



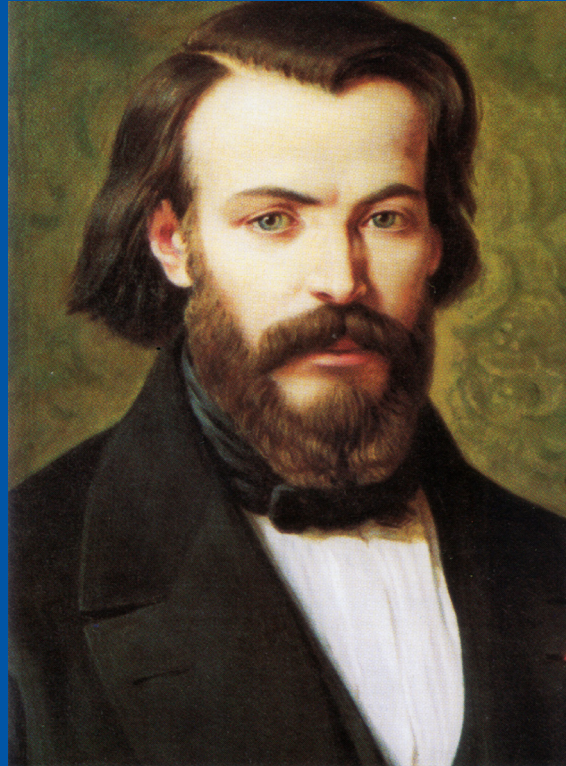
## Addressing Homelessness and Affordable Housing

- Develop a 10-year National Housing Strategy
- Establish a \$10 billion Social and Affordable Housing Fund
- Increase Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 50 percent
- Reinstate or replace the National Rental Affordability Scheme
- Fund the National Low Income Energy Productivity Program
- Develop national minimum standards for renters and landlords



## Income Support – An Adequate Safety Net

- Monitor poverty and inequity
- Establish an independent advisory body on income support payments
- Increase the base rate of working age payments
- Index income support payments biannually in line with wage growth and CPI
- Increase the earnings threshold of income support recipients



Frederic Ozanam (1813-53)  
founder of St Vincent de Paul Society

# A FAIRER AUSTRALIA 2022 ELECTION STATEMENT



*St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia; recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and community; and pays its respect to elders past and present and emerging.*

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia Inc.  
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[vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au)



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA Inc. *good works*

March 2022



## WHO WE ARE

St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic charity with over 60,000 members and volunteers and over 3,000 employees. It operates on the ground in every Australian state and territory, in both urban and regional areas. Founded in poverty and plague-stricken Paris in the 19th century, we have been in Australia for almost 170 years. Our people live and work in local communities and are closely involved with those in need.

The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council is registered and regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Our advocacy work is politically non-partisan. Our activities comply with ACNC's advocacy requirements. We have a duty to live our values by advocating on behalf of those without a voice.

**We strive for a fairer Australia for all.**

## WHAT WE DO

We work directly with Australian families and individuals in need, giving them a hand up to help them reach their life potential. We do this through Vinnies conferences, run by our dedicated members, who meet with people to discuss their needs. They provide emergency assistance as well as general and specialist support services and referrals.

***We aspire 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.***

The Society works with governments and like-minded organisations to advocate for public policy change that will make a difference to the wellbeing of people in need.

## WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Australia is a wealthy country but has a shortage of affordable housing, growing inequity, increasingly insecure work and stagnant wages. Households that rely on income support are struggling to survive. One-in-six children are living in poverty, and great disadvantage persists in a number of mainly regional and remote communities.

The next generation of Australians will inherit an unprecedented budget deficit. Now, more than ever, government policy and fiscal management need to be robust, evidence-based and directed to areas of greatest need.

***Deal with the most urgent needs... Teach reading and writing, educate with the aim of giving each the means of self-support. Intervene with authorities to reform structures... there is no charity without justice.***

– St Vincent de Paul



## People seeking asylum

- Accept an annual minimum of 20,000 refugees, excluding the Community Support Program
- Recognise the ongoing need to offer additional places above the annual humanitarian intake in response to crises as they arise
- End the fast-track assessment process and reassess those rejected by this process
- Provide permanent protection including for those on temporary visas
- End offshore processing, settling those in PNG and Nauru in Australia or other safe countries
- Fund an adequate safety net
- Support family reunion
- Make detention a last resort. Let asylum seekers live in the community while their immigration status is resolved



## First Nations Peoples

- Prioritise Constitutional Recognition
- Raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to at least 14 years of age
- Increase the funding of Aboriginal controlled organisations to meet targets in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap



## Secure Work

- Redefine casual work and create pathways to permanency
- Develop a national system of labour hire licencing
- Review mutual obligation requirements and employment programs
- Invest in well targeted wage subsidies and vocational training programs