

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/26

St Vincent de Paul Society SA

good works

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The St Vincent de Paul Society has its own unique language conventions to describe some aspects of how we operate and how we assist people in South Australia.

Conference - This term refers to a local group that operates within a specific geographical area. Conferences are made up of volunteers (known as members) who, led by their Conference President, work together to carry out the mission of the St Vincent de Paul Society, often through visits and direct contact.

Companion - This is the name we use for the people assisted by the St Vincent de Paul Society. This term reflects our belief in companionship and walking alongside the person we are assisting. All of our staff, volunteers and members are committed to walking with companions on their journey.

Conference member - This term refers to individuals within a Conference who engage in activities such as assistance visits to determine needs, distribute material aid (such as food, clothing, or household items), offer financial assistance, and provide emotional support. Their goal is to address people's immediate needs and work towards longer-term solutions to alleviate poverty and disadvantage. Typically, members live their values in action through the spirit of Christian charity, although non-Catholics are also welcome to become members if they are passionate about helping those in need in their local community.

Vincentian - This is someone who follows the values and mission of Saint Vincent de Paul by serving the poor and marginalised in the Society. This term emphasises the spiritual and charitable vocation of the individual, inspired by Saint Vincent's legacy of compassion and service.

Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

Artwork on opposite page by Daniela Parkinson
Commissioned by the Society of St Vincent de Paul Queensland.



WHO WE ARE

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in Paris in 1833 by a 20-year-old student named Frederic Ozanam.

The Society was established by like-minded individuals who wished to put their faith into action to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged people. In South Australia, the Society was established in 1884. Since then, it has grown to comprise over 2,500 dedicated members and volunteers who assist more than 100,000 South Australians each year by providing a helping hand through food assistance, material aid, budget advice, shelter, advocacy, friendship and support.

Our Mission

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a member and volunteer-based organisation that aspires to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working together to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Our Vision

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering a 'hand up' for people to take control of their own destiny.

OUR VALUES

COMMITMENT

Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values.

COMPASSION

Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgment.

RESPECT

Service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions.

INTEGRITY

Promoting, maintaining and adhering to our mission, vision and values.

EMPATHY

Establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception.

ADVOCACY

Working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the causes of human injustice.

COURAGE

Encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future.



WHAT WE DO

Inspired by Catholic Social teaching, the St Vincent de Paul Society is a volunteer-based organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical support, advocacy and friendship to the most vulnerable within our community. Supported by dedicated staff, Conference members and volunteers, we seek to alleviate the immediate requirements of people in need and also identify and challenge the causes that lead to spiritual, financial and social hardship; providing a voice for those experiencing disadvantage.

Vinnies Assistance Visits

We are the only charity to run a home visit program in South Australia, through which our Conference members provide compassionate support and material assistance, including food, clothing, household goods, access to qualified Vinnies financial counsellors, and emergency funds.

Crisis Accommodation Services

The 20-room Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre and 40-room Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre provide emergency accommodation, including for children and pets at the women's centre. This includes meals, laundry, access to other Vinnies services, government and agency services, and more.

Fred's Van Meal Services

Our Fred's Van meal services operate from 10 sites across the state, providing meals and social support. Eight operate indoors, providing greater opportunities for guests to connect with each other. Blankets, scarves and beanies are given out in winter and food can be take away. Around 40,000 meals are served each year.

Refugee & Asylum Seeker Service

This service provides material assistance and advocacy services for refugees and asylum seekers struggling to make ends meet, many of whom receive no government support. Support to integrate with community life is available through English lessons and employment programs.

Vinnies Open Door Program

This is a service for people at serious risk of homelessness, with a dedicated liaison officer working with individuals to provide housing support and health/welfare referrals.

Disaster Relief

We are the South Australian Government's preferred partner in the event of a major disaster, supporting communities by managing donated goods and, in some cases, by raising funds or distributing funding on behalf of the Government.

Vinnies Youth

Vinnies Youth comprises young people aged between 16-35 who volunteer in services and programs across South Australia, advocating for relevant responses to poverty and disadvantage.

Vinnies Shops

We are one of the largest recycling organisations in South Australia. Primarily staffed by volunteers, sales from our 35 Vinnies shops fund our services and provide low cost, and often free, access to clothing, household goods and furniture to people on low incomes or experiencing homelessness.

Overseas Partnerships

The Society in Australia partners with Societies in the Asia-Pacific region. Underpinning these programs is a belief that people are at peace with themselves and their neighbours when they have the hope and faith that through their own efforts, they can live and grow in dignity.

St Vincent de Paul Society SA

good works

OUR STRUCTURE



STATE COUNCIL



Regional Presidents Advisory Committee



Finance Audit & Risk Management Committee



Spirituality, Membership & Mission Advisory Committee



Social Needs Analysis & Advocacy Committee



Commercial Advisory Committee



Work Health & Safety Committee



OFFICE OF CEO & PRESIDENT



CORPORATE SERVICES & SUSTAINABILITY

- Finance
- Digital Enablement
- Property & Maintenance
- Risk, Compliance & WHS



BRAND & ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE

- Vinnies People & Culture
- Fundraising & Partnerships
- Marketing & Communications



MEMBERSHIP & CONFERENCE LIFE

- **Conference, Members & Spirituality**
  - Youth Activation
  - Conference Support
  - Assistance Line & Call Centre
- **Special Works**
  - Crisis Centres
  - VRASS
  - Fred's Van



ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS

- Retail Shop Operations
- Warehouse
- Other Enterprises



State President Report

Last year, I concluded my report with the hope that, *'As we look towards another year, may we grow in our capacity to see each other as Jesus did, not as problems to be resolved but as gifts to be received, so that all may live with dignity and reach their full potential'.*

Receiving each other as gift occurs in myriad ways whether through a word, gesture or a look – in conferences, in all our special works, among staff and in meetings of State Council and Committees.

Alongside this approach is the challenge of organisational life and the need for good stewardship and governance which are vital if we are to ensure a Vincentian presence continues to be available in SA for those who seek our assistance. This report describes some steps State Council has taken during 2025/6 to ensure the ongoing development of our mission alongside greater transparency and accountability.

A vital step occurred in October 2025 with the appointment of Clinton Jury as CEO. Clinton brings not only a wealth of organisational experience but also the often-elusive qualities of a servant leader – deep listening, a capacity to build trust, and to transform these into tangible actions for the good of the Society.

A particular example is the new five-year Strategic Plan which, following extensive consultation, will be launched across the Society in the second half of 2026.

The new Plan will offer a shared understanding about where we will be putting our energies for the next few years. It will also enhance State Council's capacity to review progress whenever we meet (currently 6 times a year) and to ensure the necessary resources flow, and outcomes celebrated!

Other steps to increase our transparency and accountability include:

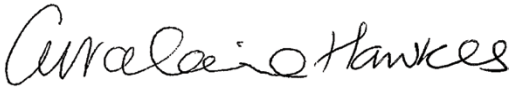
- State Council continues to visit the Regions. In August 2025, Vincentians from Fleurieu and Southern Regions hosted State Council at Cardijn College, and in May 2026 we were hosted by Vincentians from Western Region at the Ecumenical Centre, West Lakes. These occasions include prayer, reflection, stories and hospitality, and review indicates that hearing directly of the hopes and the concerns of Vincentian life in our neighbourhoods enriches relationships and enhances State Council's decision making.
- State Council has several advisory committees, providing expert guidance on a range of matters. The newest is the Spirituality, Membership and Mission Advisory Committee. See Committee Reports in the following pages.
- Steps for Succession Planning for State Council and its committees are under way, to ensure that the governance of the Society in SA continues to move forward with wisdom, renewal and continuity. One aspect will be ensuring that all Conferences are represented through their Regional President on State Council.
- Many people participated in one of the information sessions on the revisions to Part III of *The Rule*, effective from 1 July 2026. While *The Rule* is primarily for Members, Conferences and those serving them, everyone across the Society is encouraged to become familiar with this guiding document and its descriptions of values and relationships.
- *The Vincentian Way* is a resource for State and Territory Councils and Executive Leaderships Teams. It includes a focus on Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and every State Council meeting explores the application of CST in its governance.
- Safeguarding remains a high priority to ensure we are a community where all are safe and able to serve one another with respect and confidence.
- As State President, I am a member of National Council, and many among us participate in other national meetings. I value the support that these relationships offer us in SA and also what they contribute to the global Vincentian movement.

