

A 'HAND-UP' TO ANYONE IN NEED

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18



St Vincent de Paul Society
CANBERRA/GOULBURN

good works



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Warwick Fulton, President,
St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn*

The 2017-18 financial year has been a very busy one for all of us at the St Vincent de Paul Society in Canberra/Goulburn.

The growth in homelessness Australia wide of 14% over five years has meant there are more people needing our help. In addition, the needs of the long term homeless have become more complex. The 2016 ABS statistics for NSW and ACT show an increase in homelessness of 64% from 2001 to 2016. In addition to those who are homeless, there are currently up to 30,000 Canberrans living below the poverty line, and over a million in NSW.

We have continued to expand our services to provide greater support for those who are homeless and those who are at risk of homelessness. Fortunately we have had the funds to do so thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, and increased contributions from both ACT and federal governments.

However, not enough is being done at government levels to stem the rising tide of homelessness which now stands at 116,000 nationally (2016 Census). Adequate and affordable housing is key to solving the problem of homelessness. It is almost impossible to have good health, education, employment or social outcomes if you don't have a place to call home. As those who took part in our CEO Sleepout can attest, you feel and look like rubbish if you have been denied a reasonable night's sleep.

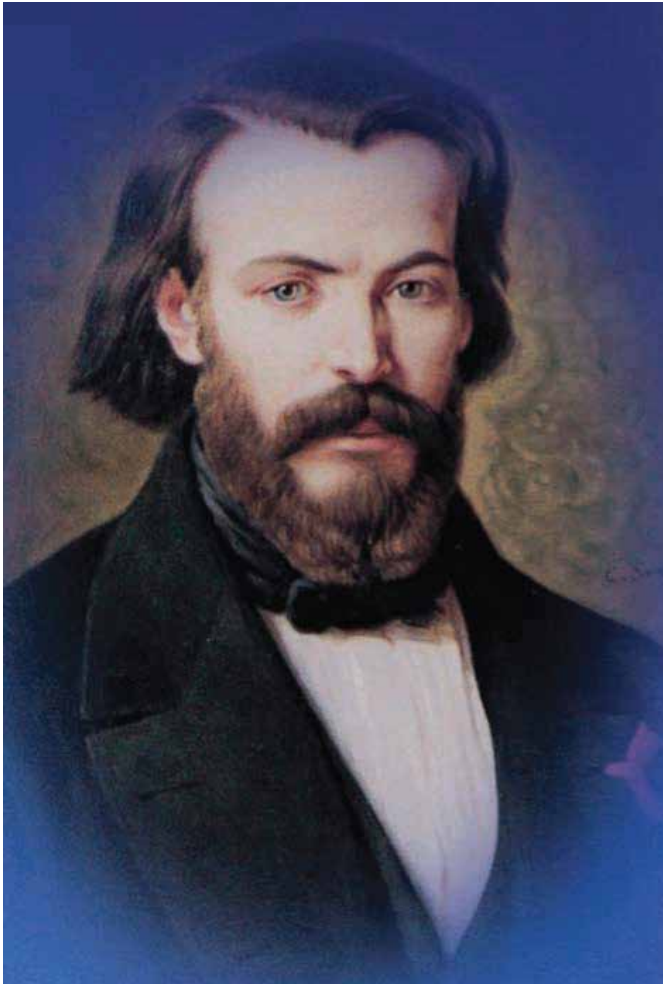
Having failed to address the problem for more than 20 years, the shortage of affordable and adequate housing now requires a massive investment in hundreds of thousands of additional housing properties across Australia. In NSW the government has made a start by supporting specialist housing companies (including the St Vincent de Paul Society's Amelie Housing), which are supplying 2000 additional housing properties to be constructed over the next 18 months. We are anxiously awaiting the release of the ACT government's promised housing strategy.

In the last year we have opened additional Vinnies shops at Kippax and Weston and have refurbished eight of our existing shops to give them a modern look, and make them as appealing as any other retail shop. We have started a new joint venture with Thread Together to make end of line fashion clothes available to our companions in need, and piloted a joint venture with Scouts ACT to give disadvantaged children life skills, confidence and resilience. Our Night Patrol has an additional van, thanks to Canberra Toyota, which enables us to go out to six locations in Canberra and Queanbeyan seven nights a week.

Last year I mentioned a number of challenges we were facing. We have improved our training and development opportunities for our members, volunteers and employees, but much more is needed. Our membership continues to grow steadily and we are managing to reach more, younger members for our conferences, mainly new retirees. The additional employees we engaged for our youth team have been successful in developing better relationships with schools, colleges and universities which is encouraging for the future membership of the Society.

I would like to thank our 693 members, 1500 volunteers and 147 employees for the great work they have done in representing the Society in our communities, and in providing financial, material and emotional support to our companions.

Our Territory Council, which is the governing body for the Society in Canberra/Goulburn, met six times during the year. I thank the ten council members and four advisors for their dedicated service and wise counsel.



I am pleased to say that we have had great success with our Strategic Plan 2015-18. Each of the goals has either been achieved or has reached the point where it has its own momentum. With this in mind the Territory Council has developed a new and ambitious Strategic Plan 2018-22, having consulted with our members, volunteers, employees and stakeholders in the process.

The constant focus of the Strategic Plan is our mission. As a lay Catholic organisation we aspire to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

We have had great support throughout the year from our Archbishop, Christopher Prowse, who even participated in the CEO Sleepout. The parish priests throughout the archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn, and their parishioners, have been major supporters of our conferences, in both material and spiritual ways, and in assisting a range of conference recruitment initiatives.

I have greatly enjoyed working with our CEO, Bernie van Wyk, who has proven to be a real dynamo - working hard to fulfil the Society's mission, build new community and supporter relationships, and find new ways of serving the needs of our companions, including in partnership with other organisations.

This year he attracted an impressive 140 CEOs to the CEO Sleepout and raised a record \$150,000 over the target.

Our donors have been most generous in responding to our various appeals giving us a large source of funds that we can place where it is most needed, independently of government constraints. The response to our Tathra Bushfire Appeal was simply amazing. Over \$160,000 was raised in just a few weeks, enabling our conference volunteers on the ground to respond to a wide range of needs of the fire victims as the needs emerged.

In this next year we need to consolidate some of our gains and ensure that our structures are appropriate to our current needs, and the needs of the people we serve. In line with our new Strategic Plan we want to:

- a) Develop an overall Communications Plan to ensure communication is planned and executed well and that we are all focused on the same outcomes.
- b) Develop Vincentian Spirituality of our people particularly our conference members through educational opportunities and programs.
- c) Aim for all elements of the Society to collaborate effectively, both internally and with external partners, to provide quality wrap-around service. To achieve this we will review the effectiveness of each program against its core purpose and establish success factors.
- d) Apply new and updated technologies to best meet our quality and compliance needs.
- e) Develop and implement a Society Environmental Plan.
- f) Continue to advocate for vulnerable people including: people experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness; people living with mental illness; and asylum seekers.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

*Barnie van Wyk, CEO,
St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn*

St Vincent de Paul Society
Canberra/Goulburn is a key player
in the welfare sector.

The members, volunteers and employees of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn continue to support the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese's most vulnerable families, young people and children. There has been considerable activity during the past year to address the varied challenges facing our companions, especially as the number of people we assist, as reported in the recently released ABS 2016 statistics, is growing.

We have focused on helping those who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness; providing assistance to secure accommodation, case management, and programs providing mental health and disability services, emergency relief, and support in addressing social isolation.

We have 693 members, 1500 volunteers and 147 employees all united in providing a 'hand up' to our companions in need. The Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese is a large geographic area surrounding the ACT- from Lake Cargelligo in the west, across the Snowy Mountains to Tumut, down to Eden, up to Batemans Bay and inland to Crookwell. Our 51 conferences still meet families and individuals, and provide assistance including food vouchers, electricity vouchers and rental assistance to name a few. Last financial year conferences provided over \$2 million worth of assistance. The collective effort of our members, volunteers and employees has assisted over 40,000 people in our community.

In the current environment, the sector faces an increasing demand for services and there are significant constraints on government funding. This is especially evident in the affordable housing space, which impacts the ability of the St Vincent de Paul Society to adopt a preventative focus. It is therefore imperative that we keep focusing on increasing our advocacy, and expanding our appeals and fundraising initiatives to ensure that we cement a solid platform to be able to support our companions into the future, whilst remaining compliant with all service standards and strategic outcomes.

We thank the Canberra/Goulburn community for their most amazing support of our programs through volunteering, fundraising and donating. Our CEO Sleepout, Doorknock, Christmas and Winter Appeals have enabled us to launch a new program called VINES (Vinnies, Inspiring, Networking, Education and Support) in partnership with Scouts ACT, and open the Thread Together Clothing Hub @ Vinnies (supporting marginalised companions with brand new clothing). These funds have also allowed us to launch a new Night Patrol van operating seven days across southern Canberra and Queanbeyan locations, provide pathway programs to 80 companions of our Clemente program in partnership with the Australian Catholic University (ACU), and provide respite and recreation to 95 children and young adults through our St Nick's Young Carers Program. All of these successes have contributed to the genuine excitement that staff feel in working for the Society and being part of the Canberra community.

I would like to acknowledge our major sponsors and note the high regard that all sponsors have for our collaborative approach to alleviating homelessness in our community. The collective effort of our sponsors, members and volunteers, and the financial support of the many donors, schools, churches, auxiliaries, businesses and community organisations has made it possible for us to raise \$2,017,200 this year to serve the marginalised in our community. I thank everyone who was part of this incredible achievement.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the stewardship of the Canberra/Goulburn Territory Council. I thank you for your dedication. Finally, I would particularly like to acknowledge the energy, professionalism and support of our members, volunteers and employees; you have delivered above and beyond. Thank you.

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SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

John Vance, Director of Mission, Spirituality and Membership

Blessed Frédéric often contemplated on the role ‘providence’ played in all aspects of his life, and mentions recognising its influence in his childhood, teenage years, his adult life and in his work. He particularly talks of ‘providence’s’ role in the establishment of the St Vincent de Paul Society. As we reflect on the year that has just concluded we might also recognise the work of providence, the Spirit we might call it today, in the wonderful successes we have achieved in providing much needed assistance to all of our companions.

When we read the pages of our Annual Report we realise the fruits of the amazing work in bringing about the Society’s vision and mission in the world today. Because of this we cannot but pause and consider the fact that the Spirit, who worked with and helped Frédéric, remains with us and is just as important and vital in guiding and helping us to bring about our good works now and into the future.

As members, volunteers, employees and benefactors of the Society in Canberra/Goulburn our work is based on the values that we hold dear; commitment, compassion, respect, integrity, empathy, courage and especially advocacy. As we bring them into being we not only convey the Gospel message, but strive to bring Christ to all our companions and seek to meet Christ in and through them in return.

We can take heart in all of our endeavours for those we serve by reminding ourselves of Isaiah’s words, as proclaimed by Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth:

**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me
Because He has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the
afflicted
He has sent me to proclaim
liberty of captives
Sight to the blind, to let the
oppressed go free”
Luke 4:18**

Jesus then rolled up the scroll and spoke to the assembled:

**“This text is being fulfilled today
even while you are listening”
Luke 4:19**

With this assurance we can, as a Society, move forward into the new year in the true knowledge that through the Spirit we will continue to work for and support our companions with strength and courage.



“Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands.”

Frédéric Ozanam

WHO WE ARE

The St Vincent de Paul Society is an international, lay Catholic organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing assistance to anyone in need.

The Society was founded in France by a group of young men in 1833, the principal founder being the Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. This group of young people named the Society after the Patron Saint of Christian charity, St Vincent de Paul. Today the Society has more than 800,000 members in over 153 countries.

As the membership grew, it was decided to form small groups to help people in need in their local area. These groups are known as conferences.

Father Gerald Ward started the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia. At the time he came to Melbourne, gold mining dominated the economy. The population had swelled, there was a critical lack of services, and Melbourne was considered to be the most expensive place in the world to live. Roads and water supply were inadequate. The original conference in Australia assisted 179 cases in its first year, and was established primarily out of concern and compassion for children and widows during the gold rush.

The first conference in Canberra/Goulburn was established in 1886 in Braidwood NSW and is still operating today.

All members of the Society are volunteers and they are at the core of what the Society does. The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn has 693 members in 51 conferences, who offer people in crisis a ‘hand up’, not just a hand out. In addition to our members, we also have volunteers and employees who dedicate their time to serving the Canberra/Goulburn region, enabling the Society to carry out its good works.

“Changes can and must occur. If they are not accepted, we shall never enjoy the peace of soul that is essential.”

Louise de Marillac

Our mission

The Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

“Money has been given us to work for the salvation of the people”

St Vincent de Paul (IV: 140)

Our vision

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring lay Catholic charity offering a hand up to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

Our conferences meet regularly and undertake good works of charity for the poor, the abandoned, and victims of exclusion and adversity using The Rule as the direction of our operations.

Our stakeholders

At the core of the Society’s work are the people we assist, our Vincentians, volunteers and donors. These are the people who have enabled the Society’s good works to continue. Without the generosity of our loyal donors, the resources to provide the required levels of assistance to people in need would not be available.

“Do all in a spirit of gentleness and love.”

Louise de Marillac

HOW WE HELP

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn helps people in need in a number of ways, giving them a 'hand up' to make life-changing decisions. The type of support offered differs from situation to situation, but our conferences remain central to the Society's good works. They are the driving force that connects people in need to our support services and programs.

Centres

In what are widely known in the community as the 'Vinnies shops', we sell quality donated clothing, furniture and other household items at affordable prices. There are 27 centres throughout the Canberra/Goulburn region, 14 of which include conference facilities.

