Impact REPORT



SPRING 2026

St Vincent de Paul Society SA

good works

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

This report was compiled on the unceded lands of the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains.

FRED'S VAN MEAL SERVICE

37,842

Meals Served by 558 Volunteers

to men, women & children across 10 locations

VINNIES CRISIS CENTRES

600+

Provided with a Safe Place to Sleep

236 men • 210 women • 170 children • 46 pets

CONFERENCES

22,473

Assistance Requests Completed

for 15,135 men • 19,196 women • 22,156 children

VINNIES SHOPS

2,009,649

Items Diverted From Landfill

supported by over 1,000 volunteers



WELCOME

Our latest Impact Report comes towards the end of another year in which I have continued to be inspired by the extraordinary things we achieve together to help South Australians doing it tough.

Every day, across our state, Vinnies members, volunteers, staff, and supporters are helping people navigate life's most difficult circumstances with compassion, dignity, and hope.

The challenges facing many South Australians remain significant and show little sign of easing. Cost-of-living pressures, housing insecurity, family violence, social isolation, and uncertainty continue to affect thousands of individuals and families. Behind every statistic in this report is a person, a family or a community seeking support, stability, and a pathway forward.

This year, thanks to your generosity, our Society members responded to more than 22,000 requests for assistance, supporting over 15,000 men, 19,000 women and more than 22,000 children. We provided crisis accommodation to women, children and men experiencing homelessness, delivered more than 550 volunteer-led Fred's Van meal services, and supported hundreds of people through our Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service. Through our Vinnies Shops, we also gave new life to more than 2,000 tonnes of donated goods while creating meaningful opportunities for volunteers and communities to connect.

Throughout this report, you will meet some of the people whose lives have been touched by your support. Wendy and Andrew's stories remind us of how quickly circumstances can change, and how vulnerable any of us can become.

Vinnies Society member Kylan shares one journey of impact he experienced while walking alongside someone facing a particularly difficult chapter in life.

We also see hope and progress as we catch up with David, who captured so many hearts and inspired an incredible outpouring of support during our Winter Appeal. And we meet Zafar, whose remarkable journey from Afghanistan to safety in Australia, alongside his family, was made possible with support from our Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service.

These stories demonstrate that Vinnies is far more than simply a provider of material assistance. We are a community of people committed to supporting one another and working to ensure no human being must face hardship alone.

Yes, we meet the individual material needs of many thousands of people, but we also provide something equally important: connection, dignity, and hope for the future. None of this would be possible without you, our compassionate supporters.

On behalf of everyone at Vinnies South Australia, thank you for your generosity, compassion, and continued belief in our mission.

Your support is helping create stronger communities and brighter futures for thousands of South Australians.

Clinton Jury
Chief Executive Officer

Impact STORY

Bringing Hope to an Ordinary Life Turned Upside Down



Andrew's life was, by his own admission, ordinary.

He was married, owned his home, ran his own business and was raising a son, paid the mortgage and carried the everyday responsibilities that come with supporting a family. His life was stable, predictable and secure.

That changed in an instant.

One afternoon, his wife told him she was having an affair. Not long afterwards, he was asked to leave the family home. Within days, Andrew went from living in a happy family home to sleeping in his car.

After two difficult weeks, his sister found out what had happened and offered him a place to stay. Her couch provided shelter and safety while he worked out what to do next.

Instead, another devastating setback followed.

After returning from a weekend away, Andrew and his sister discovered that her home had been badly damaged in a house fire and was no longer safe to live in.

"That was when I became truly homeless," he says.

What shocked Andrew most was how ordinary his circumstances were. There had been no financial collapse or dramatic personal crisis. He was a capable business owner who had always managed his responsibilities.

"I felt like I had awoken in an alternate universe," he says. "I had no idea where to turn to, or where to go for help."

For the first time in his life, Andrew felt powerless. He had always solved his own problems, but homelessness presented challenges he could not overcome alone.

