

Mini Vinnies

VINSIDER

TERM 3 2024

Somehow we have made it halfway through the school year already! We are so grateful for your engagement and support this year. We are very excited to support your work by offering additional resources and activities to continue this effort into Term Three.

We want to give a big thank you for your incredible donations in Term Two. The non-perishable food, cosy blankets, and funds are life-changers for our local community members, especially as the weather gets chilly. Thanks to you, we're all set to tackle the cold and make a real difference in the lives of our community members who need it most.

This term we are focussing on the topic of homelessness in Western Australia. As we enter into WA's colder months, we see the risks around being unhoused and the need for support increase. The included Homelessness Fact Sheet and other activities offer a chance for Primary School students to better understand fact vs fiction around homelessness and build empathy around the issue.

Term Three is also a great opportunity to organise and run a School Sleepout. This program has students stepping out of their everyday school routine and getting a glimpse into the life of someone experiencing homelessness. For Primary Schools, we recommend an evening activity rather than a full sleepover. Resources, activities, and support are all available through the Youth Engagement Team, and more details can be found below.

Wishing you all the best for a fantastic break and a great start to Term Three.

Zoe Hands, Youth Engagement Coordinator

Term Three Activities

Help your primary school students understand the issue of homelessness through engaging, hands-on activities.

This term, learn about homelessness in WA, build empathy for your unhoused neighbors, and learn how your support makes a difference.

- Homelessness Fact Sheet
- Needs vs Wants activity
- What We Need to Grow activity



School Sleepout 2024

Throughout term 3, schools across WA will be running their School Sleepout.

This unique program offers students the opportunity to learn about homelessness and rough sleeping through an immersive, hands-on event. The event is run at the school either in an overnight or evening program.

If your school plans or wants to run a School Sleepout, please register your application online www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/fundraise-for-vinnies-wa

By registering online, you will find all our School Sleepout resources, and be able to set up an online fundraising page.

Speakers are available based on schedule, so if you have a date in mind, please reach out to youth@sudpwa.org.au as soon as possible.



Winter Appeal 2024

This winter we are focusing on the issue of the working homeless.

This winter we are focusing on the issue of the working homeless. A drastic lack of affordable housing combined with soaring demand for rental properties means even those working cannot afford a roof over their heads. As a result, more and more Australians are being forced into homelessness – ‘the working homeless’.

Information about the working homeless, activities, case studies, and ways to support them can be found in our 2024 School Winter Appeal kit. Please find this on the resources section of our website www.vinnies.org.au/wa/get-involved/youth-and-schools-wa

Our most vulnerable community members are at increased risk as the weather cools. This winter, Vinnies WA is asking for food donations to refresh your local Conference’s pantry, blankets to keep our community warm, and funds to support families.

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

School Spotlight

Each Term we will highlight the work of a special school that supports Vinnies WA.

Would you like to share your school’s successes through the School Spotlight? Reach out to youth@sudpwa.org.au to register your interest.



Meet St Pius X Catholic Primary School - Manning

St Pius X has been involved with Vinnies for many years through their Mini Vinnies program, appeals, and drives.

They are connected with their local Conference, the Como Conference, and support by running food, clothing, and fundraising appeals.

Their Mini Vinnies program is growing stronger every week, with meetings held every Friday. An additional 20 students have even requested to join the program! Great job!

St Pius X also looks forward to starting a knitting circle this term! With help from the student's grandparents, they aim to knit scarves to donate to vulnerable people in the community. This will make a difference to those facing hardship over the colder winter months.

Thank you for your amazing work and support, St Pius X.

**Would you like to share your school's successes through the School Spotlight?
Reach out to youth@svdpwa.org.au to register your interest.**

Conference Connection

There are 75 St Vincent de Paul Society Conferences in Western Australia.

These Conferences are made up of volunteers, or Members, who live or work in a specific area. Each Conference works to support their communities through Emergency Relief and other programs that meet the needs of their neighbours.

Each Term we will feature a local Conference to share a little about who they are and what they do in their communities.



Meet the Perth Cathedral Conference

The Perth Cathedral Conference was formed in 2016 and offers support to community members in East Perth, Northbridge, Maylands and Perth.

Their 18 members enjoy being able to care for their community by providing emergency relief to those in need and being the only organisation to visit people in their homes.

Conference President Tom Everett shares that he is especially proud that the Conference is the most youthful Conference in WA. The Perth Cathedral Conference is especially grateful to Mercedes College and Trinity College for their ongoing support!

**Schools like yours support Conferences to do their work through your financial donations, food drives, and item collections.
If you would like to learn more about your local Conference, reach out to youth@svdpwa.org.au**

Join Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies program supports schools to offer education around social justice issues, empathy building activities, and leadership opportunities. This program is designed to flex to your school's individual needs, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have, and you can review our Mini Vinnies Starter Kit www.vinnies.org.au/media/gqtpmtff/mini-vinnies-starter-kit.pdf

If your school is ready to sign up to participate in Mini Vinnies, or if you would like to learn more about the program, now is a great time to register your interest for 2024. Simply fill out the survey www.surveymonkey.com/r/VinniesSchoolGroupReg and we will reach out with next steps.

Mini Vinnies Badges

We're thrilled to offer a streamlined process for requesting your Mini Vinnies badges.

Follow these simple steps:

- Complete a brief survey with your details - www.surveymonkey.com/r/VinniesBadgeRequest
- Share a brief overview of your involvement with Mini Vinnies.
- Sit back and look forward to receiving your Mini Vinnies badge that proudly reflects your students' commitment.

We can't wait to see your badges proudly displayed throughout the year.

Request a Speaker

Are you interested in having a Vinnies representative speak with your students?

Presentations for up to 40 students at a time can be an amazing way for your students to better understand the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the work we do to support people experiencing homelessness and poverty in WA.

We would love to connect with your students and show them the incredible impact they can have as young people.

Simply email youth@svdpwa.org.au to inquire about a speaking event.



vinnies.org.au/wa

9 Brewer Road Canning Vale WA 6155
PO Box 1450 Canning Vale DC WA 6970
P: 08 6323 7500
E: youth@svdpwa.org.au



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the Traditional Custodians of this land, with deep respect. May Elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, hope, faith, and reconciliation.