Homelessness services

Night Patrol is one of our most recognised services and visits the streets of Canberra and Queanbeyan almost every night of the year, providing engagement, material aid and light refreshments to people in need. Night Patrol provided 12,061 instances of support this year and does not receive any government funding.

We do receive funding from the ACT Government to provide a range of services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Samaritan House has been operating for 23 years and provides crisis accommodation to men in Canberra, with priority given to

men with complex and multiple needs. Our family and youth homelessness services provide accommodation and support to 652 people at risk of homelessness, including securing long-term housing for 312 families.

Vinnies Blue door is a drop-in centre based in Ainslie Village and this year provided 51,000 meals and light case management to 240 people. Our Street to Home program seeks out and provides intervention and support to people experiencing chronic rough sleeping in the ACT. In the last year Street to Home have case managed 72 rough sleepers and assisted approximately 180 participants with outreach services; this included providing sleeping bags, tents, or assisting with referral processes.

Mental health services

As an NDIS provider in mental health, the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn has an established name within the community sector. Currently NDIS Mental Health Services have 34 participants with 16 participants on the waiting list. Packages range from \$6,000 to \$70,000.

The Compeer program engages dedicated and compassionate volunteers to provide friendship and support to people living with a chronic mental illness.

Education services

The Society has a range of education services to provide people with the practical skills and knowledge to break the cycle of disadvantage.

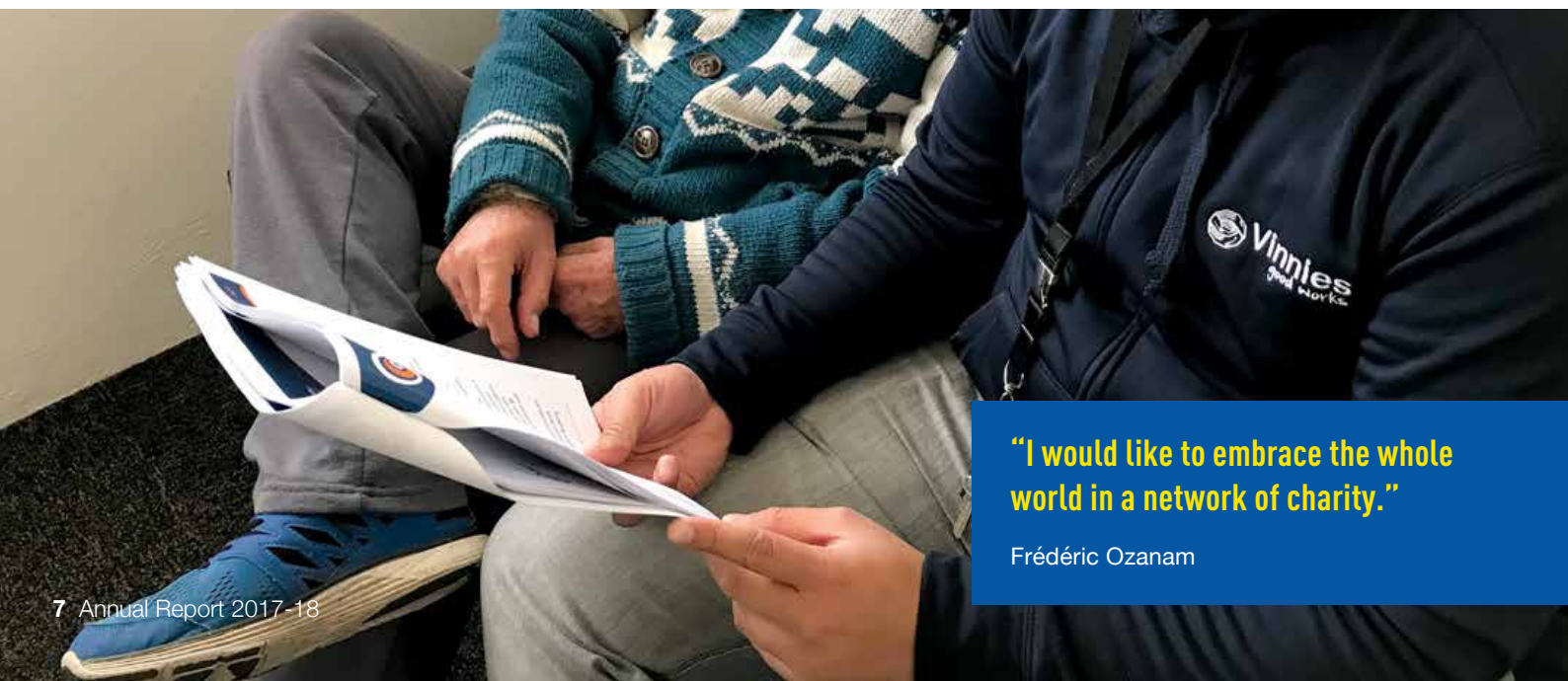
The Society delivers the Actsmart Home Energy Efficiency Program on behalf of the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The program looks at the energy usage of low-income households and teaches household members the best ways to reduce their energy bills and carbon emissions.

The Clemente program, a partnership with the Australian Catholic University, provides people who have experienced homelessness or hardship with the chance to complete a university certificate.

This year the Society launched the VINES program. A collaboration with Scouts ACT, the program aims to build life skills, as well as social and emotional development targeted at children who are intergenerational welfare dependent.

"In my life I want to become better and do a little good."

Frédéric Ozanam



"I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity."

Frédéric Ozanam



Youth programs

The St Joe's Youth Program provides respite and recreation to vulnerable young people in the Canberra region through weekend activities and school holiday camps. The program was established in 1978 and is attended by around 210 young people each year. The St Nick's Young Carers Program was established in 1998 and caters to the needs of young carers aged between 9-17 years who take on a caring role for a family member. Weekend activity days provide young carers with recreational activities throughout the year that they may not otherwise access due to their caring role, social isolation or financial restraints on their family. Across the two youth programs we run 11 camps and 18 weekend activities per year.

School engagement

The aim of the schools program is to engage school students in social justice advocacy, volunteering, and fundraising. By engaging with students at a young age we hope to start them on a lifelong Vincentian journey.

The Society has a strong presence in 60 Catholic schools across the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese, including 34 Mini Vinnies groups and six high school conferences. Mini Vinnies is designed for young students and schools interested in social justice. Students are encouraged to follow the example of the Society's founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, by putting their faith into action. Tertiary institutions also support the good works of the Society with volunteers and hosting fundraising events. ANU Conference has more than 40 current members.

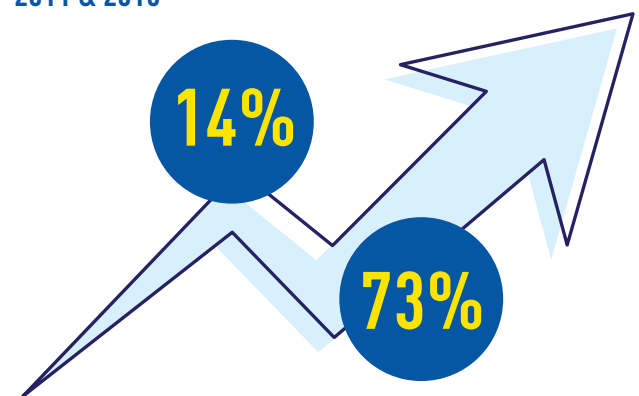
“The question which is agitating the world today is a social one. It is a struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much. It is a violent clash of opulence and poverty which is shaking the ground under our feet. Our duty as Christians is to throw ourselves between these two camps in order to accomplish by love, what justice alone cannot do.”

Frédéric Ozanam

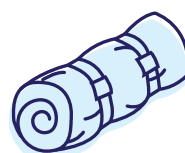
WHY WE HELP

39,311 people experiencing homelessness across ACT & NSW

increase of all homeless people in Australia between 2011 & 2016



increase in number of people in overcrowded dwellings in ACT & NSW between 2011 & 2016



1596

Canberrans are experiencing homelessness



OUR PEOPLE

People are the core of our good works and the manner in which we operate. Over the past year the Society has relied on the support of 693 members, 1500 volunteers and 147 employees.

Our members

Our 693 members are the backbone of the Society, operating through local conferences at the grassroots level by visiting people in need in their homes, or conducting interviews with them at our centres. Our members determine the strategic direction of the Society and how best to provide our programs and services to people in need.

Our volunteers

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a member and volunteer based organisation. Motivated by Catholic values, each volunteer offers unique life experiences, backgrounds and interests; yet at the core of each character is one distinct commonality: the willingness to give so readily their talents and time to make the work of the Society great.

Our volunteers extend their skills and abilities across the works of our conferences, 14 specialised homelessness services and 27 centres. Volunteering empowers the Society to meet people's immediate needs, foster personal growth, and, above all else, make a long lasting and meaningful impact in the lives of our companions, and a considered social movement within our communities.

Our employees

Our paid employee base is kept to a minimum, to allow our resources to be directed at people in need. We acknowledge the expertise of our 147 employees which complements the good works of our members and volunteers.



CASE STUDY

RESPIRE, RECREATION AND WRAP-AROUND SERVICES

Sarah Clifton, Director of Youth and Young Adults

Jessica* is a protective older sister for Amber and Joshua. Two weeks prior to St Joe's September camp their mum attempted suicide after a family violence incident with her ex-partner. He had come to the house at night while the kids were in bed and assaulted their mum. The kids were not due to attend camp; however an urgent call from their mum meant space was made for the three of them. While they came to camp their mum checked into the adult mental health unit at Canberra Hospital. The family have no extended family in Canberra, and, due to the high needs of the youngest two children, family friends weren't able to care for them.

Amber, 8, and Joshua, 6, are both developmentally delayed. Jessica, 11, is carer for her mum and siblings, so she accesses our St Nick's Young Carers Program as well as St Joe's. All three children were distressed coming into camp after their recent family disruptions. The youngest two were terrified that their mum's ex-partner was going to come back, and refused to go outside at night for the camp fire or to play Spotlight games. Jessica was extremely anxious about her mum, as she is her mum's main emotional support and knew the entire situation. She asked to call home several times a day to check on her mum.

We limited calls to once every second day and diverted her attention to writing a warm and fuzzy book for her mum filled with all her favourite family memories, and a letter to her mum that she could give her after camp. All three children settled into camp by the second day and were participating in activities and making friends. They spent their free time each day practicing an acrobatic routine that they performed at the Talent Show on the last night of camp.

We were able to give the children a week of respite and wonderful memories, and their mum an opportunity to seek help knowing that the kids were safe and happy. All three children are now accessing counselling through school. The family attended our Christmas party in December with 120 other children, and each received a huge present from Santa. Their mum broke down in tears when she saw the presents, and told one of our volunteers that she hadn't been able to buy presents this year, as she had a debt to Housing ACT for property damage caused by her ex-partner. We arranged for the local Vinnies volunteers to drop a Christmas hamper with food and presents off to the family two days before Christmas. Our Family Services team are providing advice and support to the family about the Housing ACT debt.

*All names have been changed





SOCIAL JUSTICE

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF BLESSED FRÉDÉRIC AND POPE FRANCIS

Kym Duggan, Social Justice and Advocacy Advisor

Our founder Frédéric Ozanam regarded speaking up for the rights of the poor and disadvantaged as a critical part of our mission.

Rule (7.2) states: « ... Vincentians envision a more just society in which the rights, responsibilities and development of all people are promoted.

The Social Justice Network remains a small but committed group that has continued to engage in a range of social justice issues on behalf of our companions. Advocacy on such critical issues is often a long-term process, but continuing to raise the need for structural reforms to assist the most disadvantaged remains a major priority for the Canberra/Goulburn region.

Our work promoting the importance of safe and appropriate housing for all, through a housing first approach, has continued throughout the year. We have maintained our push to add the right to adequate housing to the rights specifically recognised in the ACT Human Rights Act. We have urged the ACT Government to adopt a policy of ensuring that the impact on social housing is properly considered in every major development decision taken by the government.

In concert with the CEO, Bernie van Wyk, and his team we have been agitating for a much greater financial commitment from the ACT Government in its soon to be released Affordable Housing Strategy. We do not accept that the problem is diminishing. The 2016 Census showed that there are 1596 people experiencing homelessness in the ACT compared with 943 in 2001. People living in severely crowded accommodation in the ACT has increased by 374% between 2001 and 2016. The problem continues to grow.

Both nationally and locally we have been highlighting the increasing impacts of the changes to the labour market that have led to much more casual and part-time work. The increasing precariousness of many jobs often means that people have to rely on assistance, such as that which we provide, simply to make ends meet.

In the coming year we will be supporting the advocacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups in the ACT, highlighting the critical need for major reforms to deal with appallingly poor outcomes for many of their community. The rates of child protection interventions and imprisonment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT are the second highest in the country.

The Society has much influence in our community that we can use to promote social and political change, assisting our companions to overcome the structural reasons that condemn so many of them to poverty.

Speaking up for the rights of the poor and disadvantaged is a critical responsibility that we as Vincentians are called upon to champion.

Our Holy Father says:

“The great biblical tradition enjoins on all peoples the duty to hear the voice of the poor. It bids us to break the bonds of injustice and oppression which give rise to glaring, and indeed, scandalous social inequalities.”



**PALM SUNDAY RALLY FOR
JUSTICE
FOR
REFUGEES
1PM SUN 25 MARCH
GAREMA PL**

Refugee Action Committee, Canberra
refugeeaction.org.au



STRATEGIC PLAN

WHERE WE'VE BEEN,

AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

Patrick McKenna, Director of Compliance and Governance

Our former strategic plan for the period 2015-2018 has been a valuable resource to guide us through many changes that have occurred, including significant financial challenges, embracing new technology, and arresting a declining membership. In all of this the Strategic Plan has kept us focused on the reason for the St Vincent de Paul Society's existence. We are a lay Catholic organisation with a long history of serving Christ through service to those in our community who experience poverty and marginalisation. We do what is necessary to give people a 'hand up'.