Without a fixed address, everyday tasks became far more difficult. Important paperwork stalled, services were harder to access and the routines that had once structured his life disappeared.

"I had lost who I was," he says.

A turning point came when a friend told him about the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre (VMCC).

"He told me about the centre, so I got the number and rang every day until there was a spot for me."

When a bed became available, Andrew moved in and began rebuilding his life.

> **"Being at VMCC has given me more than words can convey, *he says.***
>
> **A warm bed, somewhere safe to be. Help with finding my own place and paperwork. And most importantly, dignity."**

Andrew found stability, practical support and hope. Staff helped him navigate applications and appointments, including visits to doctors and a dentist.

Today, Andrew is passionate about the difference VMCC has made.

"VMCC is a lifeline," he says. "Without their help, I would be living in my car or on the streets, with no hope."

Above all, what Andrew talks about most is how he was treated.

"They have treated me with respect and dignity. They have always made themselves available to talk and give advice, or just a casual chat. I will never forget this."

A marriage breakdown. Two weeks in a car. A house fire.

Three events that could happen to almost anyone, and three events that changed the course of Andrew's life.

With the support of VMCC, he now has a way forward.

Impact STORY

How Wendy Gained Hope for Tomorrow, Because of Vinnies



There was no single event that led to Wendy experiencing homelessness. No moment she could point to and say where things went wrong.

She had a family, a home and a good job, life was on track and retirement was within sight.

"I was very naive and ignorant, not only about how homelessness could happen to anyone, but also how hard it is to get out of once you're there," Wendy says.

Like many people who find themselves in crisis, Wendy's circumstances unfolded gradually. Following a family breakdown, she became isolated from the support network around her. Then a serious health diagnosis led to months in hospital, leaving her unable to work and forcing her to relocate for ongoing treatment.

Away from her usual supports and struggling with the costs associated with her illness, Wendy soon exhausted her savings. Within a short time, she found herself facing a situation she could never have imagined just a few years earlier.

"All it takes is one or two things to go wrong. That can happen to anyone."

As if things were not difficult enough, Wendy's car was stolen during this period. Along with losing her main form of transport, many of her personal belongings were gone too.

Without the security of a stable place to live, Wendy spent many nights finding shelter wherever she could. Some nights she slept in public spaces, under makeshift cover or wherever she felt safest. Often, she would sleep during the day in a locked public toilet so she could stay awake at night to protect herself.

The emotional and physical toll was immense. Trying to navigate complex support systems while dealing with illness and homelessness made an already difficult situation even harder. Everything began to change after Wendy followed the advice of a friend who suggested she contact Vinnies.

"You make a phone call to Vinnies and somebody answers. You get the support when you need it. That's what makes the difference."

For Wendy, the support she received was about more than practical assistance. It was about having people who took the time to understand her situation and walk alongside her through one of the most difficult periods of her life.

Vinnies members provided food, supermarket vouchers, clothing and assistance with securing accommodation. This support helped Wendy meet her basic needs while still being able to afford important medication and travel to medical appointments. They also helped provide a fridge, enabling her to store food and make every dollar go further.

"It doesn't matter what happens to me, how much things go wrong, or life just happens, I'm no longer afraid because I have the support of a team of people from Vinnies behind me.

> **"I have hope for tomorrow because of Vinnies."**

Wendy continues to receive support as she works towards rebuilding her life. She remains hopeful that her health will improve enough for her to return to work and spend more time with her children. Any one of the challenges Wendy faced would have been difficult to overcome alone. Together, they became overwhelming. Her story is a reminder that anyone can experience hardship, and that a helping hand at the right time can make all the difference.

"I can honestly, hand on heart, say that anybody who gives to Vinnies can be confident their donation is used wisely. It makes a real, tangible difference to people's lives."

If you haven't yet made a gift to support people facing hardship, please donate today. Your generosity can help provide hope, practical assistance and a pathway forward for people like Wendy when they need it most.

