MINI VINNIES VINSIDER

TERM 3 2026

As we approach the end of Term Two and look forward to the second half of the year, I want to share my thanks for your involvement.

I have had the privilege to visit many of the schools who support us and see first-hand the impact you have on your students and communities. Your ongoing engagement with Vinnies WA not only helps the people who have come to us for support, but plants seeds of empathy and social justice that will make a difference for years to come. Thank you for helping us live out our mission of working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

We are very excited to offer additional resources and activities to continue your work in Term Three!

This term we are focussing on the topic of homelessness in Western Australia. As we enter into WA's coldest months, we see the risks around being unhoused, and the need for support, increase. The included Homelessness Fact Sheet and linked activities offer a chance for Primary School students to better understand fact vs fiction around homelessness and build empathy around the issue.

Term Three is also a great opportunity to think about organising a School Sleepout. This program has students stepping out of their everyday school routine and getting a glimpse into the life of someone experiencing homelessness. This flexible program can be run as an evening event or a full overnight. Resources, activities, and support are all available through the Youth Engagement Team, and more details can be found below!

Finally, we have a call out to our creative staff and students this winter- a Knitted Scarf Drive! I am personally commiting to creating at least two scarves to donate, and would love for any crafty members of our school community to join me. More information can be found below.

Wishing you all the best for a fantastic break and a great start to Term Three.

Hannah Taylor
Youth Engagement Coordinator

Calling All Novice Knitters!

Can you crochet or knit? Do you have a crafty student body who would like to use their skills to support those in need? Join us in creating warm scarves to top up our Emergency Relief supplies this winter.

Colour, style, and pattern are all up to you. The only thing we ask is that your scarves are no smaller than 150cm long and 25cm wide - for an adult.

Hannah Taylor, Youth Engagement Coordinator, will be dusting off her crochet hook and is committing to making at least two scarves. Wish her luck!

If your staff or students plan to get involved please let us know so we can cheer you on!

Term Three Activities

Help your primary school students understand the issue of homelessness through engaging, hands-on activities.

This term, learn about homelessness in WA, build empathy for your unhoused neighbours, and learn how your support makes a difference.

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

- Homelessness Fact Sheet
- Needs vs Wants activity
- What We Need to Grow activity

School Sleepout 2026

Throughout Term Three, schools across WA will be running their School Sleepout. This unique program offers students the opportunity to learn about homelessness and rough sleeping through an immersive, hands-on event.

The event is run at your school either as an overnight or evening program.

If your school plans or wants to run a School Sleepout, please register your application online.
www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/fundraise-for-vinnies-wa

By registering online, you will find all our School Sleepout resources, and be able to set up an online fundraising page.

Speakers are available based on scheduling, so if you have a date in mind please reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au** as soon as possible.

Vinnies Winter Appeal 2026

This winter we are focusing on the topic “Homelessness can be just one sudden crisis away”, with a spotlight on David, who recieved support after suddenly becoming facing homelessness.

Information about homelessness, activities, case studies, and ways to support can be found in our 2026 School Winter Appeal kit.
www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/youth-and-schools-wa

Our most vulnerable community members are at increased risk as the weather cools. This winter, Vinnies WA is asking for food donations to refresh your local Conference’s pantry, blankets to keep our community warm, and funds to support families.

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

Mandurah Catholic College

My name is Ela Hope, and I have had the privilege of coordinating the Mini Vinnies program at Mandurah Catholic College for the past 10 years, building on a long-standing tradition of support for the St Vincent de Paul Society within our school community.

Each year, our enthusiastic team of Year 5 Mini Vinnies volunteers work to raise awareness of the values of compassion, service, and social justice, both within our group and across the wider school community. Through their dedication and commitment, students learn the importance of helping those in need and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Two of our major annual initiatives are Pyjama Day, which raises funds for the Vinnies Winter Appeal, and our Christmas Hamper Appeal, where we collect non-perishable food items for donation to our local Vinnies chapter. These events have been a cherished part of our school community for the past decade and continue to receive tremendous support from students, staff, and families. We are incredibly proud of the impact these initiatives have had over the years.

More recently, I have been fortunate to be joined by Susan Ramage, who has supported the Mini Vinnies program over the past two years. Together, we continue to foster a spirit of service and encourage our students to live out the values of empathy, kindness, and generosity.

Thank you for your amazing work and support, Mandurah Catholic College!

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 Gosnells Conference

The Gosnells Conference is made up of 18 members, with 8 actively involved in administration,accounting, and home visitations, supporting the community in practical and compassionate ways. They provide Emergency Relief support, like food, fuel and Vinnies' shop vouchers, help with electricity bills and furniture, and offer companionship to those doing it tough.

They are especially proud of their home visitation work, which takes time, empathy and a genuine commitment to supporting others.

The Gosnells Conference partners closely with St Munchin's School through initiatives like the Winter and Christmas Appeals, building a strong and ongoing connection with the school community and their Mini Vinnies in particular.

They are always open to welcoming new members and really value the opportunity to inspire empathy and encourage others to give back.

Schools like yours support Conferences to do their work through your financial donations, food drives, and item collections.
If you would like to learn more about your local Conference, reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au.**

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

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Acknowledgement of Country

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