

CONGRESS FRAMEWORK



VISION	JOURNEYING TOGETHER			REVITALISING MISSION		
	We are highly supportive of new forms of more flexible Conferences, which can exist alongside more traditional forms that suit existing Members.	We need to shift from hierarchical communication to models that allow Conferences and Members to connect directly, across borders, for mutual interests, knowledge sharing and support.	Every Member is involved in making the change, through reflection, action and interactions with the people around them.	As a Catholic organisation, we are open to anyone that shares our social justice mission, and seek to make them welcome.	The Society seeks to help all belong first, with pathways to believing and becoming Catholic for those open to it.	A top priority for the Society in Australia is a national recruitment campaign targeting diverse audiences.
	Owned and driven by the St Vincent de Paul Society Members in Australia, and their respective Conferences and Higher Councils					

GROWTH AND REVITALISATION		DIVERSE, FLEXIBLE CONFERENCES FOR IMPACT		READY FOR CHANGE				
Purpose - To address the decline in membership and to build the pool of emerging leaders by attracting and retaining a more diverse group of people who share our values.		Purpose - To ensure that new Members can find Conferences suited to their needs, motivations and availability, from traditional Conference models to emerging ones, to support a more diverse membership base.		Purpose - To create the necessary conditions to drive change. In creating this, Congress reflected on where change had been hard, and what we need to do differently this time.				
THE NEW MEMBER JOURNEY	1.1 A diverse base for recruitment	Research and insight to better understand and attract increasingly diverse Members (and what they need).	CONFERENCES FOR THE FUTURE	2.1 Vision for future conference experiences	Develop examples of different forms of Conferences that we could support, alongside the more familiar, traditional models, to serve as our vision.	DRIVING CHANGE WELL	3.1 Clarity on the pressures to adapt	Our common view of what's happening in the world around us, and where that is creating pressure to change. This is our shared 'burning platform'.
	1.2 Our compelling, shared story	A shared story that reflects our identity and values, to attract new Members.		2.2 Simplified Conference 'Starter Pack'	Establishing Conferences can be hard work, so how do we streamline that with a 'minimum viable Conference' model and tools and templates to get started.		3.2 The human interactions that support change	The deeply human part of change – and the shifts that each and every one of us may need to make, through reflection and action, to change the way we interact with others in our Society.
	1.3 The new Vincentian experience	When we successfully attract a new Member, how do we ensure they quickly have a good experience that encourages them to stay with us?		2.3 Support systems for new Conferences	Where do new Conferences 'belong' in our Society, particularly if they are novel or experimental? Where do they go for support, if they don't fit the usual mould?		3.3 Promoting and sustaining experimentation	The structures and tools that can support experimentation within the Society, as new forms of Conferences are tried or expanded, including comfort with failure along the way.
	1.4 Identifying and encouraging new leaders	Encouraging newer Members to take initiative and take on leadership roles – and when they do, ensuring their voice feels welcome.		2.4 Sharing info and resources between Conferences	How can Conferences support one another with peer-to-peer support, particularly if they are trying to do similar things? Sharing of resources, knowledge and inspiration.		3.4 Accountability and following through	The means to ensure we maintain momentum and take action across the Society to give life the vision and recommendations we have created.
	1.5 Leadership skills and training	Giving new leaders training, mentorship and development in the skills they need to succeed.		2.5 Whole-of-Society Communication	How do we ensure that key messages can be created, shared and heard across all our Members quickly, to promote belonging and One Society?			
	1.6 Belong, believe, become	Our commitment ensures all Members must first feel they belong regardless of their individual beliefs; then, we help Members share in the mission of the Society (believe), and lastly, we support those Members who want to explore their involvement in our Catholic traditions (become).		IMPROVING COMMUNICATION				

Champions of projects working with Congress delegates and Society members

States and Territories will provide support and resourcing as part of their ongoing commitment to supporting Membership Revitalisation. Some States and Territories will also have a particular focus to assist Champion groups. State and Territory support is also available on a project-by-project basis.

National Council and its Secretariate will continue to support Membership Revitalisation across the Country. Specifically, the National Mission and Spirituality Network and National Membership Network will continue to provide leadership and guidance, and resources to support implementation. A Champions Network will be established, and digital platforms will be delivered to support the implementation of this body of work. National Council Membership, Mission & Spirituality Standing Committee will act as the link between Congress 2023 + projects and National Council.