22,473
Assistance Requests Completed

Providing support to: 15,135 men • 19,196 women • 22,156 children

Impact STORY

A Helping Hand When Life Changed in an Instant



Western Region President Kylan Beech is one of the hands behind the help at Vinnies SA.

Despite an incredibly busy schedule in corporate car sales at Maughan Thiem, running his telecommunications business, leading his local cricket club as president and umpiring SANFL matches, Kylan still finds time to support South Australians doing it tough.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the support he can offer goes far beyond kindness, and includes a range of practical and financial assistance for people in crisis.

Recently, Kylan met a man in his early 30s whose circumstances had changed dramatically. Just weeks earlier, he had been securely employed in a supervisory role and was building a stable future. Then a serious workplace knee injury left him unable to work.

Without an income and facing significant medical expenses, he was forced to leave his home and move into smaller accommodation. To make matters worse, his car broke down, further limiting his ability to attend appointments and access support.

“This gentleman was very capable and one of the many people you might not expect to find themselves in crisis,” said Kylan.

“Through no fault of his own, everything changed in a matter of weeks. It was a reminder that hardship can happen to anyone.”

After hearing about Vinnies through neighbours, he reached out for help.

With the support of donors, the local Conference provided food hampers and assistance with essential bills, relieving immediate financial pressure and giving him the breathing room to focus on his recovery.

As his situation improved, Society members continued to support him, helping him explore employment options suited to his circumstances. While his injury meant he could no longer return to physically demanding work, he eventually secured new employment and began rebuilding his life.

For Kylan, what happened next was the best outcome he could hope for.

“Once he was back on his feet, we no longer heard from him,” Kylan said.

> “At Vinnies our greatest wish is to get people back on their feet, so they can move on with their lives, independently.”

“In this case, not hearing back is a sign that we have been successful, so I’m very happy about it.”

Stories like this demonstrate the lasting impact of donor support. A food hamper, help with a bill, or simply someone to listen can provide the stability people need during a difficult moment and create a pathway to a brighter future.

BACK ON TRACK WITH YOUR SUPPORT

In our Vinnies SA Winter Appeal, we introduced David*, who was facing one of the toughest periods in his life. Thanks to your generosity, David has been able to move beyond crisis and begin building a brighter future.

David was sleeping rough after a series of setbacks saw him lose stable housing and fall into hardship. What began as temporary instability quickly spiralled, leaving him without a place to call home and struggling to meet even his most basic needs.

When David first connected with Vinnies, he was exhausted, hungry and carrying very little after losing many of his belongings. Through the support of Vinnies members, volunteers and staff, he received immediate assistance with food, clothing and other essentials. Just as importantly, he was met with compassion, understanding and a pathway forward.

A chance conversation with a caring Vinnies team member led to David being connected with additional support services. Within days, he had safe accommodation and help navigating the practical steps needed to rebuild his life. Shortly afterwards, he was able to move into secure housing, providing the stability he needed to focus on the future.

Today, David is living in a small flat of his own and has returned to work. With a steady income, a safe place to live and renewed confidence, he is rebuilding the life that once seemed out of reach.

David's journey is a reminder that homelessness can happen to anyone, often far more quickly than people realise. It is also a powerful example of what is possible when someone receives support at the moment they need it most.

Because of people like you, David is no longer focused solely on surviving each day. Instead, he is looking ahead with hope, security and a renewed sense of purpose.



Thank you for supporting the Vinnies SA WINTER Appeal

Your generosity helps provide more than practical assistance. It provides stability, dignity and the opportunity for people experiencing hardship to get back on their feet and move forward with confidence.

Name and identifying details have been changed to protect privacy.

THE MANY WAYS VINNIES SA HELPS

How VRASS helped Zafar find happiness again





Behind Zafar Ali's ever-present smile lies a truly inspirational story of hope and survival.

