengthening local partnerships, improving referral pathways and working together to provide more coordinated, accessible support for people across the Far South Coast.

The new Vinnies Outreach Van extended our reach beyond fixed locations, bringing practical assistance, information and referral pathways closer to people affected by distance and limited transport. Together, the Vinnies Outreach Van, Merimbula Community Hub and local conference network are strengthening access to support and building a more connected, coordinated response across the region.

DELIVERED

\$534,000+

in cash and in-kind support

8,100+

UNITS OF ASSISTANCE

provided by our teams in the Far South Coast



RECONNECTING THROUGH COMMUNITY

After losing her husband and daughter within months, Debbie* was experiencing deep grief and isolation. Support from the Batemans Bay Conference helped her reconnect through local church gatherings, craft groups and community gardens.

Weaving became a source of calm and confidence, leading to a first prize at the local show. Debbie remains connected and has rediscovered creativity, pride and hope.

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy and identity of the people involved.*

Debbie’s story is one we hear often, reflecting the growing number of single women across our region who face social isolation, housing insecurity and barriers to connection.

NSW WESTERN REGION

In the Western Region, partnerships with parishes, schools, local services and community groups help bridge gaps across dispersed communities. These relationships strengthen local knowledge, identify emerging needs and create clearer pathways to support.

Planning for the Young Drop-In Centre built on this network, creating a welcoming local space for casework, referrals, advocacy and community connection is well advanced. Developed with local partners, it reflects the needs and strengths of the Young community and how through sector collaboration, more can be delivered across the community.

DELIVERED

\$534,000+

in cash and in-kind support

8,540+

UNITS OF ASSISTANCE

provided by our teams in the Western Region



FINDING A WAY FORWARD

After losing his job and then all his savings in a financial scam, Alex* was at risk of losing his home. With few clear pathways to navigate banking, income support and housing pressures, he became increasingly isolated.

A Western Region case worker helped him reconnect with essential services, resolve banking

issues and maintain secure accommodation. Alex stabilised his finances and later moved interstate to pursue new opportunities, with renewed confidence to manage daily life and seek support when needed.

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy and identity of the people involved.*



Across both regions, impact is built through local presence, trusted relationships and responses that adapt to place. The knowledge gathered through conferences, outreach and community partnerships will continue to shape regional services and advocacy grounded in local experience.

GOVERNANCE, SAFEGUARDING, RISK & QUALITY

Strong governance, safeguarding, risk and quality systems help keep the Society accountable, mission-led and focused on the people and communities we serve. In 2025–2026, the Board, Territory Council and committees provided strategic oversight, supporting responsible decision-making, financial stewardship, compliance and service quality.

Safeguarding remained a priority, supported by policies, screening, reporting pathways and training for employees, volunteers and members. Risk monitoring, incident and feedback review, and regular policy and process improvements strengthened safe practice, accountability and the responsible stewardship of resources.



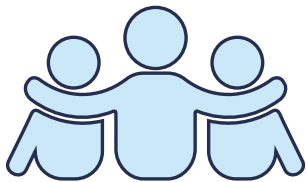
LOOKING AHEAD

In 2026–2027, the Society will focus on a small number of priorities that strengthen our impact, sustainability and support for people across our region.



EMBED SOCIAL IMPACT IN EVERYDAY PRACTICE

Integrate the Social Impact Project into business as usual, using clearer outcomes, data and evidence to improve services, guide advocacy and demonstrate the difference our work makes.



STRENGTHEN REGIONAL & COMMUNITY RESPONSES

Continue developing place-based support, including the Far South Coast Vinnies Outreach Van, Young Drop-In Centre and practical service responses shaped by local need.

PROGRESS AGAINST STRATEGY

The Society advanced its Strategic Plan 2025-2026 objectives and delivered measurable outcomes.

GOOD WORKS

Responded to growing need through emergency relief, homelessness, outreach and regional services; opened the Merimbula Community Hub and progressed the Young Drop-In Centre.

Strengthen local access and service pathways, respond to increasingly complex needs and embed outcomes measurement more broadly.

OUR PEOPLE

Recognised the contribution of members, volunteers and employees through National Volunteer Week, annual recognition activities and sector award nominations, while strengthening safeguarding training, engagement feedback and workforce systems.

Grow membership and leadership, strengthen support for conferences, build management capability and embed safeguarding in everyday practice.

ADVOCACY

Developed the Social Justice Advocacy Strategy 2026–2028 and Regional Social Justice Statement 2026–2028, linking frontline evidence, lived experience and regional voices with policy influence.

Implement both frameworks and deepen community-led, evidence-based advocacy.

SUSTAINABILITY

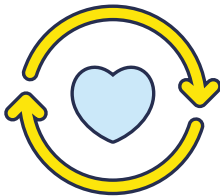
Developed a five-year Retail Strategy, improved retail capability and logistics, and maintained an 85% resource recovery rate at Goodies Junction.

Implement the Retail Strategy and strengthen revenue, reuse and long-term financial sustainability.

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Strengthened governance, safeguarding, risk and quality oversight, supported by clearer reporting, policies and review processes.

Continue strengthening accountability, safeguarding practice and organisational resilience.



GROW SUSTAINABLE INCOME & COMMERCIAL CAPABILITY

Progress the refreshed Retail Property Strategy, explore new retail and reuse opportunities, commercialise corporate volunteering, and strengthen fundraising, marketing, donor care and partnerships.



INVEST IN PEOPLE, SAFEGUARDING & SYSTEMS

Build leadership and management capability, strengthen safeguarding training, improve employee recognition and support practical systems such as workforce, governance and AI capability.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

To every person, family, school, parish, club, business, community group, partner, sponsor, donor and volunteer who supported St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn in 2025–2026: thank you. Your generosity helped provide food, shelter, clothing, material aid, advocacy, connection and hope to people across our region.

Your support is more than a donation or act of service. It is a powerful expression of community care. Together, we are helping people through difficult moments and working towards a future where everyone has the chance to live with dignity, safety and hope.

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LOCAL SUPPORTERS



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VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT EVENT SPONSORS



TO FIND SUPPORT OR GET INVOLVED

If you need support, want to help, or would like to learn more about us, we are here to connect you with the right pathway. For emergency relief, including help with food, bills and essential items, please contact the Vinnies Emergency Relief Helpline on 13 18 12.

To support our work, you can donate, volunteer, shop at Vinnies, leave a gift in your Will, partner with us, or support a local appeal or fundraising campaign. Your contribution helps provide practical assistance, dignity and hope to people experiencing hardship across our regions.

For more information about services, volunteering, donations, partnerships and ways to get involved, visit the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn website vinnies.org.au/act-surrounds

Be a part of our online community



vinnies.org.au/act-surrounds



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good works