This year the Territory Council updated its Strategic Plan to guide our direction over the next five years. The Council was generously supported with pro-bono consulting from Price Waterhouse Coopers and 180 Degrees Consulting, who assisted us to develop a very comprehensive plan in line with best practices in the not-for-profit and private sectors.

Our process began with consultation of our members, volunteers and employees in the form of a survey, workshops and opportunities for feedback. There were 146 survey responses received from all areas of the Society. We also surveyed a number of stakeholders and companions. There were some strong and consistent themes amongst the survey responses, which helped to form our strategy moving forward.

At the core of our Strategic Plan are three main goals:

1. Companions are given a 'hand up'
2. Vincentian values are reflected in all we do
3. One Society, A United Voice – in line with the strategic plan of the National Council

Through the consultation and planning process, we identified seven strategic themes:

Spirituality

The Society's vision, mission and values are at the core of all that we undertake as members, volunteers and employees. They form the core of our faith based organisation which continues to espouse Catholic teachings grounding our endeavours in Jesus' call to 'love our neighbour as ourselves'. Our founders provided us with an example of how we can continue providing the Society's good works today and into the future. As always, we remain open to sharing our journey with all who wish to grow in and share our Vincentian Spirituality, whatever their faith tradition.

To support this notion, we plan to further develop the role of Spiritual Facilitator, and to provide a range of opportunities for members, volunteers and employees to develop their Vincentian Spirituality.

Communication

Good communication throughout the Society supports a number of critical success factors including organisational culture, shared vision, collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness. By focusing on good communication we can improve the experience of our people and the people we assist.

In order to develop effective communication and collaboration throughout the Society, we have a number of initiatives that will help us all to gain a rich understanding of all Society Works, and focus collectively on common outcomes.

Society Works

Our Special Works exist to extend the good works of our conferences through the provision of professional services, offering a 'hand up' to people in need. We can maximise our assistance to companions through effective collaboration between all elements of the Society.

Across the archdiocese, we will place a greater focus on providing referrals and establishing Special Works where appropriate, in order to provide a 'hand up' to our companions.

Partnerships

The Society can maximise its impact by working co-operatively with other organisations to ensure that it delivers quality and effective services in line with its vision, mission and values, and offers a 'hand up' to its companions.

This collaboration with partners will be made possible through strong relationships and a focus on external referrals. We will also work to attract corporate sponsorship and bequests.

Advocacy

The Society is committed to identifying the root causes of poverty and to contributing to their elimination. We can do this by constantly striving to understand our changing world and by being a strong voice in the advocacy for the most vulnerable people in our community. We need to increase our focus on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander companions and those who are part of the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

We will be working to identify ways to address the causes and issues affecting vulnerable people, so that our advocacy has a strong impact.

Sustainability

The Society can only continue the good work it has carried out since its inception by remaining relevant to an evolving world. In doing this we must ensure that we have sustainable income and that we use appropriate technologies to attain the requisite levels of quality and compliance. We want to be seen as an exemplar in environmental sustainability.

We are seeking new revenue streams to diversify the income of the Society. There will be a continued focus on achieving an optimal organisational structure and diligent expense management. The investment of Society reserves will be a particular focus.

Our people

The Society functions through its people—members, volunteers and employees—and should support them with best practices in resourcing, recruiting, and recognition of achievement. A positive organisational culture in line with the vision, mission and values of the Society will lead to quality, effectiveness and a sense of achievement in our good works.

We have identified a number of initiatives to support the goal of competent, engaged, effective members, volunteers and employees. We will be looking at ways to attract new and diverse members and volunteers to the Society.

The implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan is also a key priority of this Strategic Plan.

Measures have been identified for the goals of each strategic theme which form our KPIs, and will be monitored over time to track our progress and achievement. A range of initiatives will be implemented to support the achievement of each goal.



YEAR IN REVIEW

JUL 17



\$10,000 Hands Across Canberra grant to launch VINES



St Nick's and St Joe's Harry Potter July School Holiday Camps

AUG 17



90 people visit the 5 roadshows at Goulburn, Evatt, Kambah, Young and Merimbula



Winter Appeal ends having raised \$336,100



ACT region Mini Vinnies Social Justice Day held with 118 students from 11 schools

St Joe's teen camp at Camp Wombaroo in the Southern Highlands



New Kippax Centre opens



St Thomas the Apostle host a 'Dressed by Vinnies' Day

DEC 17



St Nick's teen camp in Alpine Adventist Lodge in Jindabyne



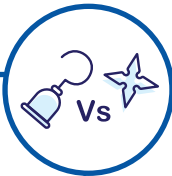
Jenny Macklin's Christmas BBQ raises awareness and \$1691 for Vinnies Christmas Appeal



Special Works' first annual meeting with over 50 employees gathering together

JAN 18

Christmas Appeal launched



St Joe's Teen Camp at Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre

St Joe's Pirates vs Ninjas Camp

CEO Sleepout Launch

Second Mini Vinnies Social Justice Day is held in Braidwood

APR 18

Youth Team Retreat in Goulburn, 28 youth members attended

The first Mini Vinnies Social Justice Day for the Year of Youth is held in Goulburn; the first regional event of this scale

MAY 18

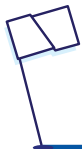
ACU hygiene items drive for Night Patrol



A Thank You event is held at St Clare's College as part of National Volunteer Week



Natalie Wright is awarded ACT Volunteer of the Year at the 2018 Volunteering Awards



Launch of Thread Together Clothing Hub @ Vinnies



Tuggeranong Centre becomes the first centre in Canberra/Goulburn history to hit the \$1 million mark for retail sales in a financial year

SEPT 17

Batemans Bay Centre Fashion Show



St Nick's receives a \$9,000 grant from Commonwealth Bank



St Joe's Circus September School Holiday Camp

OCT 17

The VINES pilot program is officially launched



Deputy Chief Minister Yvette Berry along with CEO Bernie van Wyk and Mirko Milic from Canberra Toyota launch new Night Patrol van

NOV 17

AGM

Annual Festival Mass



Blue Door M16 Artspace Exhibition



Christmas Appeal ends having raised \$288,760

FEB 18

Vincentian Servant Leadership workshop at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School

Doorknock Appeal raises \$281,375

Silver Jubilee of Sr Therese Haywood



Palm Sunday Rally: Justice for Refugees. Over 20 Vincentians gather to demand justice for refugees



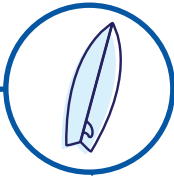
Tathra Bushfire Appeal raises over \$160,000

MAR 18

Tertiary Market Days at ANU, CIT, UC and ACU



ANU Pop-Up Op Shop raised \$1132 for Mitchell Centre



St Nick's Teen Surf Camp

New Weston Creek Centre opens

Winter Appeal launched

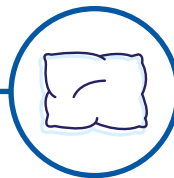


Centres Congress hosted for centre management

Mini Vinnies Commissioning Ceremony / Winter Appeal Mass / Soup-er Hero Day at St Bernard's in Batehaven is a great success!



Launch of new program to support Migrant and Refugee Children



CEO Sleepout breaks records!



Reunion event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of St Joe's and 20th anniversary of St Nick's

JUN 18



CONFERENCES

Stewart Chapman, Vice President, Conferences, Training & Development

2017-18 proved to be another busy year for the 51 conferences of the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese.

In summary:

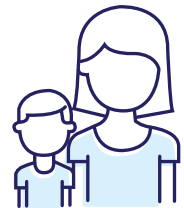


Support was provided to **42,556** people in need

The vast majority of people assisted are on government assistance and in public housing

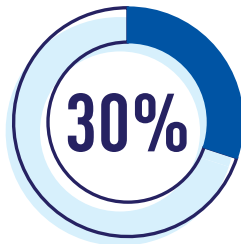


The total value of assistance was over **\$2 million**



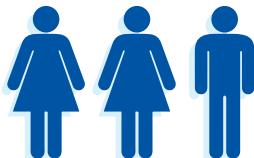
Single persons or sole parents are the dominant household composition

More than **17%** of our companions are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders



Of people assisted were new companions

About two thirds of assistance sought is from females



In the 2017-18 financial year we provided more than \$2,000,000 worth of assistance, almost half of which was in-kind. I would like to take the opportunity to thank just some of the organisations and governments for their support in ensuring people requiring emergency relief get the support and assistance they deserve.

- Telstra Bill Assistance Program (TBAP)
- NSW Government for their Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) Scheme
- ActewAGL
- Alannah and Madeline Foundation for providing us with Buddy Bags for families escaping domestic violence
- Foodbank ACT & NSW for their ongoing support with food relief
- Roadmaster for their support transporting food from Sydney to the ACT
- ACT Government
- Federal Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Care Inc.

The total value of services provided outside the ACT is increasing, particularly in the Far South Coast region which is experiencing a marked increase in demand.

External organisations refer companions to the Society for particular services, and conversely, the Society refers companions to external service providers such as Care Inc. Financial Counselling Service.

Within the ACT there continues to be a significant shift of location of people in low cost or public housing, from inner Canberra to the regional areas such as Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Gungahlin. Gungahlin Conference, with its large area to cover and growing population, is, not surprisingly, the conference that provides the greatest amount in value.

As in recent years, based on cases and reports, the type and range of assistance sought has become more complex. While the basic role of conferences is to provide emergency relief, the conferences can also have a beneficial role in undertaking social visits where people, especially older companions, are seeking some form of social contact.

The new Emergency Relief program, which is funded by the ACT Government, commences in July 2018 in the ACT and should become the basis of providing a more complete and immediate service to all those that conferences assist.

Continual efforts are being made to increase or renew conference membership across the Canberra/Goulburn region, so vital to the future of conference work. Membership is particularly critical in the rural parts of the archdiocese. It is also vital to widen the membership base to involve younger people.

The Conference Recruitment Program has begun to be implemented in conferences across the Society. Currently there are four conferences undertaking recruitment and, once they have completed the program, they will join the other eight conferences who have completed their recruitment campaign. Since the program began we have welcomed 22 new members.

One of the quite successful sections of the recruitment program is the 'commissioning of new members' within a parish mass. The ceremony allows parishioners to be involved in welcoming these members into the work of the Society, whilst heightening their awareness of the conference's work in the parish. We have also had enquiries from parishioners as to how they might join the conference.

The work of Mini Vinnies is great for a number of reasons. Apart from the substantial assistance in food and clothing that is provided for the work of conferences, Mini Vinnies allows young people the opportunity to learn and appreciate the importance of charity for the welfare of their communities.

The Society is most grateful for the support and donations provided by community groups and organisations. These donations are most welcome, be it at Christmas in supplementing food hampers and gifts, or the provision of warm clothing and blankets during winter.

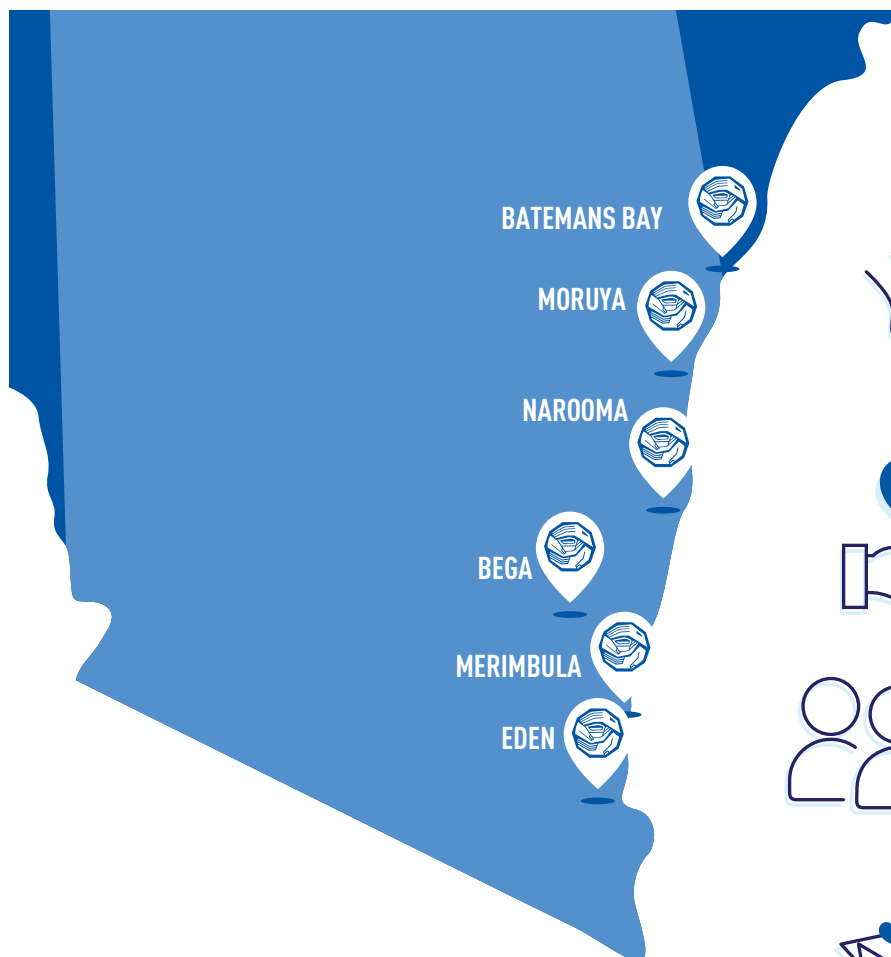
A special thank you is in order to the Conference Support team at Deakin office who provide a very valuable service, and link to the work of conferences.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Anthony O'Connell who was the Director of Conference Support from November 2013 until December 2017. Anthony was admired for his hard work, determination and dedication to the Society.

