



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

*good works*

# Media Release

FRIDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2024

## **St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory Celebrates 75-Year Anniversary**

This Friday 27 September, the St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory (Vinnies NT) will celebrate 75 years of supporting vulnerable Territorians, commemorating a remarkable journey of compassion, service, and deep community impact since its foundation in 1949.

Throughout its 75 years, Vinnies NT has helped hundreds of thousands of individuals and families, providing essential support to those most in need. From emergency relief and housing to food, clothing, and financial assistance, Vinnies NT continues to be a beacon of hope for thousands across the Territory.

From humble beginnings with the first Conference founded at St Mary Star of the Sea in Darwin in 1949, Vinnies NT has grown to become one of the Territory's most trusted and longstanding support networks. Over the decades, the Society has expanded its services and reach, establishing Centres of Charity across the Northern Territory and creating housing solutions for individuals and families facing hardship.

The impact of Vinnies NT is woven into the fabric of the Northern Territory. In 1967, the first Centre of Charity opened in Stuart Park, followed by the opening of the first regional Centre in Alice Springs in 1968. From these early milestones, Vinnies NT grew to serve communities across the Territory, with Centres of Charity established in Tennant Creek (1975), Katherine (1983), and Palmerston (1987). These centres became pillars of support, offering essential items, assistance, and hope to countless individuals and families.

In 1974, Vinnies NT further cemented its role in the community by opening Ozanam House in Darwin, a day centre that has been a lifeline for many in need. Over the years, initiatives such as Ted Collins Village (established in 2011 for families) and Bakhita Centre housing (opened in 1984 and expanded in 2020 to support single women) have responded to the growing and evolving needs of the community.

Gerry McCormack, a long-serving Vinnies member for over 60 years, reflected on the deep connection the Society has with the people of the Territory.

"I started with Vinnies in Queensland when I was just a young man in my early twenties. I was a member of four different conferences before I moved to the Northern Territory. Despite a gap of nearly twenty years, I joined another conference when we settled in Darwin where I was truly moved by how even the smallest gesture of kindness had such a big impact on someone's life," Gerry said.

"Over the years, I've had the honour of serving on the NT Council, even taking on the role of President. I've seen people from all walks of life turn to Vinnies for help and it makes me proud to be part of an organisation that offers dignity and hope, asking for nothing in return."

"It's not just about what we do for people, but the bonds we create with the community. The Northern Territory has changed a lot over the years, but the warmth, compassion, and spirit of Vinnies have stayed as strong as ever."

St Vincent de Paul Society Northern Territory President Jocelyn Cull, reflected on the Society's long history of service and thanked the many Territorians who have given back to the community over the years.

"Seventy-five years of service is an extraordinary achievement, and it is a testament to the strength and resilience of the people of the Northern Territory," said Jocelyn.

"Every day, we see the incredible impact that the Society has in transforming lives and as we celebrate this milestone, we remain committed to addressing the challenges facing our communities and standing alongside those most in need."

"From our beginnings in 1949 to today, Vinnies NT has grown because of the dedication and passion of our members, volunteers, and supporters. Together, we have built something truly special, and our work will continue for the next 75 years and beyond."

As Vinnies NT looks ahead, the Society remains committed to growing its services to meet the changing needs of the Territory and building on its proud legacy of compassion and care.

The 75th-anniversary celebration will take place on Friday 27 September, with events planned across the Territory.

Vinnies encourages Territorians to [get involved](#) or [donate](#) to support emergency relief in the NT.



**St Vincent de Paul Society (NT) Inc. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.**

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