During 2025/6, State Council farewelled Neil Dwiar and John Sullivan, who completed their terms as Northern / Western Regional President respectively, and welcomed Mark Jaksa and Kylan Beech as the new Regional Presidents, together with Tony Roach for Southern Region. Kevin Liston concluded his term as Fleurieu Regional President and State Council welcomed him back as Vice President for Conference Life.

As Evelyn O'Loughlin's contract as CEO with the Society drew to a close, Kristi Hermsen and Michelle Kemp were appointed as interim Co-CEOs and several staff took on 'higher' responsibilities, ensuring our work together continued as seamlessly as possible during the recruitment phase.

I am grateful to all Committees and State Council for their wise and expert guidance and to State Council Oversight Team (SCOT) for their practical experience and pastoral care wherever needed.

Especially I am inspired and grateful to everyone in our Vincentian Family. Whatever our role in the Society and whatever our chosen path of faith, religion or belief system, if any, we know that St Vincent de Paul Society is a place we are all held together, receiving everyone as gift, so that all may live with dignity and reach their full potential.



Geraldine Hawkes
State President



CEO Report

As I reflect on my first year as CEO of Vinnies SA, the word that comes most readily to mind is gratitude.

I have been welcomed into an organisation with a long history, a strong sense of purpose and people who care deeply about the difference we make. Our Members, volunteers, staff, supporters, donors and partners each contribute to the work of Vinnies.

The scale of that work is significant. Over the past year, Conference Members responded to 22,473 requests for assistance, supporting 56,487 people: 19,196 women, 15,135 men and 22,156 children. This is 563 more people than the previous year.

Our Special Works continue to provide practical support to people experiencing significant challenges. At the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre, 236 men stayed with us for an average of 81 days, following more than 2,340 requests for a bed. At the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre, 210 women, 170 children and 46 pets were accommodated, with more than 6,000 nights of emergency accommodation and more than 30,000 meals provided.

Fred's Van served 37,842 meals across Adelaide, including 27,709 to men, 8,882 to women and 1,251 to children.

These numbers indicate the scale of our work, but cannot fully describe what happens behind them. Vinnies work is ultimately about people: listening, responding, building trust and walking alongside them at difficult points in their lives.

Across our shops, Conferences and Special Works, 2,298 volunteers contributed their time, skills and experience during the year. Their contribution is fundamental to who we are.

Our staff team also deserves particular recognition. Much of their work happens quietly, behind the scenes, but it enables our Members, volunteers and services to do what they do well. Their professionalism, care and commitment have been a constant throughout my first year, particularly as we have continued to strengthen the organisation and consider how we can work better together.

There have also been some visible signs of change. In November 2025, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan officially opened our new Enfield Vinnies store and in June 2026, we closed our Semaphore store. Both moments were reminders that while our mission remains constant, the ways in which we deliver it will continue to evolve. Ending something is not failing it; sometimes it is part of making space for what comes next.

Our advocacy work developed during the year. In March 2026, we released our Election Position Statement, setting out issues we believe matter most to people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. Following the election, these became our advocacy priorities. This gives us a clearer platform to speak about issues our Members encounter and bring our companions' experiences into public discussion.

Young people have been an important area of growth. More than 5,000 young people engaged with Vinnies through 11 primary and seven secondary school introductory workshops, 18 school sleepouts and the Vinnies Social Justice Program, engaging 63 students across two schools. This work matters because young people are future volunteers, Members and supporters, and their perspectives and energy can help shape the Society's future.

Our broader community of supporters has continued to grow. The 2026 CEO Sleepout raised $860,000. We have continued to explore partnerships, including a supported Volunteer program with Minda, whose team joined us at Ozanam House to provide inclusion training.

All of this sits alongside work to strengthen the organisation, including our safeguarding journey, systems and processes.

That future is shaped by our Strategic Plan developed with broad input from Members, staff volunteers and supporters. The Plan provides direction for the next five years and sets four focus areas: Mission and People; Service and Impact; Advocacy and Voice; and Stewardship and Sustainability.

For me, the value of the Plan is not in having a set of objectives. It is in helping us make clearer choices about where we put our energy, how we strengthen our capability and, importantly, how we ensure that the way we work reflects who we are.

The coming years will require us to remain faithful to our Vincentian purpose while also being prepared to change. We will need to listen carefully to our companions, support our Members and volunteers, invest in our people and capabilities, and continue to find better ways of responding to poverty and disadvantage.

Thank you to our Members, volunteers and staff for your commitment and generosity. Thank you to our supporters, donors, partners and friends who make so much of this work possible. And thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to the life of the St Vincent de Paul Society in South Australia.

There is much to do, but there is also much to be hopeful about.

I look forward to continuing that work together.



Clinton Jury
Chief Executive Officer

IMPACT STATS

VINNIES ASSISTANCE VISITS

Conference Members completed 22,473 assistance requests, providing support to 15,135 men, 19,196 women and 22,156 children.

VINNIES WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

Accommodation was provided to 210 women, 170 children and 46 pets.

VINNIES MEN'S CRISIS CENTRE

236 men provided with a warm and safe place to sleep.

VINNIES REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER SERVICE

Over 2,000 instances of assistance provided, averaging 33 families per month.

FRED'S VAN MEAL SERVICE

558 volunteers provided meals to 37,842 men, women and children across 10 locations.