Before commencing paid employment with the Society, Anthony had been a volunteer with the Society for many years in NSW and the ACT. Over the four years, Anthony made a tremendous impact, and everyone in the Society is very grateful for his service. In this role Anthony managed the Helpline, provided support to conferences, including recruitment, training and formation for conferences, and led the Society's response to a disaster in the ACT.

Money raised from shops and fundraising provided **\$783,659** to fund Conference Support





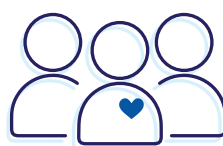
76
Members



6205
Instances of assistance



\$493,650
\$\$ assistance provided



7426
Total number of people assisted
(this includes 3207 children)



252
Christmas hampers



Top areas of spend
Utilities \$190,927
Food \$225,920

FAR SOUTH COAST

The Far South Coast region consists of conferences in Batemans Bay, Bega, Eden, Merimbula, Moruya and Narooma.

Christine Mabbott, Far South Coast Regional President

The Far South Coast has been very active this year. We have been involved in all the usual activities assisting our companions with food and other needs. The cost of utilities, especially electricity, has seen an increased demand on support in that area. The housing crisis continues to be a major issue as many people come here for the climate but do not realise the expense of renting in a holiday area. Add to that the fact that people are 'tossed out' during peak season and there is virtually no crisis or short term accommodation.

Of course, the Tathra fires had a huge impact on our community and many of us had to think on our feet as the situation developed. There were many lessons to be learnt as we were overwhelmed with offers of support. The donations received through our Centres have been well utilised and this money will continue to assist people as homes are rebuilt and lives restored. We were very grateful to the Finance department in Canberra who were able to free up funds by increasing card limits and authorising vouchers with local retailers.

The Bega Conference did an amazing job and I expect that they are still doing this. There was a story in the local paper highlighting the fact that a number of new sewing machines had been purchased and given to fire affected victims.

I believe it is important to publicly acknowledge the wonderful work done by the President of the conference, Danni Koenigkamp, and her conference members, as well as the Centre Manager, Mary Nugent, and her volunteers.

There have been many great initiatives happening on the Coast this year. Mini Vinnies has been strong and Merimbula Conference was involved in a Social Justice Day run at Lumen Christi College. Others have had 'soup-er hero' days to support the Winter Appeal, and a breakfast club is also run at Batemans Bay. Discussions are taking place to implement the Clemente program on the Coast which would be a valuable program for many in this area. One conference is trialling 'treats for companions'. This takes the form of a voucher for the local coffee shop or a movie voucher. Those who receive them are very appreciative and it appears to bring a welcome lift to their spirits. In preparation for Christmas, applications have been made for Club grants. By all accounts these appear to have once again been successful.



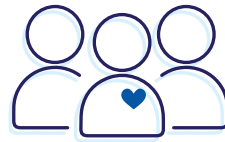
66
Members



3203
Instances of assistance



\$248,153
\$\$ assistance provided



4316
Total number of people assisted
(this includes 1644 children)



230
Christmas hampers



Top areas of spend
Utilities \$125,720
Food \$78,509

GOULBURN

The Goulburn region consists of conferences in Braidwood, Crookwell, Goulburn and Yass.

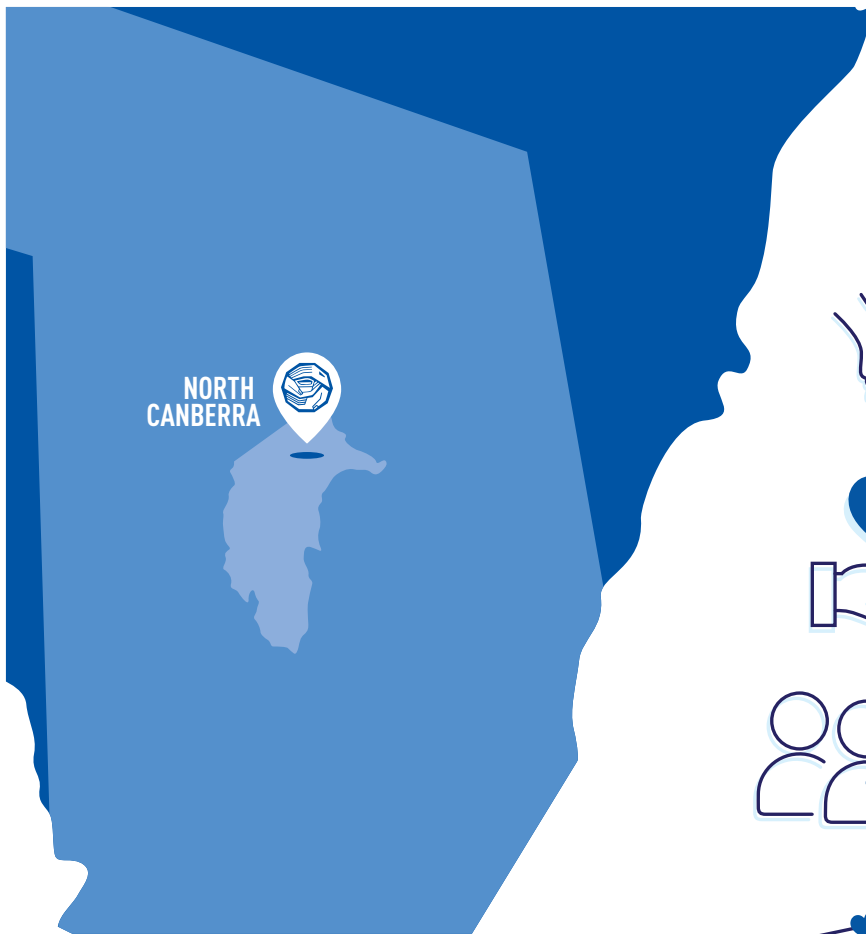
Pat Smith, Goulburn Regional President

This year the Goulburn region presidents came together for the first time in many years. It allowed us to look at areas for discussions, and to share ideas to take back to our own regions. It also allowed us to get in touch with other presidents for support and advice when there has been a problem, or in relation to ideas about conference work.

Trinity Catholic College in Goulburn was the host for schools from Yass and Crookwell to come together to work with the Youth team from Canberra. It gave the children an idea about issues faced by many people and to see how the group works. The president from Goulburn worked with the children as part of the program. Another local Catholic primary school raised \$1200 to help people in need by organising multiple activities.

Recently Goulburn Conference was invited by a Society group from Sydney to discuss the problem of living rough in the Goulburn region during winter. As a result of the discussion we were sent two large boxes of coats designed to keep people warm during this time. The coats are of excellent quality, and we were able to pass some on to other conferences.

A recent story from our conference work regards a mother with eight children who came and asked for help as they had nothing. We were able to set them up with furniture, food and 18 blankets. The blankets had been donated by Trinity College. The family is now on the way to being self sufficient.



NORTH CANBERRA

The North Canberra region consists of the following conferences: ANU, Aranda, Braddon, Campbell, Charnwood, Evatt, Gungahlin, Kaleen, Kippax, O'Connor, Page and Watson.

Ted Smith, North Canberra Regional President

The major activity for North Canberra conferences is home visits to people in need. Calls for assistance in our region have included more requests from refugees than in previous years, and also assistance to individuals and families who have been relocated following the closure of older accommodation in the Canberra central areas.

A growing proportion of the people we assist have mental health issues, and addressing these issues is generally a long-term task requiring specialist assistance. We can only support them in their current situation while other organisations provide the professional help they require.

Much of our assistance given in 2017-18 was emergency food and clothing to local families and individuals. This year we have again been assisted in our task by local food pantries providing food at a reduced cost. Parishes and local parish schools, through Mini Vinnies, have provided major support for our work through the donations of non-perishable food and winter clothing. We thank them for their continued support.



201
Members



8780
Instances of assistance



\$409,426
\$\$ assistance provided



11,420
Total number of people assisted
(this includes 5050 children)



750
Christmas hampers



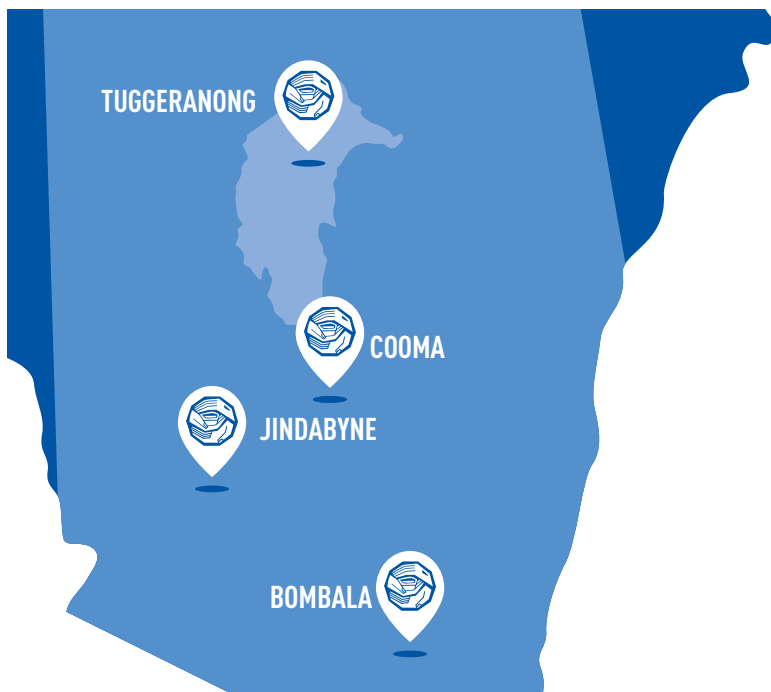
Top areas of spend
Food \$198,797
Furniture and Household items \$62,863

Other types of assistance provided include furniture, white goods, assistance with medical expenses and utility costs such as electricity, gas and car registration.

Some of those we assisted were homeless. We have continued to work very hard to help these most vulnerable persons in our society, but continue to struggle to make a fundamental difference. Where we considered it beneficial we also referred people to Care Inc. Financial Counselling Service for budgeting help, and to other organisations who provide specialist assistance. Those who have used these services have found them to be most beneficial.

In looking beyond the immediate needs of the people we support, our focus is on trying to help them to get a better quality of life. Although it is challenging to gauge success in this endeavour, we do feel that we have been able to make a difference. I acknowledge the dedication of our members to the values of the Society and the generous gift of their time to support those in need.

The North Canberra region undertakes a number of support activities in addition to home visitations. These include: support for Blue Door at Ainslie Village; fruit and vegetable runs from the Belconnen Markets; bread runs from Bakers Delight; Christmas hampers, supported by Rotary and schools; and support to Karinya House for mums and bubs.



TUGGERANONG & MONARO

The Tuggeranong & Monaro region consists of the following conferences: Baillys, Bombala, Calwell, Cooma, Gowrie, Jindabyne, Kambah and Wanniasa.

John Feint, Tuggeranong & Monaro Regional President

During the year, members provided 3831 instances of assistance, mainly for food, utility bills, and furniture and household items. We meet regularly as a region to share our experiences and support each other.

Conferences continued to serve the needs of the community across the region. The region undertook a successful Christmas appeal and distributed 372 hampers to families in need. The Christmas Appeal was also well supported by the Mini Vinnies groups in the region, which generated significant donations of food and gifts. The Tuggeranong conferences participated in the annual Doorknock, and again, with the help of regular and new volunteers as well as members, almost all areas in the Tuggeranong region were canvassed for donations. A number of conferences maintained well stocked pantries which were kept full with assistance from ACT Government funding as well as the regular and much appreciated donations from local parishioners.

Cooma Conference was instrumental in a 'Social Justice Day Program' for students aged from 10-12 years. A conference member shared with the students how difficult life can be for companions and how Conference is able to assist with food, accommodation, clothing, and utilities. Many students were not aware of the work of the Society and seemed genuinely interested and concerned for companions.

At Calwell, conference member Gerard Heffernan participated in the CEO Sleepout for the first time and reached his target amount of funds raised for the Society.



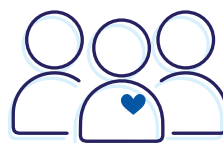
132
Members



3831
Instances of assistance



\$229,055
\$\$ assistance provided



5920
Total number of people assisted
(this includes 2907 children)



372
Christmas hampers



Top areas of spend
Food \$77,069
Utilities \$45,644

Baillys Conference at Gowrie hosted a morning tea with Sally Fitzgerald as guest speaker providing an insight into the pain experienced by the Stolen Generation. She spoke about some of the Aboriginal culture and also of her Catholic ministry with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council. The conference also collected and made up a number of comfort packs for Night Patrol and Street to Home, including hand-made beanies, scarves and rugs. They continue to prayerfully support conferences, staff and other volunteers.

Conferences in our region help many companions with social calls to keep in touch, to provide a friendly listening ear and support. Many of the companions we assist we don't see more than a few times - they just need a helping 'hand up' at a difficult time. Others we see more frequently. We journey with them as they cope day-to-day with a series of often complex issues. Other companions we visit just to say hello and keep them company. These social visits are a very important part of our work - they only cost our time but the returns can be invaluable. Loneliness is a serious social issue. People living alone on limited means and battling addictions, mental illness and other alienating issues need a friendly ear. During the year we regularly see a number of companions, sometimes we take Eucharist, sometimes a bunch of flowers or a plant, sometimes something baked - a sign of friendship. We chat, we listen and we share that special time with them.



