

## Disaster Relief

1. During times of natural or humanitarian disasters overseas, Superior Councils or the Council General International's Commission for International Aid and Development may ask the National Council of Australia for assistance.
2. If a request is received, our National Council will determine if this is appropriate, and work with State and Territory Councils to assist where they can.

## Suggestions for raising awareness at Conference level



1. Make Twinning a permanent agenda item.
2. Ensure all Twinning correspondence is read out.
3. Have Conference members sign cards or letters to twins.
4. Keep in touch with other Twinning Officers.
5. Distribute any promotional material or correspondence relating to Twinning from State/Territory or National Office.
6. Invite a guest speaker to your meeting from the State/Territory Overseas Partnerships Committee or National Overseas Partnerships Advisory Committee.
7. Play a video from one of our overseas twins on the work they are doing.

## Suggestions for Promotion



1. Put up posters advertising the work that the Society does in Overseas Partnerships.
2. During appeal times or just within regular time, ask to speak at Mass or the local school re: the work that the Society does in Overseas Partnerships.
3. Include Twinning on the Conference meeting agenda.

## Remember your twins



- It is as simple as remembering to pray for our twins when we say the closing prayers.
- Read out letters received at Conference meetings and discuss the contents of the letter.
- Dedicate some time in the meeting to respond to the letter as a group rather than just the Twinning Officer.
- Send pictures of your conference and where you meet, after permission has been obtained.
- Have a guest speaker.
- Invite a representative from the Overseas Partnership Committee to inform and update your members.



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

## Overseas Partnerships Program Twinning

- Learn about Twinning and Disaster Relief.
- Roles and Responsibilities within Twinning, Projects and Assist A Student.
- Suggestions for raising awareness at Conference level.
- Suggestions for promotion.
- Ways to remember your twins.
- Who supports Twinning.
- Who to contact for more information.



## About Twinning

Twinning is the pairing of a Vincentian Conference or Council in one country with a reciprocal Conference or Council in another country with the support of their respective National Council. Twinning allows Society Members in Conferences and Councils to support one another spiritually, financially and through mutual encouragement.

Twinning seeks to build the 'network of charity' envisaged by Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Australian Conferences or Councils are twinned with Conferences or Councils in developing nations that are geographically nearby as designated by the Council General International (CGI).

Our twins have limited resources to meet the high level of need that exists in their local community. Whilst the financial support we offer provides vital support for our twins to serve the poor, the spiritual support and relationship we offer is of equal importance. As a twin, our friendship provides a unique understanding and insight into the culture, struggles and lives of our fellow brothers and sisters as captured in The Rule.

Our twins commit to:

1. Pray for the members of their twinned Conference or Council and its works.
2. Keep in contact through correspondence.
3. Provide material support through quarterly twinning payments and optional Easter and Christmas Grants.

Conferences or Councils may also receive project applications from their twin, requesting funding for projects to enable self-sufficiency for the community of the twin.

## Contact

Details of your Twinning Representative can be obtained from your State/Territory Overseas Partnership Committee.

Or contact the National Council's Overseas Partnerships Program Administrator on [overseassupport@svdp.org.au](mailto:overseassupport@svdp.org.au)

## Roles and Responsibilities within Twinning

The three aspects of the Overseas Partnerships Program in Australia are Twinning, Projects and Assist A Student.

Conferences or Councils may choose to have one person responsible for the Overseas Partnerships Program or to divide the role.

### Twinning

1. Become familiar with the contents of the CGI Twinning Manual and the National Council's Twinning Policies and Guidelines.
2. Become fully aware of the three components of the twinning commitment.
  - a. Spiritual – Members of twinned Conferences or Councils are encouraged to join together to share their faith and pray for one another's concerns, intentions and families.
  - b. Communication – Members are encouraged to learn about one another, living conditions, issues facing conferences and the work of the Society.
  - c. Financial – Conferences or Councils make regular contributions towards the work of their twin. Each year at Christmas and Easter conferences may send a special grant to their twin.
3. Encourage Conferences and Councils to have prayers and Masses offered for the intentions of twins especially on the feast day of Saint Vincent de Paul on the 27th of September each year.
4. Correspond with their twin at least 3 times per year.
5. Read out any correspondence sent from overseas twins at a Conference or Council meeting.
6. Give prompt attention to project requests received from overseas.
7. Notify State/Territory and National office staff of any changes to names and addresses of relevant twinning personnel, both local and overseas.

### Projects

1. Become familiar with the contents of National Council's Project Policies and Guidelines.
2. Support and dispatch quickly to conferences projects received from overseas twins and ensure prompt dispatch of project donations to the State/Territory Office.
3. Make a record of the project number and any other details for your information.
4. Maintain contact with the project implementer and encourage regular reporting.
5. If possible, seek relevant Council approval for advance payment of projects. In this way, the donation can be sent to National Council earlier.

### Assist A Student

1. Familiarise yourself with the AAS program and National Council's Policies and Guidelines.
2. Encourage conferences to be a donor.
3. Promote the AAS program through local schools, shops and places of worship.
4. Involve the young Vincentian Members to support the AAS program.
5. Seek Members to speak at your local conference, parish or school.
6. Promote any AAS related State/Territory or National appeal.

### Resources

There are a number of resources available to assist you and your conference in its good works as part of the Overseas Partnerships Program. Your Twinning Representative can provide the latest versions.

## Support for Twinning

The Twinning work of your Conference or Council is supported through:

- Your State/Territory Council and its Overseas Partnerships Committee and/or Administration and Finance Support team.
- Your National Council and its Overseas Partnerships Advisory Committee and Overseas Partnerships Program team.