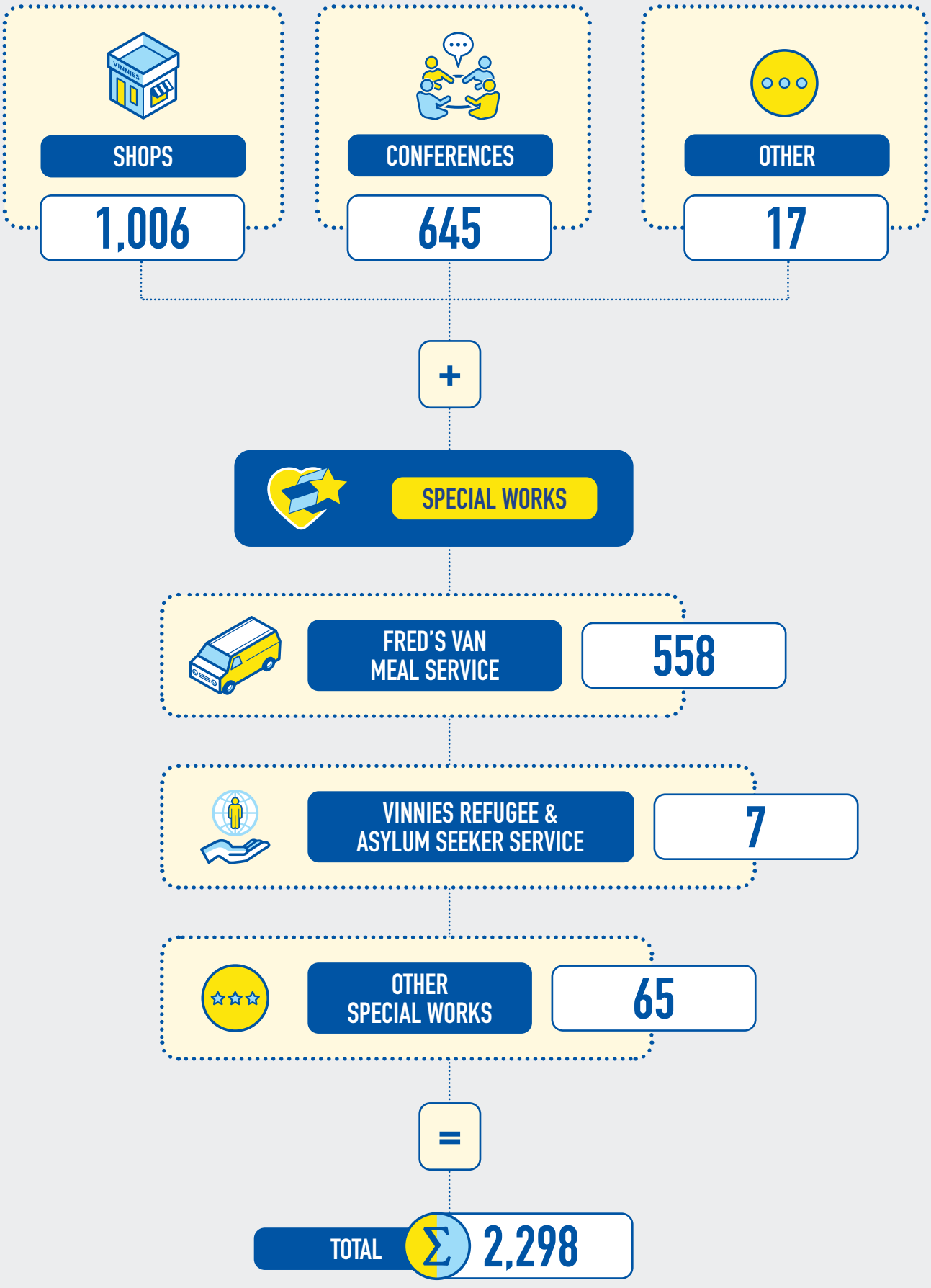
VINNIES OPEN DOOR PROGRAM

198 individuals provided with much needed support.

VINNIES SHOPS

Kept 2,009,649 items out of landfill supported by over 1,000 volunteers.

VOLUNTEER STATS





CONFERENCES

We remain deeply grateful for our volunteer Conference members, who play a unique role within the Society through local networks based in parishes and community settings across South Australia.

Our members bring a wide range of skills, experiences and perspectives to Vinnies, with many dedicating decades of service to their communities. Their commitment to our mission of compassion, dignity and social justice continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of South Australians each year.

At Vinnies, we refer to the people we assist as companions, reflecting our founding belief that support is most effective when it is offered alongside genuine friendship, understanding and respect. Our Conference members walk beside companions during difficult periods, providing practical assistance while fostering connection, dignity and hope.

Conference members work collaboratively within their local communities to arrange face-to-face visits in companions' homes or at designated meeting locations, often co-located with Vinnies shops. When in-person visits are not possible, support can also be provided via phone or video calls. This flexible approach enables tens of thousands of people each year to access assistance through our Conference network, in addition to those supported through our broader services, including Crisis Centres and Fred's Van meal services.

During visits, members take time to listen and understand each companion's circumstances, helping identify immediate needs such as food, clothing, household goods and other essential items. These conversations help ensure support is tailored to individual circumstances while strengthening community connections and improving our understanding of emerging local needs.

Conference members regularly assist people experiencing financial hardship, providing support with expenses such as rent, utility bills and other essentials. This assistance can offer crucial breathing space for individuals and families facing unexpected challenges, helping them maintain stable housing and regain their footing during difficult times.

While many companions first contact the Society during periods of crisis, Conference members seek to provide ongoing, holistic support where appropriate, reflecting the Society's longstanding commitment to accompaniment, compassion and social justice.

In metropolitan Adelaide, staff and volunteers in the Vinnies Assistance Line serve as the first point of contact for people seeking assistance, connecting them with Conference members in their local area for further support.

The work of our Conferences has become even more important as communities continue to face significant hardship amid ongoing cost of living pressures and a persistent housing affordability and availability crisis. Rising household expenses, rental stress and financial uncertainty have resulted in more people seeking assistance for the first time, while others who had previously regained stability are once again turning to the Society for support.

Like many volunteer-based organisations, we continue to face challenges in recruiting and retaining members, particularly as demand for assistance grows and long-serving volunteers retire. In response, the Society remains committed to strengthening and supporting its membership base through the work of the Spiritual, Membership and Mission Advisory Committee and the exploration of new and more flexible models of Conference participation.

We have also continued to strengthen volunteer and member onboarding processes to ensure a consistent introduction to the Society's mission, values and ways of working.

By embracing new approaches and investing in our members, we are working to ensure our Conference network remains strong, sustainable and able to meet the evolving needs of communities across South Australia for years to come.

Through the Social Needs Analysis and Advocacy Committee we continued to support the Society's commitment to addressing poverty and disadvantage through informed advocacy, while working with Conferences to ensure the voices and experiences of companions continue to inform everything we do.

Providing a safe place for Lauren to start again



To the outside world, Lauren appeared to have the hallmarks of a good life: a successful career, a nice home, and a family. But behind closed doors, she was living a nightmare.

When Lauren first met her husband, he seemed kind-hearted. However, alcohol soon revealed a sinister side. As they raised their daughters, Sienna and Ashleigh, his dependency grew and the foundation of their home began to crumble.

"It was just so draining," Lauren recalls. "Life was so unhappy for all of us."

Despite seeking treatment, the situation persisted. Cruelty became a daily reality and his anger frequently turned physical. He punched holes in walls and threatened the girls. After years of walking on eggshells, Lauren finally reached her limit and told him to go.

Soon after he left, Lauren was dealt another blow when she lost her long-term job. At her lowest point, she turned to Vinnies.

> "Vinnies really helped me, *she says.*"

Lauren's experience is tragically common. In South Australia, domestic and family violence remains a leading cause of homelessness. Vinnies SA works tirelessly to provide a safety net for those fleeing crisis, offering both immediate relief and long-term support.

While Vinnies addressed Lauren's tangible needs, the most enduring impact was the friendship offered by our members. People like Heather took the time to simply be there.

"I consider her a friend," Lauren says.

"They helped with rent and electricity when I had no food for the kids. They helped me in every aspect of my life."

> "It was not just a service; it was that personal warmth I needed."

Lauren has since moved to a regional community to give her daughters a fresh start. Vinnies provided a laptop for 17-year-old Sienna to finish her final year of school, while 13-year-old Ashleigh is working with a counsellor to process her trauma.

Lauren is now training to become a support worker herself.

Every day, Vinnies SA members and volunteers walk alongside people in our local communities, offering a hand up through food, clothing, and emotional support. Lauren and her daughters are just one of the many families who have found hope because of their work.

OUR SERVICES

VINNIES REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER SERVICE



This year, the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service (VRASS) continued to provide practical, compassionate and responsive support to people seeking safety and building new lives in our community.

Our dedicated team of seven volunteers and coordinator supported around 1,000 people, assisting an average of 33 families each month and welcoming approximately 10 new companions every month.

