# Young 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!
- Young Vinnies Connection Day 2027- Expressions of Interest Requested
- Christmas Appeal 2026
- Winter Appeal and School Sleepouts 2026!
- School Holiday Student Volunteering
- Take the Plunge for Vinnies WA!
- School Spotlight- Mercy College
- Conference Connection- Mandurah Conference
- Start a Young Vinnis Group in 2027

## End of Year Survey - Your Feedback Needed!

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To better understand the impact of our work, and how we can improve, we are asking all schools to fill out a 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 for your support.**

# Expressions of Interest Requested: Young Vinnies Connection Day 2027

Will you have an active Young Vinnies group in 2027? Expressions of interest to participate in our Young Vinnies Connection Day are now open!

On March 10th and 11th, 2027 we will welcome student leaders to join us at an in-person networking day where they will meet other Young Vinnies, connect directly with Vinnies staff and Members, get hands-on volunteering experiences, and plan for an impactful school year.

To register your school's interest, please fill out this form (**https://vinnies.link/ConnectionDay**).

# 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.

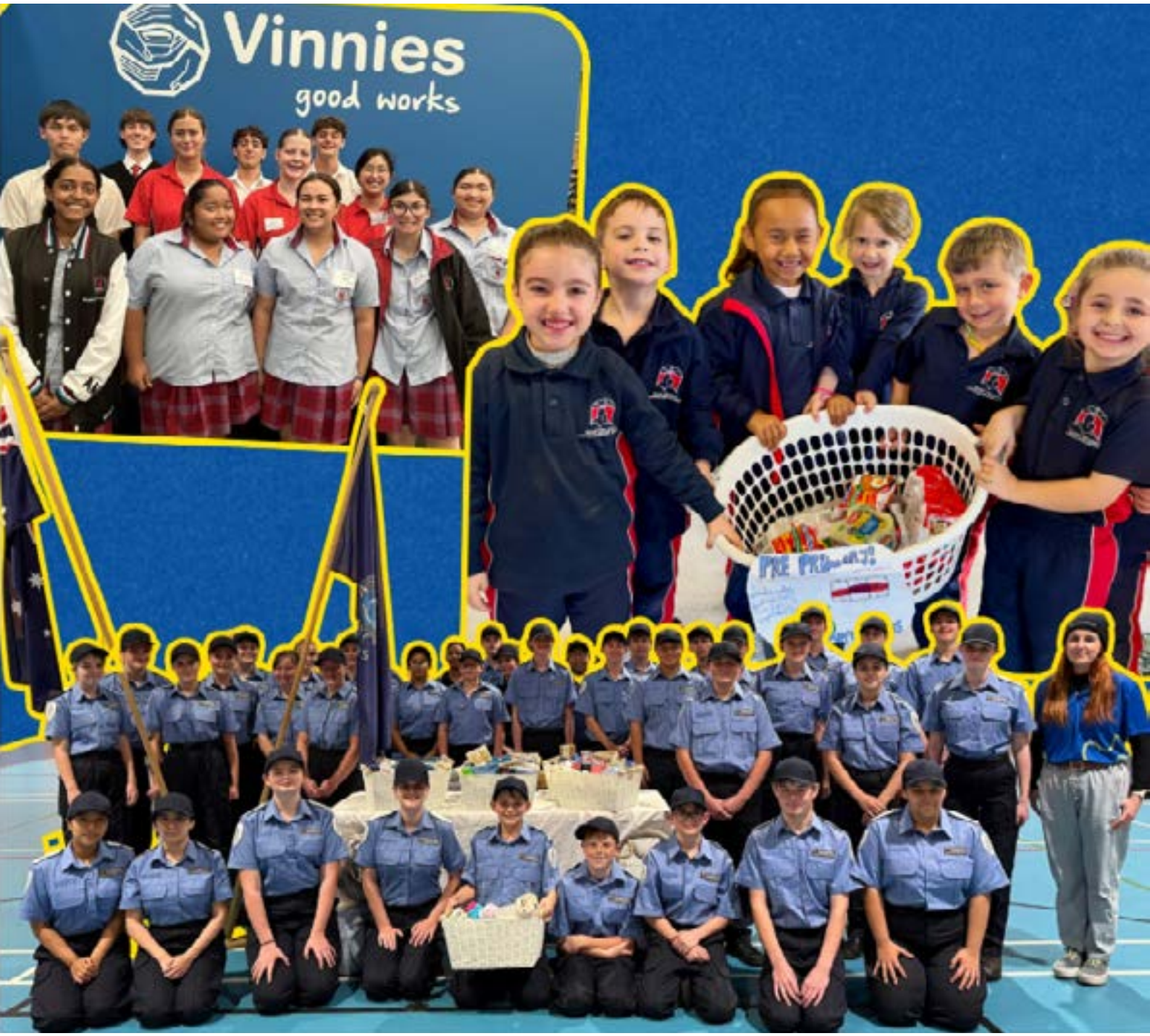
If you would like more information about the Christmas Appeal or to learn about the specific needs of your Conference, please reach out to **youth@svdpwa.org.au**.