 **134**
Members

 **5453**
Instances of assistance

 **\$411,225**
\$\$ assistance provided

 **8909**
Total number of people assisted
(this includes 3757 children)

 **701**
Christmas hampers

 **Top areas of spend**
Food \$144,520
Utilities \$101,631

MOLONGLO

The Molonglo region consists of the following conferences: Caritas Christi, Holder, Manuka, Narrabundah, North Woden, Queanbeyan, South Woden, St Teresa of Jesus, St Nick's*, St Joe's*, Waramanga and Yarralumla.

Ray Akhurst, Molonglo Regional President

The Molonglo region encompasses 12 conferences, of which eight are parish-based; two are youth conferences, and the Caritas Christi and St Teresa of Jesus are special purpose conferences.

The parish-based conferences provided 5252 instances of support, assisting 8553 people and distributing \$383,815 in aid. Most assistance was in the form of food and clothing, but there has been a noticeable increase in calls for assistance with power bills and for whitegoods, especially for those who have been relocated from government housing in Red Hill, Griffith and Civic. From the 2016-17 year to the 2017-18 year, the conferences have experienced a 6% increase in the number of calls, and a 10% increase in amount of aid provided.

There have been some significant shifts in activity levels in some conferences, at least in part as the result of mass relocation of ACT Housing tenants. The two Weston Creek conferences have received a 28% increase in calls over the two years while the Manuka Conference has experienced a 33% decline.

The Caritas Christi Conference works with refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants. Its ten members operate across the ACT and Queanbeyan. During 2017-18 the conference provided 202 instances of assistance, distributed \$27,410 in aid, and assisted 356 people. This past year has seen a significant increase in companions' needs compared with the previous year, with a 20% increase in calls and a 61% increase in the amount of aid provided. Since the beginning of 2018 new restrictions on access to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program that supports vulnerable migrants waiting for the government's decision on a visa application, including people seeking asylum, have left many people without any form of financial support. Additional restrictions imposed

from June mean that the problem will increase over the coming financial year.

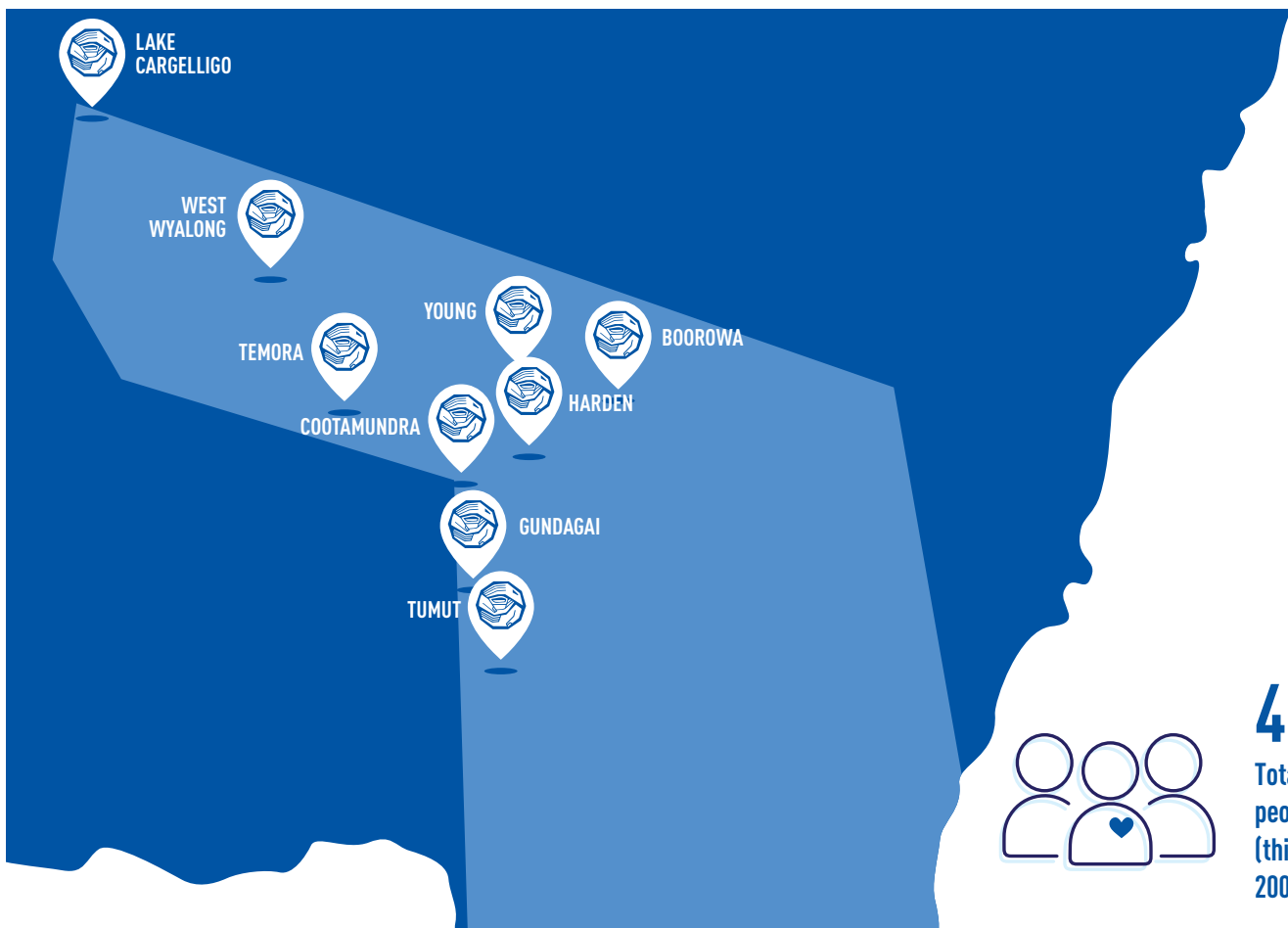
The St Teresa of Jesus Conference provides spiritual and corporal (e.g. clothing) support to current and former inmates at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, and their families, to assist them in resettling back into the community after release. The conference also organises Sunday services at Blue Door (Ainslie Village) and meets with individual companions who request such contact (e.g. hospital visits).

Our conferences delivered 701 Christmas hampers, a 21% increase over the previous Christmas. The hampers and toys were funded and provided by parishes, Catholic schools, government departments, local radio stations and the Society itself. As usual, the assembly and distribution of the Christmas hampers and toys was a high-energy activity for the conference members.

The Sports & Cultural Program recognises the social value of participation in group activities, such as sports and dance classes, as well as learning musical skills. Over the past year, it has been used to provide registration fees and sports equipment for children from disadvantaged homes.

The South Woden Conference has arranged for guitar lessons by one of the teachers at Canberra Grammar School. The Society provides the guitars, which become the property of the students once they have completed a year of lessons. There is currently one student, with opportunities for at least another three.

Several conferences have undertaken recruitment programs, utilising the Recruitment Ready process. South Woden and North Woden have used different strategies but in each case were successful in attracting new members to their conferences. Other conferences in the region are working towards recruitment in the coming year.



4745
 Total number of people assisted (this includes 2005 children)

84
 Members

3287
 Instances of assistance

\$284,232
 \$\$ assistance provided

WESTERN

The Western region consists of the following conferences: Boorowa, Cootamundra, Gundagai, Harden, Lake Cargelligo, Temora, Tumut, West Wyalong and Young.

Mary Donnelly, Western Regional President

The Western region continues to support people in need in our local community, providing over \$280,000 in assistance, and 241 Christmas hampers. The cost of utilities is continuing to be a common difficulty faced by people in the region.

The drought is a cause for concern for many people in our region, especially further west near West Wyalong and Lake Cargelligo. Our dedicated members continue to do their best for those affected by natural disaster.

241
 Christmas hampers

Top areas of spend
 Food \$92,201,
 utilities \$135,661

Some conferences benefitted from refurbished centres last year, and others should see their facilities renewed soon. The importance of providing welcoming, safe spaces for our community cannot be overstated.

With the cost of living rising, we continue to reach out to those who need a 'hand up'. We are grateful for the support we receive from government funding, donations, and the Conference Support team.

CASE STUDY

CONFERENCE WORK

Kambah Conference

Whilst much of the work through the year at Kambah Conference has been what some might term routine, there are some activities and companion relationships that stand out as extraordinary.

Kambah Conference became aware of a refugee family in their conference area and conducted an initial visit to determine the needs of the family. They came from Sudan via Malaysian and Indonesian refugee camps where the conditions were described as “very bad”. They spent some time in Malaysia before the husband went to Indonesia alone. The wife and two children followed some time later in a small boat with other refugees.

Eventually the family arrived in Canberra with the assistance of the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services and some involvement with the Red Cross Humanitarian Family Settlement Scheme. The support from those organisations expired after tenancy for a unit in Kambah was secured. That tenancy is now subject to renewal, but the rent has been increased to a level the family cannot sustain. The father has a job as an apprentice but does not earn enough to keep the family expenses under control. There are some Centrelink benefits received, but again, not enough to maintain a decent standard of living. The family has three children now and the mother is expecting her fourth.

Kambah Conference is providing assistance to complete a housing application for ACT Housing; assisting with home furnishings and the educational materials needed to help the father continue his work and study as an apprentice mechanic. They are also providing moral support for the mother with regular visits.



Evatt Conference

Evatt Conference has been providing support to a single man in his mid-twenties for some years. He has had a difficult life, as have so many of the vulnerable persons we assist.

He receives Newstart benefits and lives in a unit in public housing.

He was a ward of the state up to the age of eighteen and has been looking after himself ever since. He suffers from mental illness and has minimal contact with and no support from family members, most of whom are also living in difficult circumstances. He has been exploited by some friends over the years who have incurred debts in his name. He has applied for numerous jobs but for the most part has been unsuccessful. He was accepted into the ‘Green Army’ program but due to his mental illness was not able to continue. However, despite withdrawing from the program, payments continued for a period and he incurred a substantial debt. During periods of severe mental health episodes, he didn’t keep up with utilities payments and that added to his debt.

During 2017 he sought emergency food assistance more regularly and was starting to ‘build Vinnies into his budget management’. As a result, and with his agreement, we referred him to Care Inc. for financial planning assistance. Since then he has taken more responsibility for managing his budget. He also undertook some short courses to make him more job ready and also did some voluntary work to, in his words, “improve the look of my CV”.

Pleasingly in late 2017 he was advised he was successful for one of his job applications. In spite of some delay in the commencement of the job, he has recently been working full-time in garden maintenance. In some follow up contact, he told us he is so happy to be working. He said it has improved his self-esteem and made him feel really good about himself. In addition, he has reduced his outstanding debts by over fifty percent. He said he is much more confident about the future.

SPECIAL WORKS

Chris Shortis, Director of Special Works

Special Works has had a very busy and productive 2017-18 financial year.

We have been successful in winning two grants, Hands Across Canberra for the VINES program, and the Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grant for Oaks Estate which will start next financial year.

Administratively, the focus has been on preparing for accreditation. Scoping

relevant standards appropriate to the Special Works programs and the Society has resulted in preparing for two accreditations; one in Community and Health Standards and another in National Mental Health Standards.

Being accredited in both standards not only puts the Society in a good position for future tenders and other funding opportunities, but ensures the Society has the compliance to support its reputation as one of the leading services in homelessness. More importantly, accreditation provides confidence to all stakeholders that the services we are delivering are continuously being improved.



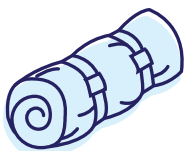
SPECIAL WORKS AT A GLANCE:



80 students enrolled in Clemente

150 participants assisted at Samaritan House

NDIS Mental Health Services have 34 participants with 16 participants on the waiting list.



72 Street to Home case managed rough sleepers and assisted approximately 180 participants with outreach services



The combined total of adults and children assisted by Family and Youth Homelessness Services was 652

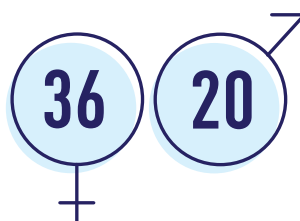
22 children have been enrolled in the VINES program



Long term secured housing was obtained for



56 Compeer participants



The Actsmart Home Energy Efficiency Program contract was due to finalise on 30 September 2018, however the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) has extended the contract to finish on 30 June 2019.



51,000

Breakfasts and lunches served by Blue Door

240 participants supported by Blue Door



CASE STUDY

RETURNING TO EDUCATION AFTER LIFE

FORCED HER IN ANOTHER DIRECTION

After a series of car accidents, Assunta was no longer physically able to work. "I live with pain every day," she said.

Assunta became isolated and her mental health suffered. "Being a career girl, and then no longer being at that level, the depression built up," she said.

Wanting to re-engage with her community, and with education, Assunta entered the Clemente program. She originally completed the winter program, and really enjoyed it.

The Clemente program is a free university education program, run in partnership with Australian Catholic University, that supports marginalised and disadvantaged adults to reconnect with education to support personal growth, potential job opportunities and further study. It is designed to support learning by building self-esteem, communication skills and social skills. There are currently 40 people enrolled. Students are supported by teaching staff and volunteer mentors to develop a range of soft skills for success in the program and outside.

For Assunta it has been a great opportunity to leave the house, and meet other people, though, after more than ten years since she was last in a classroom, she was originally a bit intimidated by the idea.