Service delivery was impacted by a temporary three-month move to Enfield Community Centre while works were undertaken at Kilburn Community Centre. The move created additional barriers for some companions and required the team to adapt to limited space, while remaining flexible and accessible wherever possible.

VRASS provided wide-ranging assistance, including financial support to 15 families on Bridging Visas, medical and pharmacy costs, and access to pro bono dental services. More than 200 referrals were made to health, mental health, legal and other support services. Volunteers also provided advocacy with housing applications, Home Affairs communications, Medicare applications and landlords, as well as assistance with employment, training and educational opportunities.

Employment support remained a particular focus, with volunteers helping companions prepare resumes, contact employers and access sponsored training courses.

These efforts have contributed to companions gaining employment and developing greater independence.

The year also brought many new arrivals from Venezuela and Afghanistan, alongside returning companions. At the same time, some of our longest-standing companions — including people who arrived by boat more than 13 years ago and remain on Bridging Visa E — continued to face prolonged uncertainty. It was especially meaningful to celebrate with companions who received permanency and, in some cases, later attended citizenship ceremonies.

VRASS also continued its advocacy for pathways to permanency, access to State concessions and Medicare, while partnering with organisations across the Welcoming Australia Precinct at Kilburn Community Centre and wider community.

Despite ongoing challenges, including high demand for housing, employment and mental health support and limited access to dental and optical care, VRASS remains committed to walking alongside companions with dignity, patience and hope.

2,000
Instances of Assistance

How VRASS helped Zafar find happiness again





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On 22 July 2026, Zafar became an Australian citizen.

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

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

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

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

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

OUR SERVICES

FRED'S VAN MEAL SERVICE



Robyn Rowsell, Anna Hurrell, Emma Pedler, Gerri Evenden and Joanna Lemura from Port Lincoln Fred's Van.

Fred's Van is a free evening meal service supporting people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, as well as anyone facing financial hardship, food insecurity or social isolation.

The service operates at 10 sites across South Australia: eight throughout metropolitan Adelaide and one each in Port Pirie and Port Lincoln. While the name reflects its origins as a mobile service, most sites now welcome guests to share a sit-down meal in a hall or community centre.

By providing a hot, nutritious meal in a welcoming environment, Fred's Van helps ease the pressure of purchasing and preparing food — something that can be especially difficult for people with limited income, insecure accommodation or no access to cooking facilities. Depending on availability, guests may also receive practical essentials such as blankets, toiletries, snacks and hot drinks.

Fred's Van offers more than a meal. Volunteers provide friendship, conversation and a sense of belonging, helping to reduce the loneliness and isolation often associated with poverty and homelessness. Everyone is welcomed with dignity and respect, and guests are encouraged to stay, connect with others and take part in a supportive community.

Fred's Van also collaborates with other agencies to provide broader practical support for people in need. These partnerships include Orange Sky Laundry, OzHarvest and Fruit Share, alongside the many generous food donors that help supply meals and ingredients. Supporters such as the National Wine Centre, Adelaide Convention Centre and Fasta Pasta make a valuable contribution, helping Fred's Van continue to serve nutritious meals and respond to the needs of local communities.

A key challenge in 2026 was maintaining a reliable food supply. Strong and growing demand across the community placed significant pressure on food rescue agencies and reduced the availability of donated food. This challenge was compounded when one supplying agency ceased operating, leaving Fred's Van to urgently seek a replacement provider so meal services could continue without interruption.

Operating for more than 30 years, the service began in Adelaide's CBD and has grown to reach metropolitan and regional communities across the state. Its ongoing impact is made possible by dedicated volunteers who prepare and serve meals, distribute essential items and create a safe, inclusive space for people from all walks of life.



37,842
Total Individuals Assisted

How Anna's Fred's Van journey is about SO MUCH MORE THAN MEALS

For the past 15 years, Anna Hurrell has been a familiar face at the Society's Fred's Van meal service in Port Lincoln, helping provide hot meals, connection, conversation and a sense of community.



Anna first became involved when the Port Lincoln service was established in 2011 through the vision of local parish priest Fr Brian Matthews and Vinnies SA volunteer Peter Ryan.

At the time, Anna was working part-time while raising two children and could see the value the service would bring to the local community.

"I could see what a great service this would provide for our local town and those less fortunate," she said.

Having always admired the contribution volunteers make in their communities, Anna put her name forward to help. Fifteen years later, she is still serving meals and supporting those who attend each week.

For Anna, volunteering has never been just about providing physical sustenance.

> "It wasn't just giving back to the community by supplying a hot meal in a safe and warm environment, *she said.*
>
> It was also about reaching out and helping by listening, having important conversations, offering a friendly smile and often just asking the question, 'Are you OK?'"

The gratitude shown by those she has helped has been one of the most rewarding aspects of her volunteering journey.

"Their response is usually just a few simple words. It's often, 'Thank you; thank you for showing up for us,' but it means so much."

While helping her community is Anna's primary motivation, volunteering has also provided an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of service to her own family.

"I wanted to show my children how important it is to give, whether in time, conversation or helping prepare a meal for others," she said.

Over the years, Anna has formed lasting friendships with fellow volunteers, describing the Fred's Van team as a reflection of the diverse community it serves.

Only recently, she found herself laughing with colleagues after noting the range of cultural backgrounds represented around the kitchen table.

We have an Italian, a Croatian, a Kenyan, an Indian and an Irish volunteer on our team," she said. "It's lovely to see how the cause of helping others brings us all together."

The clearest indication of the impact Anna has made comes from the guests themselves, some of whom greet her with a nickname she wears with pride.

"To hear them say, 'Hello Mrs Fred' is really rewarding," Anna said.

For anyone considering volunteering, Anna has a simple message...

"Give it a go. You have nothing to lose but so much to gain, especially in friendships.

"It is such a rewarding experience and a wonderful way to make a difference."

OUR SERVICES

VINNIES MEN'S CRISIS CENTRE



Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre is located at Whitmore Square and has up to 41 beds available for companions who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Being the only facility for this, VMCC runs at almost full capacity nightly, with rooms only not allocated when being repaired, refurbished or on hold awaiting companion release from institutional care.

With a dedicated group of staff, companions at VMCC receive breakfast and dinner each day, with generous community and business donations providing snacks, lunch and supper. The nightly cooks completed over 8,750 dinner meals. Staff work around the clock, with 1 active staff member starting at midnight, 2 active staff members from 8:00am and 2 active staff members from 4:00pm. VMCC is staffed 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Companions staying at VMCC also have access to Vinnies Open Door, which is a liaison service that assists the men with housing and accommodation, education, employment, allied health and more. This service works closely with industry Case Managers and other relevant facilities and services, completing over 2,800 referrals last year.

Over the past Financial Year, VMCC has had some of the companion rooms upgraded, planted 5 fruit trees into wine barrels (made possible by Triple M and Enerven), ran social BBQs and events and worked with Adelaide City Council to upgrade and plant out the front of the Centre, on Whitmore Square. Centrelink (once per week), Orange Sky Laundry Service (3 times per week), Hair Aid (bi-monthly) and Short Back and Sidewalks Community Hair also come to VMCC to provide services to companions.

With the ongoing cost of living, lack of affordable housing and the difficulties most companions have (trauma, mental health, incarceration to name a few), VMCC and VOD remain an integral and necessary service to men who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It remains a key stepping stone for men to improve their lives and be given a second chance.

14,682
Nights Accommodation

236
Men Stayed

198
Men Accessed Vinnies Open Door

2,846
External Referrals were made

Bringing Hope to an Ordinary Life Turned Upside Down



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

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

That changed in an instant.