A member of the Hazara community born in the Waras district of Oruzgan Province (now Daikundi Province) in Afghanistan, Zafar worked hard and helped others his whole life.

As a child he helped his father with farming, later travelling across Afghanistan where he worked in a variety of occupations, including bricklaying, farming and construction.

He was so industrious that he eventually managed to establish and run his own shop.

Zafar never had the opportunity to go to school because he was too busy helping to support his family. He married his wife, Zarfashan, while living in Iran, before his family settled in a new suburb of Herat, Afghanistan - becoming one of the first families to build a house there.

As a result of his early arrival in the area and his caring nature, Zafar took on a leading role in helping new families settle in his suburb, while raising a daughter and four sons.

Things went badly wrong for Zafar when the Taliban later established a training camp a few kilometres away and became interested in both the suburb and Zafar.

Because he owned a small shop and was active in supporting new residents, he was viewed as wealthy and influential, making him a potential challenge to Taliban authority.

Years earlier, Zafar had already survived a horrific encounter with the Taliban, while travelling to Kandahar with 20 other Hazara men. In an unimaginable atrocity, the other men were murdered, and Zafar survived only because he was shielded by their falling bodies.

In Herat, the Taliban came after Zafar again, this time with the local Taliban leader pursuing a personal vendetta against him that included him cutting his feet with broken glass and severing an Achilles tendon.

Following the attack, family and friends urged Zafar to leave Afghanistan, fearing he would eventually be killed.

With the assistance of a people smuggler, Zafar left Afghanistan in March 2012, but was returned to Kabul. In December 2012, he successfully reached Australia.

He was initially detained on Christmas Island before being transferred to Adelaide.

His journey with Vinnies began when he contacted the Mercy House of Welcome in Kilburn. From the outset, even while receiving assistance himself, Zafar devoted his time to helping fellow Afghans and other new arrivals. After years of separation, Zafar was recently reunited with his family in Australia. He continues to volunteer with Vinnies, assisting others wherever he can.

He also works hard to improve his English through the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service (VRASS) language classes and remains an active contributor to his community.

On 22 July 2026, Zafar became an Australian citizen.

He was among 500 people participating in a citizenship ceremony conducted by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield at Hart's Mill, Port Adelaide.

Alongside the other recipients, Zafar received his citizenship certificate from Mayor Claire Boan after making the Australian Citizenship Pledge.

There was a strong sense of joy, and perhaps relief, as participants celebrated with family, friends and one another following the ceremony.

Zafar is well known throughout the Kilburn and Enfield communities, and a number of council volunteers and staff were present to congratulate him on the occasion.

Zafar's journey from Herat, Afghanistan, to Adelaide demonstrates the impact of the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service. Through its support, he was able to settle in Australia and ultimately reunite with his wife and four sons.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) relies on the generous support of individuals, community groups, schools and businesses who are committed to building a more just and compassionate society.

Donations 13 18 12 or www.vinnies.org.au

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Make a financial donation

Credit card donations can be made by visiting our website or calling the donation hotline on 13 18 12. All donations are tax deductible.

Leave a gift in your Will

The Society is able to assist thousands of people because of the generosity of those who have remembered us in their Will. For more information or an information booklet, speak to our Fundraising Manager Liz Campbell on 8112 8744, or lcampbell@svdpsa.org.au

Volunteer your time

If you would like to make a direct impact on the lives of people in need, you can become a member of a Conference or volunteer your time to assist people in your community through any Vinnies services or shops.

Donate goods

Donations of quality clothing, small furniture items and household goods can be made at any Vinnies shop.

GPO Box 1804 Adelaide SA 5001 svdp@svdpsa.org.au

GO TO VINNIES.ORG.AU/SA OR CALL 08 8112 8700

St Vincent de Paul Society SA

good works

ABN 73 591 401 592

REGISTERED CHARITY acnc.gov.au/charityregister

St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.