"I was scared. I think it scares people thinking 'oh it's uni' and I think that's why, before, I was really scared to come and do it. But now that I've started, I really love it,"

"The people here are just wonderful; they couldn't do enough for you to keep you coming, and the people in the class themselves are so nice,"

After completing the initial 'Pathways' program which helps students learn generic skills and relearn what it means to be a student, Assunta intends to complete Clemente's Certificate program which would allow her to graduate with a Certificate in Liberal Studies. She would also like to apply what she's learned in the classroom by offering her skills as a volunteer.

Money raised from shops and fundraising provided **\$107,439** to fund Clemente





V.I.N.E.S.

**VINNIES,
INSPIRING,
NETWORKING,
EDUCATION
AND
SUPPORT**



In October 2017, the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn and the Scouts Association of Australia (ACT) launched VINES. This new project in the Tuggeranong Valley supports young people at-risk to rediscover their better and stronger inner selves by providing a range of activities aimed at positive outcomes; these include building new life skills, networking, social and emotional development.

The program is currently in the pilot phase and will operate for 12 months. The VINES acronym stands for Vinnies, Inspiring, Networking, Education and Support. The program will assist young people to learn practical living skills in a safe and fun environment.

The program operates on weekends and once a week during the school holidays. The Society and the Rover Scouts organise a mix of social and adventurous activities to foster positive risk-taking behaviours, ultimately aimed at breaking the intergenerational welfare dependency cycle. The program has been supported by small grants aiding in the purchase of equipment and supporting the coordinated activities.

Twenty-two children between the ages of 8 and 16 have been enrolled in the VINES program over the last year. Some of the activities during the year have included visits to the Botanical Gardens Easter Egg Hunt, indoor rock climbing with PCYC, Canberra Show, geocaching at Mt Taylor, learning how to snorkel at the Tuggeranong pool, and a visit to the National Gallery of Australia where the children immersed themselves in the gallery's virtual reality collection, Terminus.



THREAD TOGETHER

The Society has recently launched the Thread Together Clothing Hub @ Vinnies, an exciting new joint venture between the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn and Thread Together. Thread Together is a not-for-profit organisation that has arrangements with clothing manufacturers and fashion retailers to receive new and excess clothing for distribution via its charity partners to vulnerable people who are doing it tough.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is the leading charity supporting people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in the Canberra/Goulburn region by providing brand new clothes that contribute real value and dignity to the community and people in need.

The Thread Together Clothing Hub @ Vinnies, operating from the Vinnies shopfront in Phillip, supports people from a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances. The program ensures those in need receive a tailored service which reflects the current stage of their personal journey – from comfortable clothes for companions living in a crisis centre, through to clothes aimed at keeping children’s lives as normal as possible, and providing clothes suitable for re-entering the workforce to regain independence, shape confidence and restore self-esteem.

To date a number of asylum seekers and vulnerable companions have been assisted to stay warm during the cold Canberra winter. Within the first week of opening the Thread Together Clothing Hub @ Vinnies, a companion going for job interviews was assisted with professional attire that gave them the confidence to secure full-time employment with a transport company in Canberra.

The venue that serves as the clothing hub is also a place



Money raised from shops and fundraising provided **\$5,410** to fund Thread Together

to take a break, where members of the local community can volunteer their time for the good of their community, build friendships and enjoy companionship.

Initially, the service will operate on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm and will be available by appointment and referral only. Other community organisations have been invited to become referring partners, as we endeavour to make this service available to as many people as possible in need in our community.



Left to right: Andie Halas, Founder of Thread Together, Josh Frydenberg, Minister for the Environment and Energy, and Bernie van Wyk, CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn at the opening of the Thread Together Clothing Hub @ Vinnies.



MIGRANT AND REFUGEE

YOUTH PROGRAM

During the process of settlement, migrant and refugee children are faced with unique challenges, especially in terms of negotiating their sense of identity and belonging.

Providing them with opportunities to gain positive social interactions and experiences can help them negotiate the challenges they encounter as they integrate into a new community.

These children often lack confidence in their English literacy skills, so there is a need to support schools in the children's learning and development. Schools often lack the resources to provide one-to-one support, which is necessary to increase the children's skills and self-esteem.

In June the Society launched a new migrant and refugee program for primary school aged children. North Ainslie and Florey primary schools in the ACT both now offer weekly sessions of one to two hours. Eighteen

volunteers were trained to staff the program, providing a positive learning environment that encourages the children to become interested in learning. The program is currently in the trial phase and being monitored from an administrative and planning perspective. Once the initial outcomes have been evaluated, it will likely move to a conference model.

In North Ainslie, the migrant and refugee program offers a reading program, providing support to children in the Introductory English Centres during literacy classes, held in the morning for two hours. The facilitation of cultural activities promote positive social interactions by recognising and celebrating the children's diverse backgrounds. School teachers are the main facilitators of these classes, and volunteers assist with reading and activities.

At Florey, the Vinnies Lunchtime Club conducts interactive activities for 50 minutes during school lunch times, with the aim of improving self-esteem, and

social and emotional skills. The sessions cultivate empowerment and belonging as children explore and discover their broader community in a safe and welcoming environment with their peers and mentors.





NIGHT PATROL

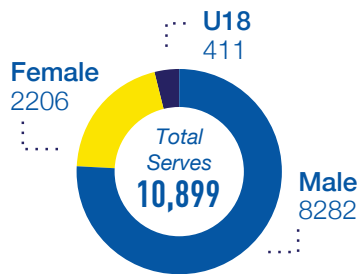
With the launch of the second Night Patrol van in October 2017 during Anti-Poverty week, the service has been able to expand services and now operates seven nights a week, increasing support to greater regions of Canberra and Queanbeyan.

Over the past year Night Patrol has provided;

City Van:



instances of material aid



A total of 15 nights were missed during this reporting period due to unforeseen circumstances such as volunteer cancellations or volunteer illness.

The Night Patrol service attended and supported many meaningful events this year to increase awareness about homelessness across the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese, and to promote social justice.

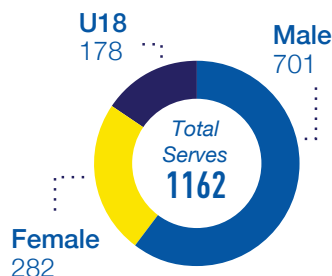
These included:

- The media launch for the CEO Sleepout
- The first ACT Reconciliation Day public holiday event
- Mini Vinnies Social Justice days with the Youth team
- Information sessions at local schools in collaboration with the Youth team.

Southern Van:



instances of material aid



During the 2017-18 year the vans visited these locations:

- Woden
- Queanbeyan
- Tuggeranong
- Dickson
- Canberra Centre
- Civic



Money raised from shops and fundraising provided **\$119,784** to fund Night Patrol



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Erin MacArthur, Director of Volunteer Programs

2017-18 saw the introduction of a newly appointed Directorate to the Society, including the Director of Volunteer Programs, the Volunteer Engagement Officer and the Night Patrol Coordinator. This Directorate encompasses Thread Together and Night Patrol and has an emphasis on increased volunteer engagement, training, development, appreciation, retention and support.

Volunteering is a crucial element to the vitality and vibrancy of our organisation. Throughout the Canberra/Goulburn region, the St Vincent de Paul Society supports approximately 1500 dedicated and passionate volunteers; aged from approximately 17 to 85 and up. The Society could not do the work we do without our volunteers, and definitely not on such a large scale.

Our volunteers freely give their skills and attributes to contribute to the success of these services, including homelessness outreach teams, mental health crisis/transitional accommodations, tertiary education programs, companion programs, youth services, emergency relief and our numerous shop fronts. Our volunteers play a meaningful role in the lives of those we serve.

This year alone our volunteers have contributed to the following:

- 12,061 serves were provided by over 400 volunteers on the Night Patrol vans, countless friendly conversations and most importantly a meaningful connection to people experiencing homelessness, recognising them as valued members of our community.
- Our Youth team attended 12 camps and 18 weekend activities, with 305 young people accessing respite and recreation through these programs. The Youth team, including approximately 150 volunteers, works tirelessly to ensure these young people are safe and supported, but most importantly allowing them time to be kids and have fun.
- 20 volunteers have supported the VINES program in partnership with Scouts ACT to engage 22 young people in over 20 afternoon, weekend and school holiday activities.
- 26 people have connected to 24 volunteers through the Compeer program, making fruitful and positive friendships. These friendships not only break down the stigma around what it means to experience mental illness, but also minimise isolation in one's journey to recovery.
- The volunteers at Blue Door have served over 51,000 meals this year. With over 3.7 million Australians experiencing food insecurity, the team at Blue Door know first-hand the difference a hot and nutritious meal can make.
- 80 students are enrolled in our Clemente program and are supported by approximately 20 volunteer learning mentors.
- Volunteers have contributed 272,998 hours to the operations of our 27 centres.

VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT



NATALIE

WRIGHT

Natalie Wright was awarded ACT Volunteer of the Year at the 2018 Volunteering Awards run by Volunteering and Contact ACT.

Natalie was recognised for her outstanding coordination of both St Vincent de Paul's Mini Vinnies and Team Leader of two Night Patrol teams.

Natalie was described as a prominent leader in the Canberra community and an influential role model for hundreds of Canberra school students through her volunteer work with the St Vincent de Paul Society. She coordinated the largest Mini Vinnies group in Australia, a social justice group for primary school children which grew to a group of 120 students.

We are extremely grateful for Natalie's ongoing contributions to the work of the Society and for her positive influence on the next generation of Vincentians.



NATILLEAN

SEERS

Natliean Seers, who passed away in February 2018, was nominated for the NSW Volunteering Awards in recognition of her outstanding volunteer contributions across the Bega region.

Nat gave 40 years of service to Vinnies Bega, where she would often volunteer her time five days a week. At the age of 92 she gave endless hours to the Vinnies Centre in Bega. Nat worked both in the centre and as a conference member over her 45 years of service to the community. Her voluntary work is a testament to her kindness and dedication to helping those in need.

Nat touched many lives in our community and afield. She had such a strong faith and was dedicated, hardworking, compassionate, proud and very independent. Nat always put others first without asking for anything in return.



Money raised from shops and fundraising provided **\$313,130** to fund Youth & Young Adults programs



SCHOOLS

ENGAGEMENT

Sarah Clifton, Director of Youth and Young Adults

In August 2017 our Youth and Young Adults team grew to four employees, with two new youth liaison officers starting with the Society.

For the first time we had an employee working in each area of primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions. Naturally this resulted in a dramatic increase in our schools engagement over the 2017-18 year.

Primary Schools Engagement Summary

There are over 25 Mini Vinnies groups, ranging in size from 10-45 students in years 3-6, meeting at schools on weekly or fortnightly bases. Our Mini Vinnies are doing some great things in their local communities, with initiatives such as breakfast clubs to give disadvantaged students something to eat in the morning before school, growing vegetables for the local conference to give to our companions, leading Society appeals in their schools and visiting our local centres to learn how the Society operates.

We've had some very exciting events take place, including the Vincentian Servant Leadership training held at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, where the senior students learned how to be compassionate and caring leaders of the school. Our Year of Youth series of Social Justice Days has been a great success, with six regional schools from Goulburn down to Pambula Beach attending, reaching over 200 students, and continuing until the end of the year. We also had six Dressed by Vinnies style events, seven School Sleepouts and 11 Night Patrol van visits among a host of other workshops and school visits.

Secondary Schools Engagement Summary

Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn is fortunate enough to have regular support from around 20 secondary schools throughout the archdiocese. These schools play a vital role in providing material and financial support to conferences and Special Works, and in providing volunteers to staff our retail centres and youth programs.

One of the highlights of the year was the formation of the High School Conference at Sacred Heart, Cootamundra, which was launched on the same day as the Mini Vinnies group. We now have seven active high school conferences/Social Justice Groups around the archdiocese, however, all of the Catholic secondary schools are engaged with the Society at some level.

In the past year a number of schools ran various fundraisers to support Special Works and our youth programs, most notably Daramalan College which raised more than \$13,000 for the St Nick's Young Carers Program. The Community Meals Initiative, which was launched at Marist Catholic College in May 2017, provided meals to 90 families visited by Kambah Conference. Many schools also supported the Winter Appeal, including Merici College which donated over 2000 cans of food for local conferences. Schools also collected material aid for the Night Patrol vans during the Winter Appeal months. Total donations received exceeded well over 1500 individual items including socks, scarves, beanies, gloves, jackets and blankets.

It is encouraging to see students and staff also get involved with volunteering. In 2018, more than 250 students and staff from seven secondary schools

volunteered for the Doorknock Appeal, raising over \$9,000. Ten schools hosted School Sleepouts where Vinnies staff and volunteers were invited to talk about the good works of the Society. A particular highlight was the St John Paul II College Sleepout which saw 150 students attend and participate in a live cross to the CEO Sleepout which was held on the same night. Several hundred high school students have volunteered their time at the Vinnies centres and over 20 students have been trained to help run our Youth camps.

Tertiary Engagement Summary

The year was focused on building networks and collaborations with key stakeholders to explore innovative ideas to engage with tertiary students. We have been involved in market days, workshops and class presentations at tertiary institutions to increase awareness on social justice issues and engage students in volunteering opportunities.

At Australian Catholic University, we worked with Campus Ministry and Community Engagement to organise four food, hygiene pack and clothing collections. We also engaged 10-15 culturally and linguistically diverse students from Canberra Institute of Technology to volunteer at Vinnies Centres. This enabled them to increase their English skills and connect with the local community, while doing good works.

The Australian National University (ANU) Conference expanded campus-wide and worked closely with the university's volunteer program and John XXIII College to recruit 45-50 active members in home visitations, Night Patrol and advocacy initiatives. Special highlights include the Doorknock Appeal where 40 volunteers raised \$2,852 together with Vinnies employees, and the ANU Pop-Up Op Shop when the team made over \$1000 in just 3 hours.