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

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

Instead, another devastating setback followed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR SERVICES

VINNIES WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE



Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre (VWCC) is our 20-room accommodation facility that provides a place of safety and refuge for women displaced by domestic violence and homelessness. Our unique facility and operating model welcome single women, women with children, and women with pets, making VWCC a provider of choice for state government-funded emergency accommodation.

In the last 12 months alone, the service provided 6,145 nights of emergency accommodation for South Australian women, many of whom had just escaped an incident of violence, with some arriving in the middle of the night seeking immediate safety. Of the 210 women who stayed with us during this period, 103 were accompanied by children and 46 arrived with their beloved pets.

Offering 20 family rooms, each with a private ensuite bathroom, VWCC provides a welcoming environment where guests can pause, breathe, and begin to recover from trauma, crisis, and displacement. Our undisclosed metropolitan Adelaide location, combined with extensive on-site security, offers women a safe place to stay while planning the next steps in their healing journey.

Alongside secure accommodation, the centre provides three nutritious meals each day. Over the past year, our in-house cooks freshly prepared more than 33,000 home-cooked meals, many using ingredients generously supplied by Oz Harvest and Foodbank SA.

Now in its ninth year of operation, 2025/26 was a year of renewal at VWCC, with several projects undertaken to upgrade common areas and make better use of existing spaces across the site. A previously unused storeroom was transformed into a dedicated on-site meeting room for visiting domestic violence and homelessness case workers. This welcoming space now provides a private, respectful, and confidential environment where women can meet with support professionals, reducing the need to travel to external appointments and improving access to vital services.

The women's lounge and children's playroom were also redesigned to create welcoming, calm, and functional environments featuring age-appropriate toys, comfortable seating, and flexible spaces for recreation and group activities. This was followed by the first stage of our dining room redevelopment, made possible through a local government minor works grant. Guests now enjoy a bright, modern, café-inspired space designed to encourage social connection and foster a sense of community.

Operating a service that runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year takes an entire community of support and VWCC is fortunate to receive ongoing assistance from volunteers, sponsors, and charitable organisations who help us meet the growing demand.

However, the success of VWCC would not be possible without our dedicated team of professional staff. Their compassion, commitment, and expertise ensures that women, experiencing some of their darkest times, are supported with dignity and care as they take steps towards safety and recovery.

Finding Safety, Stability and a New Beginning





When Julie and her daughter Amy arrived at the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre, they were facing a period of significant uncertainty.

Experiencing housing instability as a result of domestic and family violence, Julie needed a safe place where she could begin rebuilding her life while providing stability and security for her daughter.

For more than six months, Julie and Amy were supported through the Women's Crisis Centre, a confidential facility providing emergency accommodation for women and children experiencing homelessness, many of whom have fled domestic and family violence. Operating around the clock, the centre combines safe accommodation with wraparound support, providing women with the stability, safety and peace of mind needed to make informed decisions about their future.

During her time at the Centre, Julie remained focused on maintaining as much normality as possible for Amy. Despite the challenges she was facing, she continued working part-time and prioritised keeping her daughter connected to school, friends and daily routines.

Julie's experience reflects the reality faced by many women and children experiencing homelessness. Housing insecurity is often accompanied by a range of other challenges, requiring practical assistance, advocacy and emotional support alongside a safe place to stay.

The Women's Crisis Centre provided this comprehensive support. In addition to safe and secure accommodation, Julie was able to access practical assistance, advocacy and connections to other services to support her journey towards long-term stability. Guests also have access to meals, laundry and kitchen facilities, children's play spaces, clothing and emergency assistance, as well as connections to housing, health, legal and other support services.

Reflecting on her time at the Centre, Julie speaks highly of the team and the support she received. Alongside the practical assistance, she particularly valued the encouragement, compassion and sense of community that helped her navigate a difficult period in her life.

What stands out most in Julie's story is not only her resilience, but also the role that relationships and support played in her journey. From her earlier experiences volunteering with Vinnies, to the assistance she received while in crisis accommodation, and the connections she maintained afterwards, community remained a constant source of strength.

Since securing stable housing, Julie has continued to rebuild her life and remains connected to the Society through volunteering at a Vinnies Shop. Her story demonstrates how timely support, safe accommodation and compassionate care can help women and children move beyond crisis and towards a more secure future.

For Julie and Amy, the Women's Crisis Centre was more than a place to stay. It was a place of safety, stability and hope during a time when they needed it most.





SCHOOLS & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

St Columba College students pictured with local charity representatives, including Sharni Bowden, Vinnies Youth Development and Schools Engagement Officer.

This year has been another exciting one for Schools and Youth Engagement, with young people across South Australia continuing to find meaningful ways to connect with their communities and put social justice into action.

This year has been another exciting one for Schools and Youth Engagement, with young people across South Australia continuing to find meaningful ways to connect with their communities and put social justice into action. Through workshops, school sleepouts, Mini Vinnies groups, service activities, leadership opportunities and school partnerships, we engaged with more than 5,000 young people across the state. These experiences encouraged students to explore important social issues, develop empathy and discover how they can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Throughout the year, students participated in learning opportunities focused on homelessness, poverty, social justice, sustainability, and the experiences of refugees and people seeking asylum. The Schools and Youth Team delivered at least 11 primary Intro workshops and seven secondary Intro workshops, alongside workshops exploring homelessness, refugee experiences and social justice. These sessions created space for reflection, curiosity and understanding while helping students explore the importance of dignity, inclusion and community.

Vinnies School Sleepouts remained a highlight of the year, with approximately 18 school sleepouts delivered throughout the year. Through these experiences, students were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, learn about the realities of homelessness and consider the role they can play in creating a more compassionate community.

Schools also embraced opportunities for students to take the lead, with many young people organising fundraising initiatives, awareness campaigns, donation drives and service projects within their own school communities. It has been particularly encouraging to see schools strengthen their connections with local Vinnies services. Students supported Fred's Van through meal preparation and donations, contributed to the work of the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service, and assisted the Women's Crisis Centre and Men's Crisis Centre through community activities and collections. These opportunities helped students move beyond learning about social issues and actively become part of the response.

Youth leadership and participation continued to grow throughout the year. Mini Vinnies groups provided students with opportunities to develop leadership skills while putting their values into action within their school communities, with approximately seven Mini Vinnies engagements delivered throughout the year. The team also engaged with young people through a range of events and initiatives, including approximately five TAFE engagements and attendance at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne.



Sharni Bowden, Vinnies Youth Development and Schools Engagement Officer, and Natasha Egglestone, Vinnies Youth representative at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025.

> "I particularly valued that it went beyond a one-off service experience and encouraged students to think more deeply about dignity, justice, solidarity and their own capacity to respond."

Teacher from the Social Justice Program





Participants at the University of Adelade and University of South Australia Sleepout 2025, and Vinnies youth at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

> "Because of the program, I will look at social justice issues more deeply and realise the struggles that many people go through daily."

Social Justice Program Participant

Vinnies Social Justice Program

A key highlight for the year was the pilot of the Vinnies Social Justice Program, delivered in partnership with Mercedes College and St Paul's College. The program engaged 63 students across two schools, involved six community organisations and supported students to design and deliver six student-led social justice initiatives. Evaluation results demonstrated positive growth across all measured outcomes, including Social Justice Thinking, Engagement with Organisations, Taking Action, Critical Reflection and Empathy, and Understanding Volunteering Pathways. Students reported increased understanding of social justice issues, stronger connections with community organisations and greater confidence in their ability to create positive change. The success of the pilot has helped shape several exciting youth engagement opportunities currently being developed for 2027.