# 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 Holiday Student Volunteering

Are your students thinking about exploring Vinnies WA volunteer opportunities? We'd love to have them! We're all about making a difference, and anyone 15 and up can join in – there are a range of volunteering options across WA.

Students can volunteer their time and skills at their local Vinnies shop individually or as a group during the year or over the school holidays. And volunteering isn't just a good time; it's also a chance for students to build up their Service Learning Hours. Students can visit **www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/volunteering-wa** to register their interest.

Speakers are available for a "lunch and learn" to share more information about this opportunity with interested students.

To access a poster to promote this volunteering opportunity, click **https://vinnies.link/Poster** to download.

Would you like to request a Volunteering poster, or want to inquire about a volunteering speaker? Reach out to **volunteer@svdpwa.org.au**, and we will work with you to get the process started.

# 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 Mercy College

Mercy College has enjoyed a longstanding partnership with Vinnies WA through our commitment to living out the Mercy values and Catholic Social Teaching. Over 20 years, our students and staff have supported Vinnies through fundraising, awareness campaigns, and donation drives that respond to the needs of people experiencing hardship in our community.

Mercy College engages with Vinnies WA through both advocacy and practical support initiatives. This year, our students and staff participated in:

- Vinnies Night: where we gathered as a community to hear from Hannah Taylor about the realities of homelessness in Western Australia. Sharing soup and bread together created a meaningful opportunity for reflection and conversation.
- The Winter Appeal: collecting shelf-stable food and essential pantry items for our local vinnies, seeing their pantry full was particularly rewarding!
- Ongoing social justice education that helps students understand the causes and impacts of poverty and homelessness.
- The upcoming Christmas Appeal, where we will once again support Vinnies in bringing hope and practical assistance to those in need during the festive season.

I am most proud of the way our students have engaged with the human stories behind the issues of poverty and homelessness. The Vinnies Awareness Night was particularly powerful, as students listened respectfully to the guest speaker and reflected on the challenges faced by vulnerable members of our community. It was encouraging to see students move beyond simply donating items and develop a deeper sense of empathy, understanding, and responsibility towards others.

Some of the reflections shared by students after the Vinnies Night included:

“Sharing soup and bread together helped me think about what many people don’t have every day.”

“The night challenged me to think differently about people experiencing homelessness and how I can help.”

“It made me appreciate what I have and inspired me to do more for others.”

We look forward to continuing and strengthening our partnership with Vinnies WA. We hope to create even more opportunities for students to engage directly with social justice issues, learn from people with lived experience, and take meaningful action. We are excited to continue forming young people who are compassionate, informed, and committed to making a positive difference in their communities.

**Thank you for your amazing work and support, College!**

# 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**.

# Start a Young Vinnies Group

The Young 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. You can review our Young Vinnies Starter Kit **www.vinnies.org.au/media/2lubnpg0/young-vinnies-starter-kit.pdf**

If your school is ready to sign up to participate in Young 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.

## Young 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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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.