In June the migrant and refugee youth program was launched. The program caters to students from kindy up to year 6 and currently has 25 regular volunteers.

As we continue to engage with tertiary students, our aim is to strengthen our membership sustainability by developing active and passionate members and leaders of the organisation.



VINNIES CENTRES

2017-2018

Lindsay Rae, Director of Centres

The focus for this financial year was to undertake the first stage of a four year program of upgrading the centres.

The reasons for this being: to safeguard the future income stream from centres for the work of the Society; to improve the working conditions in the centres for the members, volunteers and employees; to enhance the shopping experience for both those that we assist, and our customers from who we generate the funds; and to make all the stakeholders proud to be associated with the Society.

Upgrades were carried out at 17 of our centres. Ten centres had their heating and cooling systems upgraded, eight centres had major refurbishments, and two had the first stage of their refurbishments carried out. During the year the opportunity arose in two of our targeted areas to introduce new centres. Beautiful new centres were opened in Kippax and Weston Creek. Goulburn Centre was also relocated back to the Auburn Street premises which were rebuilt following last year's fire.

Sales in our centres rose by 9.8% and surplus by 8.9% for the year. Centres volunteer numbers also increased by 5.5%. Clothing donations continued to increase, but the quality continued to decrease. This increases the workload as more donations have to be sorted to produce the same amount of stock.

Notable events for the year included the Batemans Bay Vinnies Fashion Show in September organised by the Centre Manager, Glenda Bishop. This was a very professional event organised and choreographed by Glenda. Dozens of invited individuals and local organisations took part in an event that Vinnies can be very proud of.

Archbishop Prowse conducted the Blessings of both the new centres at lovely functions that were attended by a number of Territory Council members and local politicians.

The first Centres Congress was held at the Deakin office and centre managers travelled in from all over our region to attend. It was a major success creating multiple learning opportunities for all the centre managers to be brought up to the same level on a wide range of issues. A strong focus of this Congress

was the mission and values of the Society.

The centre managers participated in discussions and were introduced to a far more holistic view of the Society and its works over the two and a half days. Immediate impact could be seen in the centres following the Congress. In a number of cases, managers began to see their centre as part of the works of the Society and not a means unto itself.

There was also a much better understanding of the work done by conferences and their impact on the lives of our companions and their families.

Pictured above, left to right: Yvette Berry, ACT Housing Minister, Barnie van Wyk, CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, Helen Curtin, Centres Area Manager, Warwick Fulton, President of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, Archbishop Prowse, and Elizabeth Kikkert, Shadow Minister for Families, Youth & Community Services at the opening of the Kippax Centre.



GOVERNANCE

Patrick McKenna, Director of Compliance and Governance

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Canberra/Goulburn operates under The Rule approved by the International Council General of the Society in Paris and the National Council in Australia.

The core of the Society is the conference, which is a local group of Vincentian volunteers who seek to live out their faith by helping those in need in our community. There are 51 conferences. Many conferences are parish-based but special conferences are formed to address particular needs, including youth and young adults, and spirituality.

Each conference elects a president and the conference presidents together form a regional council in their area, who in turn elect one person to be the regional president. There are six regional councils in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese. A vice president for conferences, recruitment and training provides high level support for conference work.

Three of our conferences are youth and young adult conferences. Two of these focus on youth holiday camps, supporting young people. The third is populated by students at the Australian National University.

These conferences are supported by a vice president for youth and young adults.

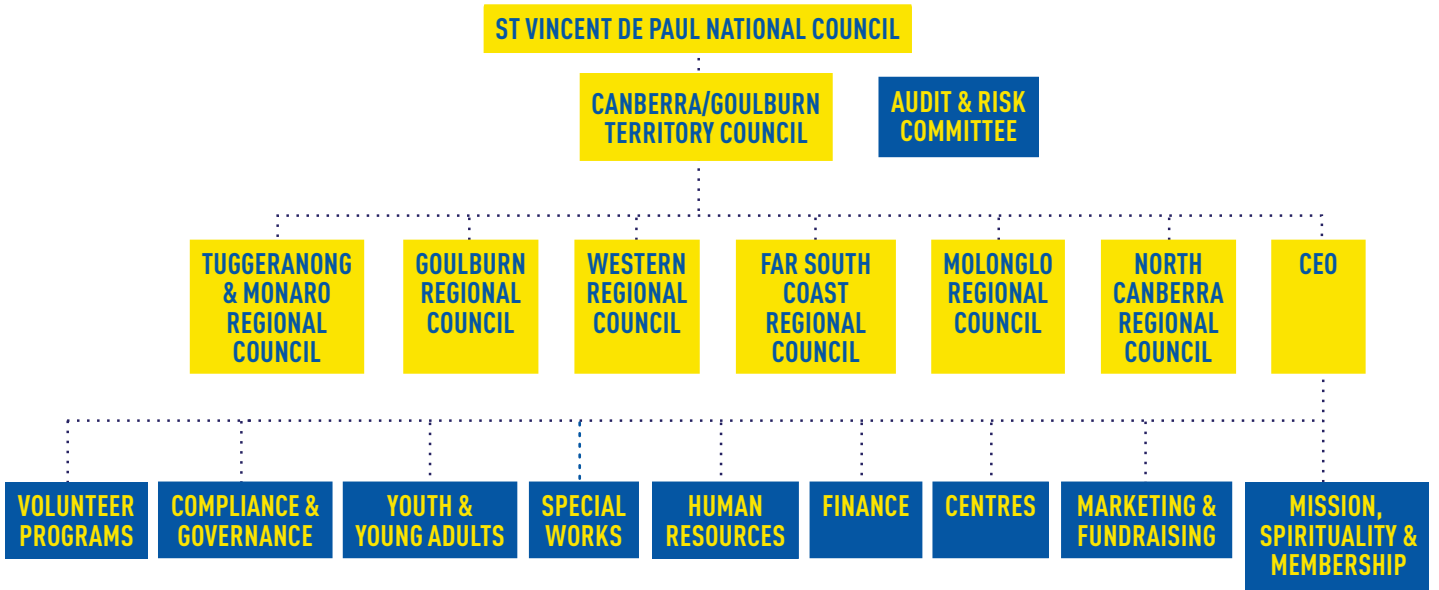
The governing body for the Society in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese is the Territory Council. The council is comprised of the six regional presidents elected as above, and the president, vice president and treasurer. The council is advised by the spiritual advisor, legal counsel, twinning coordinator, social justice and advocacy advisor, and a CEO. The president of the Council is elected by the Council members. The Council meets five times per year. There are a number of sub-committees formed by members of the Council and external experts who meet regularly and provide guidance to the Council on matters such as audit, risk and investment.

The CEO manages all employees and business operations for the Society, and reports to the Territory Council. The CEO is responsible for providing input to, and implementing, the Territory Council's Strategic Plan. The CEO employs a Director of Compliance and Governance, who is charged with implementing, maintaining and updating the organisation's compliance and governance framework.

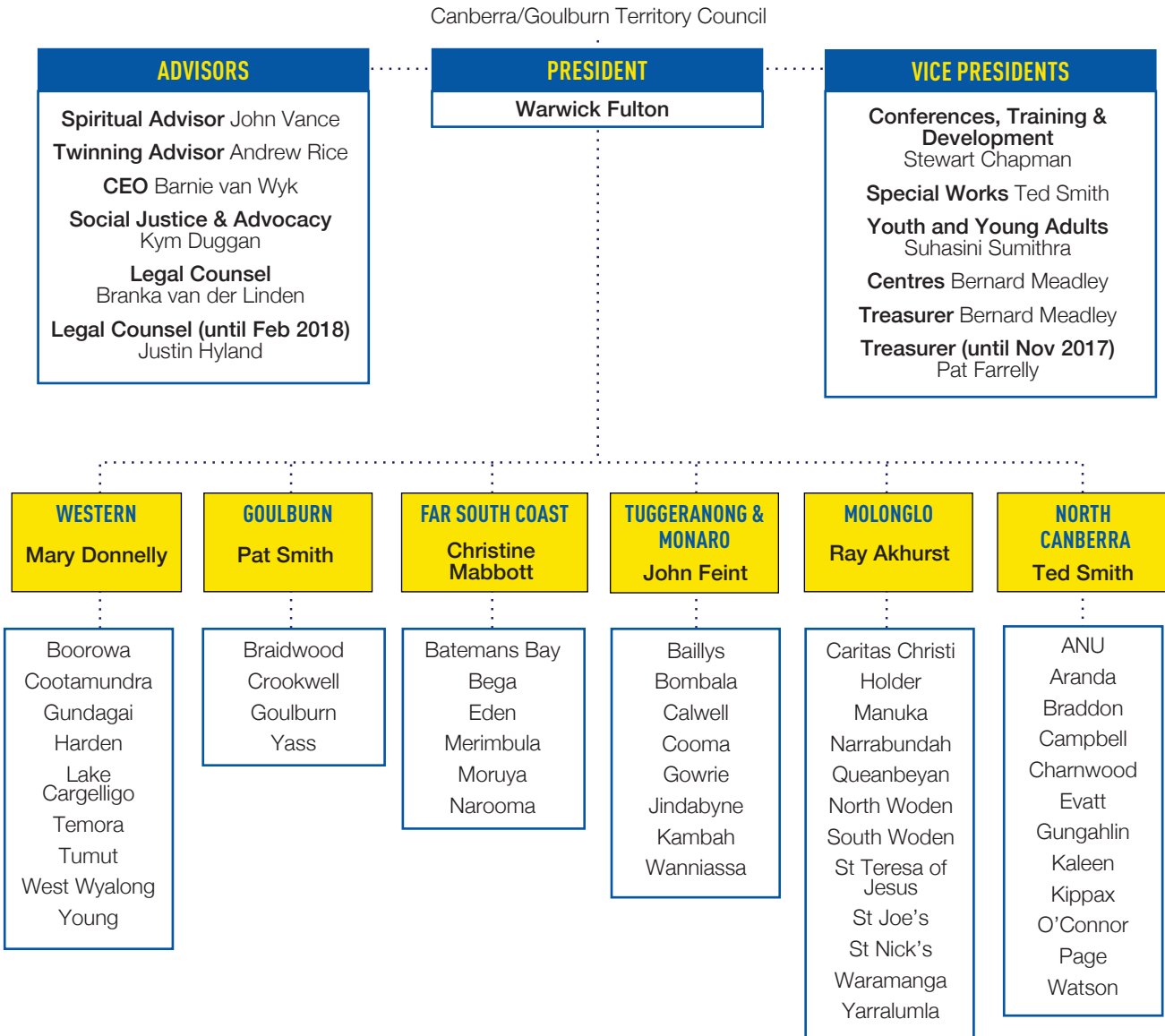
Under The Rule, the Society can undertake special works, the largest being our 27 Vinnies centres. The centres are managed by a Director of Centres who oversees area managers and centre managers. Other special works focus on services that require professional staff and full-time support and cannot be easily managed under the conference model. There are 12 other special works programs which are managed by the Director of Special Works and Director of Volunteer Programs, and supported by a vice president.

The Society is incorporated as an association under ACT Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and holds a subsidiary company limited by shares under the Corporations Act 2001. The Territory Council has identified that a single Company Limited by Guarantee would be the most appropriate legal entity for the Society and will pursue the steps to achieve this legal structure.

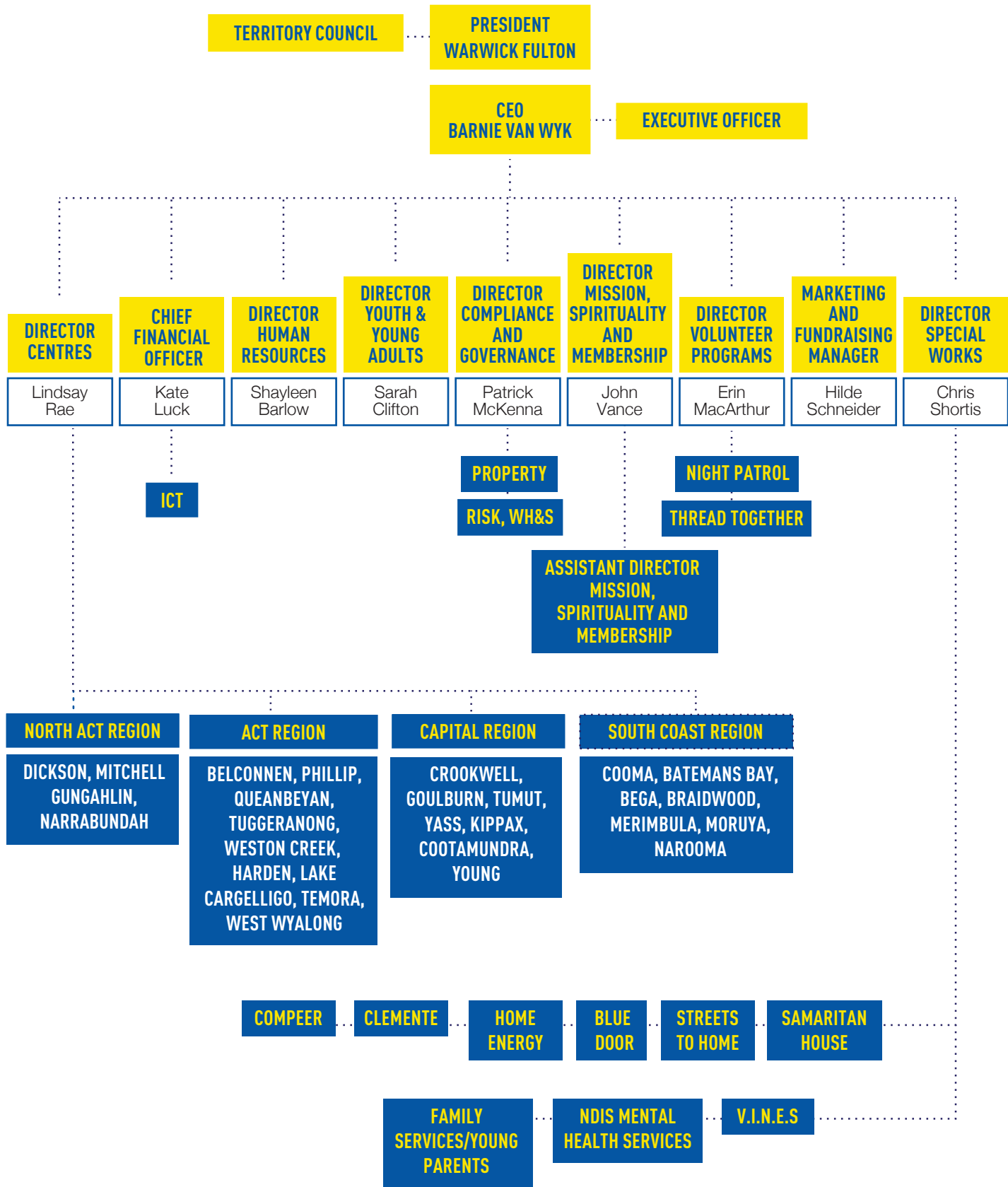
OVERALL GOVERNANCE



CONFERENCE ORGANISATIONAL CHART



EMPLOYEE STRUCTURE



CANBERRA/GOULBURN

TERRITORY COUNCIL

Council Members

PRESIDENT

Warwick Fulton

VICE PRESIDENTS

Stewart Chapman
(Conferences, Training and Development)