Youth Conference

The Youth Conference continued to play an important role throughout the year, supporting local Conferences through collaboration, resource sharing, community engagement and opportunities for young people to become more involved in the mission of Vinnies. Working alongside the Youth Representative, the Schools and Youth Team helped create opportunities for young people to connect, share ideas and strengthen their understanding of social justice and service.

Youth Forum

A highlight of the year was the delivery of a Youth Forum. Whilst small, it provided a valuable opportunity for young people to come together, discuss issues important to them, build connections and share ideas about how they can create positive change within their communities. The team also worked alongside the Youth Representative at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Melbourne, engaging with young people from across Australia and strengthening relationships within the wider Catholic community.

Throughout the year, the Youth Conference focused on future growth and sustainability. Work is currently underway on several youth-focused initiatives and programs designed to strengthen engagement opportunities for young people and create clearer pathways for ongoing involvement with Vinnies. A key focus has been working alongside local communities to encourage the establishment of new Youth Conferences and increase opportunities for young people to participate in the life of the Society.

While participation figures provide an indication of our reach, they tell only part of the story. Many schools support Vinnies through local Conferences, appeals, fundraising efforts and social justice initiatives that sit outside formal reporting processes. As a result, the true impact of school engagement extends far beyond the numbers captured here. Every donation collected, meal prepared, conversation started and act of service undertaken by students contributes to building stronger communities and inspiring the next generation to live out the values of social justice, dignity and solidarity.



VINNIES SHOPS

Vinnies Shops continue to be among Australia's favourite destinations for op shoppers. Across South Australia, Vinnies shops offer quality second-hand clothing, shoes, accessories, books, homewares and furniture at affordable prices.

Our shops welcome people from all walks of life, from dedicated op shoppers and families seeking value for money, to people accessing assistance through support cards provided by our Conferences. For many companions, Vinnies Shops provide an opportunity to access essential items in a dignified and affordable way.

This year, our retail network recorded a 4 per cent increase in revenue compared with the previous financial year. Every dollar generated through our shops supports the Society's mission to assist people experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability in our community.

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and the 715,790 customers who shopped in Vinnies stores throughout the year. The success of our retail network is made possible by more than 1,000 volunteers who generously contribute their time and skills to process stock, assist customers and support the day-to-day operation of our shops. We also thank the many donors who choose to give their pre-loved goods to Vinnies, helping us continue our mission while extending the life of quality items.

Sustainability remains a key focus of our retail operations. Through the collective efforts of our shops and warehouse teams, 2,009,649 items were diverted from landfill through Vinnies Shops during the year, a 7.7 per cent increase on the previous financial year. A further 945,000 kilograms of goods were diverted from landfill through warehouse recycling initiatives.

This year we also saw the opening of the new Vinnies Enfield, continuing the Society's contemporary retail direction and expanding upon the services previously available at our nearby Prospect store, which closed.

The store features a dedicated Donation Station and a modern layout designed to improve the experience for both customers and donors.

Our shops also participated in several new community initiatives throughout the year, including market stalls, shopping centre volunteer recruitment drives and collaborations with social media influencers.

Looking ahead, we aim to continue growing our online presence, increasing donation intake, enhancing shop amenities and delivering an even better experience for customers, donors and volunteers alike.

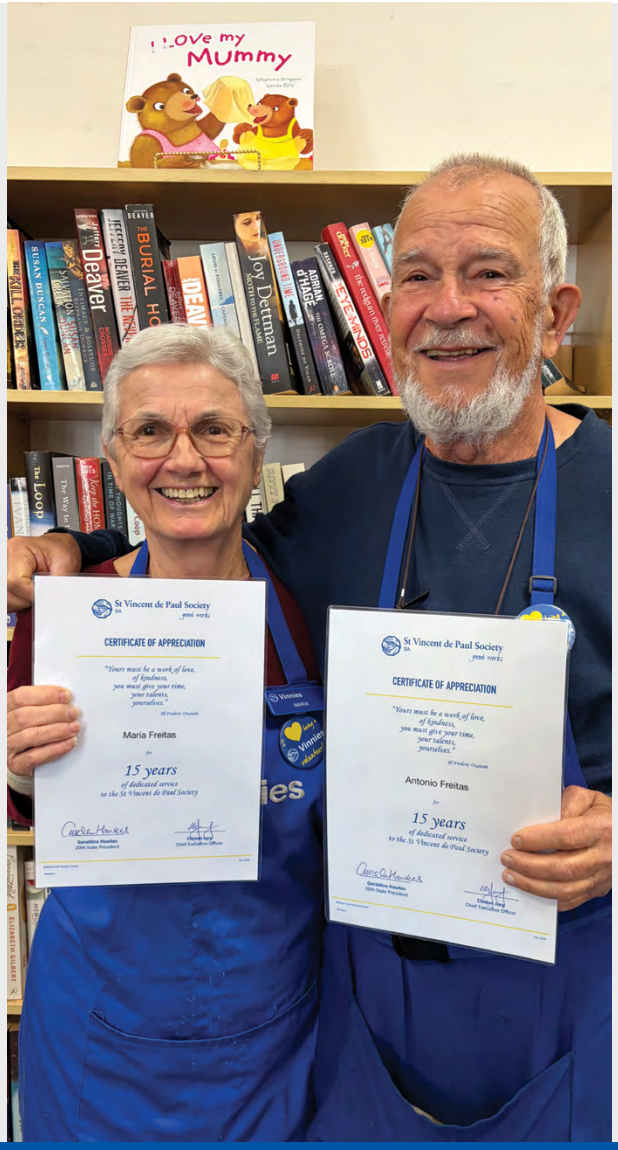


1,000+
Dedicated Shop Volunteers

4%
Revenue Increase

2,009,649
Items Diverted from Landfill

GIVING BACK TOGETHER: Antonio and Maria's 16 Years of Service



For the past 16 years, husband-and-wife team Antonio and Maria have been a familiar presence at the Society's Kidman Park shop, dedicating their time, skills, and energy to helping others.

The couple began volunteering on 3 October 2010, but their connection to Vinnies stretches back much further.

In 1982, Antonio and Maria arrived in Australia with their family and very few possessions. As they began building a new life, Vinnies provided furniture and household essentials that helped transform their house into a home.

Years later, when they were looking for an opportunity to give back, the choice felt like a natural one.

With strong ties to the Kidman Park community, volunteering at Vinnies allowed them to support the Society after it had helped their family establish itself in Australia all those years ago.

Although they work side by side, Antonio and Maria have very different roles.

Antonio is known as the store's "Mr Fix It", using skills gained through a career in cabinet making to prepare furniture donations for sale. From cleaning items to carrying out minor repairs, he takes pride in ensuring donations are ready for a new home.

Maria prefers a quieter role, sorting, pricing, and displaying books for customers to enjoy.

Her commitment to the task is just as strong.

"When the shop manager says we've had a good week selling books, I feel so happy," she said.

Over the years, the pair have watched many volunteers come and go, while also forming lasting friendships with people who have remained part of the Kidman Park community.

Among their favourite memories are the Christmas celebrations shared with fellow volunteers.

One Christmas in particular stands out, when volunteers from across the Society gathered at the shop for lunch, exchanged gifts, shared a raffle, and even enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas.

For Maria, one of the greatest strengths of volunteering at Vinnies is the welcoming and inclusive environment.

> "Come to Vinnies, *she said.*
>
> There are roles for everyone and so many different people to connect with."

Volunteering has also given the couple an opportunity to spend time together while contributing to their community.

When asked what it is like volunteering alongside her husband, Maria's answer is simple.

"He does his job and I do mine, and then we come together for lunch," she said.

After 16 years of service, Antonio and Maria continue to demonstrate how volunteering can bring people together, creating purpose, friendships and opportunities to give back to the community that once supported them.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and organisations that gave significant support to the St Vincent de Paul Society SA this year.



SA POWER NETWORKS

The management and staff of the SA Power Networks Employee Foundation are strong supporters of Vinnies SA, making multiple donations throughout the year to support Vinnies companions in need. Vinnies is incredibly fortunate to receive not only financial donations from the Employee Foundation, but also to receive tangible, passionate support from their many team members at Fred's Van meal service and at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout (pictured above).

VINNIES OPEN DOOR PROGRAM

Over the past financial Year, the Vinnies Open Door team referred over 160 companions to case management, over 210 companions to accommodation providers, over 185 companions to health & allied health services and completed over 2,820 other referrals.

There was also a total of over 285 men and women who were homeless or at risk of homelessness who accessed Vinnies Open Door Brokerage, to maintain and keep their properties or to set up moving into their medium to long-term accommodation.

VINNIES–MINDA PARTNERSHIP

An exciting partnership with Minda in 2024-25 meant that our Vinnies SA stores were able to bring new volunteer team members on board, adding to the diversity and great customer experience within our retail operations.

Thanks to the partnership, Lachy and his mentor and support worker, Rabia, have been making a difference for their community. Lachy completed a full training induction and has since learnt skills like sorting clothes, DVDs and CDs, and how to price items.



This year's CEO Sleepout participants together at Adelaide Zoo in June 2026.

VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT



Y Partners, who were the leading fundraising team at this year's Sleepout.

Now in its 18th year, the Vinnies CEO Sleepout was held at the iconic Adelaide Zoo on 18 June 2026, where 130 business and community leaders gathered to learn more about the causes and effects of homelessness, and how the funds they had worked so hard to raise would make a difference.

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas, participated in his ninth Vinnies CEO Sleepout and raised an exceptional $101,000. The Premier was a welcome addition to the group, and we were pleased to have him in attendance to hear firsthand the challenges people facing homelessness are experiencing.

We were grateful to hear directly from a guest; 'Mark' who is being supported at the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre about the complex circumstances leading to his spending time sleeping rough, and how the Crisis Centre is offering him refuge, following long-term displacement, uncertainty and no place to call home.

Following a series of life events, many of which were out of his control, Mark went from having a place to call home to experiencing homelessness in a very short timeframe. This was particularly hard for Mark, having had secure housing his whole adult life, up until now.

Vinnies team member, Steve helped to share Mark's story, who has slept rough and has still been engaged with the Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre for most of this year, unable to find secure housing options yet.

Mark's story is just one of the tens of thousands of examples of personal hardship that Vinnies helps to alleviate each year through compassionate practical support and advocacy, and much of it is made possible through funds raised at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, plus ongoing partnerships that are born from it.

Congratulations to all 2026 participants for raising an outstanding $867,526 – a 25% increase on the previous event fundraising!

We'd also like to congratulate our 2026 award winners:

- Highest fundraiser: Premier Peter Malinauskas
- Highest first year fundraiser: Richard Lovell, Y Partners
- Top Team Award: Y Partners
- 10-year participation awards were presented to Peter Button & Tom Clark.
- 15-year participation awards were presented to Craig Feely & Tom Kenyon.

Planning for the next Adelaide event is well underway for the CEO Sleepout to be held on Thursday 17 June 2027, and we look forward to welcoming new and returning participants as we work together towards breaking the cycle of homelessness.



Premier Peter Malinauskas took part in his ninth Sleepout.

**Names in this story have been changed to protect the privacy of the people we assist.*

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Adelaide Venue Management

AVM is one of South Australia's leading venue management companies.

Vinnies SA is part of AVM's Community Impact Program 'A force for good', which sees us receive food and items that would otherwise go to landfill.

This includes carpet, furniture and electrical goods, which we use to support our companions.

AVM also provides Vinnies SA with event tickets to share with our volunteers and staff.

Aldi

ALDI are dedicated supporters of Vinnies. ALDI donates a large volume of products and goods to Vinnies, which we sell in our stores, providing access to quality goods and raising funds for those in our community who are experiencing extreme financial hardship.

Amazon

Amazon came on board to help us support families with back-to-school costs, through the distribution of gift cards via our Conference network. Amazon have also established disaster relief hubs where they store items that people may need in the event of a disaster.

Direct Collect

Direct Collect is an initiative that sees special bins delivered to Adelaide homes and businesses. The service picks up the bins when they are full of recyclable containers, and customers can elect to have the refund deposited into the Society's bank account.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Grill'd Healthy Burgers

Grill'd Healthy Burgers are a burger joint with a difference — their Relish membership offers bonuses to customers, but importantly their '8 and Donate' program means that customers can give back. After eight visits, Relish Members are given the choice to donate a meal to our Fred's Van service.

The Grill'd 'Local Matters' initiative offers customers the opportunity to vote for a cause close to their hearts.

On the first Tuesday of every month, Grill'd CBD closes six of their CBD restaurants around Australia — including one in Adelaide — from 5pm. For the rest of the night, they team up with Vinnies and Salvos to feed anyone for free — no questions asked.

IGA

IGA retailers play an important part in their local communities, giving back wherever possible with various campaigns designed to raise funds and awareness about some of the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, or those who have been impacted by natural disaster.

IGA has also been a strong supporter of Vinnies by providing vouchers for Christmas hampers which are distributed to people in need so that they can have a more joyful and dignified Christmas. Each Christmas they raise funds encouraging shoppers to purchase a $2 token or 'community chest' vouchers, the proceeds of which go to Vinnies.

Metcash

Each year, Vinnies SA and the companions we support are fortunate to receive significant support from Metcash during the festive season via their Christmas hamper donations. This support, along with the shared packing, at the Metcash distribution centre, is a major highlight of the year, as is the opportunity to hand deliver these to community members in need of support.

APPEALS AND BEQUESTS



APPEALS

In the last financial year, the generosity of our donors helped the Society raise $2,817,125 to support people experiencing hardship across South Australia. This vital funding enabled us to continue delivering a range of programs and services to the growing number of individuals and families turning to us for assistance.

The community's commitment to this work was especially evident through our Winter and Christmas Appeals. These campaigns highlighted the ongoing impacts of the cost-of-living and housing crises on some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We are deeply grateful to our compassionate supporters who responded so generously and helped ensure support was available when it was needed most.

We also extend our sincere thanks to our regular givers, whose ongoing commitment provides a reliable foundation for our work throughout the year.

To find out more about our appeals, please visit the Vinnies SA website at www.vinnies.org.au/sa



BEQUESTS

During the financial year, the St Vincent de Paul Society SA received generous bequests totaling $723,267. These remarkable gifts will help us continue supporting vulnerable people and families throughout South Australia.

Through their foresight and compassion, our bequestors have created a lasting legacy of hope, enabling us to respond to people facing hardship when they need support most. Their gifts help fund a wide range of assistance, from financial advice and early intervention to help prevent homelessness, through to emergency relief including accommodation, food, clothing, furniture and support with essential household bills.

Bequests play a vital role in sustaining our mission and ensuring we can continue responding to the needs of our community well into the future. We are deeply grateful to those who have chosen to include the Society in their Will, and we honour the trust they have placed in us through these valued gifts.

If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your will, please contact Liz Campbell, Fundraising Manager on 08 8112 8744 or lcampbell@svdpsa.org.au





OUR ADVOCACY

Position Statement Drives Advocacy for Lasting Change.

During 2026, the Society strengthened its commitment to systemic advocacy through the development and release of its State Election Position Statement.