Ted Smith
(Special Works)

Suhasini Sumithra
(Youth and Young Adults)

Pat Farrelly
until November 2017
Bernard Meadley
from November 2017
(Treasurer)

Bernard Meadley
(Centres)

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

Christine Mabbott
(Far South Coast)

Pat Smith
from September 2017
(Goulburn)

Ray Akhurst
(Molonglo)

Ted Smith
(North Canberra)

John Feint
(Tuggeranong & Monaro)

Mary Donnelly
(Western)

ADVISORS

John Vance
(Spiritual Advisor)

Andrew Rice
(Twinning Advisor)

Barnie van Wyk
(CEO)

Justin Hyland
until February 2018
Branka van der Linden
from February 2018
(Legal Counsel)

Kym Duggan
(Social Justice & Advocacy)



Pat Smith



Mary Donnelly



Andrew Rice



Justin Hyland



Kym Duggan



Left to right: John Vance, Pat Farrelly, Stewart Chapman, John Feint, Bernard Meadley, Warwick Fulton, Suhasini Sumithra, Barnie van Wyk, Linda Barry, Ray Akhurst, Jane Rosewarne, Ted Smith and Christine Mabbott



CASE STUDY

CEO SLEEPOUT

This year marked the 9th Vinnies CEO Sleepout for Canberra, seeing 140 local business and community leaders participate in the event on 21 June and more than 4680 supporters donate over \$629,700 – a record breaking result for Canberra.

The event was held at National Museum of Australia (NMA), which is where Canberra's first CEO Sleepout was held in 2010 and again in 2011.

During their cup of soup and bread roll dinner, CEOs took part in a workshop led by PwC Canberra to identify practical ways in which they could assist in breaking the cycle of poverty beyond their participation. Vinnies program coordinators including Clemente, Compeer and St Nick's Young Carers Program, were involved to offer their expertise and guidance.

This year's official Master of Ceremonies was Jolene Laverty, broadcaster with ABC Canberra, who did an incredible job. Jolene introduced formalities which started with a Welcome to Country by Selina Walker, the granddaughter of Aunty Agnes. This was followed by a live cross to John Paul II College where students were participating in their own School Sleepout. Catherine Rey, JPC Principal and long-time CEO Sleepout

participant, spoke to the students about their sleepout efforts with the students then asking questions of some of our CEOs.

The video presentation from sponsor Southern Cross Austereo showcased a number of Vinnies programs that benefit from CEO Sleepout funds – St Nick's Young Carers Program, Clemente and the Night Patrol vans.

As is frequently the case, participants were most engaged with the panel discussion. This year's guest speakers were 2018 ACT Volunteer of the Year, Natalie Wright (longstanding Night Patrol volunteer) and 2018 ACT Young Australian of the Year, Zack Bryers. Zack shared his story of having experienced homelessness in his youth which really struck a chord with CEOs. MC Jolene had recently accompanied Natalie on Night Patrol and the two were able to relate stories of the people they met in the community.

Barnie van Wyk announced the top fundraisers with the top individual fundraiser awarded to Nick McDonald Crowley from Capital Estate Developments, who raised \$38,393. Nick shared his motivation for participating – and displayed his Pink Panther onesie which had earned him a

\$5,000 donation. The top fundraising team honours went to team Canberra Toyota, who are always such strong supporters of Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn.

After formalities concluded, a group photo was taken and CEOs then bedded down in the Garden of Australian Dreams – a symbolic landscape depicting a map of central Australia with the word 'home' repeated on the surface in 100 different languages - reminding CEOs that everyone deserves a safe and secure place to call home.

At 5.00am, participants were woken by a kookaburra call and quickly went inside for a warm breakfast. In Warwick Fulton's absence, Regional President of the Tuggeranong/Monaro region, John Feint, concluded the event by thanking all for their contribution. The feedback from all CEOs was very positive with many saying they would be back for Canberra's 10th anniversary of the CEO Sleepout next year.

The success of the 2018 Vinnies CEO Sleepout would not have been possible without the amazing support and contribution from local sponsors including the National Museum of Australia, Broadbean Catering, Southern Cross Austereo, Steve Keough Photography, Mox Productions, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Jolene Laverty and the team at ABC Canberra for the exposure they gave to the issue of homelessness in Canberra throughout the month of June.



TOP 10 FUNDRAISERS

Nick McDonald Crowley
Capital Estate Developments **\$38,393**

Mirko Milic
Canberra Toyota **\$20,422**

Greg Hood
Australian Transport
Safety Bureau **\$20,264**

Neville Tomkins
Scouts Australia **\$19,240**

Barnie van Wyk
St Vincent de Paul Society
Canberra/Goulburn **\$17,854**

Todd Wills
EY Canberra **\$16,261**

Brendan Nelson
Australian War Memorial **\$14,381**

Suzanne Greenwood
Catholic Health Australia **\$13,468**

Frances Adamson
Department of Foreign
Affairs and Trade **\$13,459**

Paul Vane-Tempest
Ashurst Australia **\$12,968**



TOP 3 TEAMS

Canberra Toyota **\$48,795**

PwC Canberra **\$35,179**

EY Canberra **\$31,487**

MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

St Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) was a French Roman Catholic Priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. He was canonised in 1737.

It is under his patronage and inspiration that the St Vincent de Paul Society throughout the world operates in the Catholic Church for the needy and periphery people of God.

Although Christianity clearly does concern itself with doctrine and liturgy, a vital expression of our encounter with Jesus must also include our service to the needy and the oppressed.

I commend the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society here in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese. They offer a fantastic service to assist those who are the strugglers. Most regrettably, in our country of opulence, there are real deep dimensions of poverty that should concern us all.

The task seems to be enormous. However, we all can do something in a positive way to express our Faith. I suppose, ultimately, God is not looking at the great enterprises that we engage ourselves in, but the way we give ourselves to the little details of Christian charity with immense love.

There is a beautiful section of the recent Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE (Rejoice and Exult). It is on the call of Holiness in today's world.

In one of the sections, the Pope has this beautiful thing to say about "the little things" of our following of Jesus.

"Let us not forget that Jesus asked his Disciples to pay attention to details.

The little detail that wine was running out at a party.

The little detail that one sheep was missing.

The little detail of noticing the widow who offered her two small coins.

The little detail of having spare oil for the lamps, should the bridegroom delay.

The little detail of asking the disciples how many loaves of bread they had.

The little detail of having a fire burning and a fish cooking as he waited for the disciples at daybreak".

Paragraph 144

The St Vincent de Paul Society throughout the archdiocese attends to "the little details" pertaining to the necessities of people's lives. Although little details to us (e.g. basic food, bedding, hot soup, sandwiches, basic toiletries) seem incidental, they are essentials to those who do not have these necessities of life.

May we always attend to the little things of life in responding to the Gospel.



GENERAL PURPOSE (RDR)

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended 30 June 2018 - Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Revenue		
Government grants	3,991,469	4,436,467
Sale of goods	9,155,284	8,254,808
Client contributions	1,200,124	1,108,508
Fundraising income	2,017,200	1,892,600
Other revenue	250,668	370,951
Total revenue from operating activities	16,614,745	16,063,334
Other income	4,436	54,044
Operating expenses		
Centres of charity	5,547,140	5,023,021
Administration	3,152,895	2,453,087
Fundraising	481,030	490,784
	9,181,065	7,966,892
Total funds available for community services	7,438,116	8,150,486
Community services expenses		
People in need services	2,930,170	2,460,044
Homeless and mental health services	3,506,279	4,200,953
	6,436,449	6,660,997
Levies paid to the National Council - related party	189,429	121,000
Surplus for the year	812,238	1,368,489
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	812,238	1,368,489

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and short-term deposits	6,835,932	5,945,503
Trade and other receivables	341,778	252,404
Inventory	30,795	32,128
Investment in shares	3,617	-
Other assets	301,783	269,570
Total current assets	7,513,905	6,499,605
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	10,832,414	10,503,928
Total non-current assets	10,832,414	10,503,928
Total assets	18,346,319	17,003,533
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,192,450	791,106
Provisions and employee benefit liabilities	843,008	784,504
Total current liabilities	2,035,458	1,575,610
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions and employee benefit liabilities	251,308	180,608
Total non-current liabilities	251,308	180,608
Total liabilities	2,286,766	1,756,218
Net assets	16,059,553	15,247,315
Equity		
Accumulated funds	12,252,306	11,440,068
Reserves	3,807,247	3,807,247
Total funds	16,059,553	15,247,315



Warwick Fulton
President



Bernard Meadley
Treasurer

Officers' Declaration

The officers of the Territory Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn declare that the financial statements:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee: Dated this 12th day of September 2018.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET INVOLVED:

MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING

Become a member of a conference or volunteer your time to assist people in need in your community.

DONATE

The Society's major lifeline has been the generous financial assistance our loyal donors have given over the years. This support assists the many activities undertaken by the Society. Donations can be directed to a specific special work or general works. You can make a secure donation online at www.vinnies.org.au/donate or by calling 13 18 12.

Donations of quality second hand clothing, furniture and household goods can also be made at any Vinnies centre.

GIFTS IN WILLS

You can support those in need by making a bequest to the Society in your Will. Through remembering the Society in your Will, you will ensure your legacy lives on through the assistance your generosity provides.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Individuals or groups of employees can take part in this program by donating a small amount each fortnight. This pre-tax donation is deducted from employees' salaries by their payroll department, and then forwarded to the Society.

CORPORATE COLLABORATION

If you are a business looking to partner with a charity, you can contact our office to discuss ways in which your company can support one of Australia's largest and most respected charitable organisations.

Be a part of our online community at:

www.facebook.com/VinniesACT

www.twitter.com/VinniesACT

www.vinnies.org.au

To discuss opportunities to support the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, please call us on (02) 6282 2722 or email info@svdp-cg.org.au



Left to right: Santa Claus (John Vance), Jemma Rossetto, Warwick Fulton, Jenny Macklin MP, John Feint, Elisabeth Wale, Ted Smith, Bernard Meadley, Stewart Chapman, Ray Akhurst.

THANK YOU

The St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn is grateful for the support from the following:

Major sponsors

Canberra Toyota



Government and organisations



In-kind support

2CC/2CA

ACT Human Rights Commission

ACU Watson Campus

Assemblage Project

Australian Transport Safety Bureau

Avenue Hotel (Capital Hotel Group)

Calvary Community Care ACT

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce,
Calvary Bruce Private Hospital and
Clare Holland House

Canberra Metro Construction

Canberra Rex Hotel

Canberra Southern Cross Club

Cantlie Recruitment

Commonwealth Bank - Belconnen
branch

CSIRO

Deloitte

Department of Environment

Department of Immigration & Border
Protection; Visa and Citizenship
Capability and Support Branch

Department of Infrastructure,
Regional Development and Cities

F45 Training

Flip Out Hume

Gas Energy Australia

Human Resources Branch, Enabling
Services Group, Australian Bureau of
Statistics

Hyatt Hotel Canberra

Karpathian Progressive Association
of Australia

Kmotion Dance Studio

Knight Shift

Knights of Malta

Life Unlimited Church

Lyneham High

Marist College Canberra (Pearce)

Mills Oakley Lawyers

MOX Productions

National Portrait Gallery (social club)

Raiders Weston Club

South African High Commission

Southern Cross Health Club

Spare 10

St Benedict's Primary School
(Narrabundah)

St Matthew's Primary School (Page)

Steve Keough Photography

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The Embassy of the United Arab
Emirates

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United Nations Information Centre

Woodcraft Guild ACT

Zonta Club of Canberra



St Vincent de Paul Society
CANBERRA/GOULBURN *good works*

Privacy Statement: St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn respects the privacy and dignity of the people it assists, our members, volunteers and employees. For more information about the how the Society manages privacy information please refer to our Privacy Policy on our website: www.vinnies.org.au/page/Publications/ACT/Policies.

The annual report was produced by the Marketing and Fundraising Department of the St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn, September 2018.

St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn ABN: 16 7328 525 54