While launched in the lead-up to the South Australian election, the five priorities identified in the statement now form the basis of the Society's ongoing Position Statement, guiding efforts to address the underlying causes of poverty, exclusion and disadvantage.

The Position Statement drew on the experiences of members, volunteers and staff working alongside people facing hardship across South Australia. It recognised that while charitable support remains essential, many of the challenges experienced by companions require coordinated policy responses and sustained government action.

Five priority areas were identified: tackling participation poverty for children and young people, reducing housing insecurity, addressing loneliness and social isolation, embedding a culture of human rights, and strengthening support for people seeking asylum.

Housing insecurity remained a critical concern throughout the year. Increasing rents, rising housing costs and limited affordable housing options continued to place significant pressure on individuals and families, contributing to homelessness and housing instability. The Society advocated for increased investment in social and affordable housing and stronger pathways into secure, long-term housing.

The Society also highlighted the growing impact of participation poverty, recognising that financial barriers can prevent children and young people from fully engaging in education, sport, recreation and community life. Advocacy efforts focused on ensuring that all children have opportunities to participate, regardless of their amily's circumstances.

Recognising loneliness and social isolation as emerging social challenges, the Society called for greater attention to social connection and community belonging, particularly for people at increased risk of isolation. The Society also continued to advocate for a stronger human rights framework in South Australia and improved support for people seeking asylum who face significant barriers to accessing essential services and support.

The priorities contained within the Position Statement will continue to guide the Society's advocacy work beyond the election period, helping ensure that the voices and experiences of people facing disadvantage remain at the centre of public policy discussions. Through ongoing engagement with governments, communities and local Conferences, the Society will continue to advocate for practical reforms that uphold dignity, strengthen inclusion and create lasting positive change for South Australians.



READ OUR ELECTION POSITION STATEMENT HERE:

https://cms.vinnies.org.au/media/fyonhmim/vinnies-sa-2026-position-statement-final.pdf



OUR GOVERNANCE

As at 30 June 2026

State Council Members

State President	**Geraldine Hawkes**
Vice President Commercial	**Sandro Canale**
Vice President Advocacy	**Dr Jennifer Harvey**
Vice President Conference Life	**Kevin Liston**
Treasurer	**Des Quirk**
Spiritual Advisor	**Mary Camilleri**
Youth Representative	**Natasha Egglestone**

Regional Presidents

Central Districts	**Mario Trinidad**
Eastern	**Claire Victory**
Eyre	**Frances Power**
Fleurieu	***Vacant***
Hills Murray	**Thomas Mead**
Northern	**Mark Jaksa**
Riverland/Yorke	***Vacant***
South East	**Anne Lyons**
Southern	**Tony Roach**
Western	**Kylan Beech**

Ex Officio

Chief Executive Officer	**Clinton Jury**
Minute Secretary	**Courtney Hilton**

Our Committees

Regional Presidents Advisory Committee
Finance Audit & Risk Management Committee
Spirituality, Membership & Mission Advisory Committee
Social Needs Analysis & Advocacy Committee
Commercial Advisory Committee
Work Health & Safety Committee

Working Groups

Fleurieu Region Initiative

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements for the financial year 2025-26 are available on the ACNC website at:
https://www.acnc.gov.au



Our Committees

Regional Presidents Advisory Committee

The Regional Presidents Advisory Committee, grounded in companionship and the Society's mission, vision and values, is a safe place for Regional Presidents to share, support one another and find ways to serve, while also advising State Council.

This year, the Committee discussed matters important to our Conferences and regions, including assistance and budget strategies, preparations for the Christmas Conference, continuing learning for Members. We also received regular updates on State Council matters and strategic planning, and on the formation program, Conference mergers and new models of Conferences.

Looking ahead, the Committee will continue to strengthen connection between regions, support Conferences in the important work of supporting companions, and raise the Society's profile in the community.

Kevin Liston — Chairperson

Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee (FARMC) is an advisory committee that acts in an oversight capacity to assist and advise the State Council in matters pertaining to financial performance and management, sustainability, investment management, governance and risk.

The Committee's responsibilities extend to the review of: annual operating and capital budgets; quarterly financial results; solvency and liquidity; the audit and completion of statutory financial statements; strategic and operational risk assessments; investment strategy, portfolio allocation, performance monitoring and reporting; the financial policies and processes in place to ensure compliance with relevant legislative and regulatory requirements.

During the year covered by this Annual Report the Committee has closely considered the financial results in a challenging environment of rising costs and constrained revenue, over-seen the diversification of the investment portfolio with a stronger weighting on Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) factors and monitored the rollout of Compliance and Safeguarding training.

In the coming year, the Committee will monitor Management's implementation of new IT systems as part of the Society's digital transformation and review the development of a three-year financial plan aligned to the Society's 2026-31 Strategic Plan.

I wish to extend my thanks to the members of the FARMC for generously contributing their expertise and time and to the team in the Support Office for their commitment and support in the past 12 months.

If you would like to know more about or are interested in joining the committee, please email **dquirk@svdpsa.org.au**

Des Quirk — State Council Treasurer & FARMC Chair

Spirituality, Membership and Mission Advisory Committee

Spirituality, Membership and Mission Advisory Committee was established formally by State Council on 16 May 2026, and membership includes Regional Presidents, Conference Members, Staff and the State Spiritual Advisor.

Its focus is on processes to enable:

All in the Society to act, grow and flourish through the spiritual foundations of the Society; support for existing and new conference members; the emergence of new and more flexible models of conference.

It will do this through:

Facilitating conference recruitment, induction, training, leadership, succession planning and ongoing practical support as needed, together with opportunities for spiritual formation and regular review of life for all.

Encouraging responsiveness to people experiencing any form of poverty including loneliness, isolation and daily life struggles.

Initiatives so far include arranging for the inaugural Founders Day, developing a resource on Vincentian values, reviewing our Introduction to Society and ensuring more frequent opportunities for conferences to gather together.

We look forward to welcoming the newly created position of General Manager – Membership & Mission later in 2026.

Geraldine Hawkes — Committee Chair

Social Needs Analysis and Advocacy Committee

The Social Needs Analysis and Advocacy Committee continued to support the Society's commitment to addressing social disadvantage and poverty through informed advocacy at local and state levels.

A key focus during 2026 was the development of five advocacy priorities in the lead-up to the South Australian State Election. These priorities centred on housing and homelessness, building brighter futures for children and young people, social inclusion and connection, strengthening human rights provisions and supporting people seeking asylum.

The Committee developed an explanatory booklet and supporting resources to communicate these priorities and assist Conferences, members and supporters to engage with candidates, decision-makers and the wider community. During the year, the Committee strengthened engagement with Conferences across South Australia to better understand the experiences of companions facing loneliness, social isolation and a lack of belonging. These conversations are informing discussion about how Vinnies can further develop opportunities for social connection and community participation.

The Committee remains committed to working with Conferences to support and strengthen grassroots advocacy, ensuring the voices and experiences of companions continue to inform advocacy initiatives and contribute to positive social change.

Jennifer Harvey — Committee Chair

Commercial Advisory Committee

The Commercial Advisory Committee provide strategic advice and support to General Manager Enterprise Operations and State Council on commercial activities that contribute to organisational capabilities. This includes the Societies retail portfolio, warehouse and logistics function and growth opportunities that assist the society to grow and deliver services to companions.

During the year we focused on developing those retail opportunities by reviewing locations that help deliver the best outcomes to those that we service and provide much needed funds for the Society.

We farewelled our former General Manager, Luke Gramola who has moved to the private sector and we thank him for the significant contribution he made to the Society whilst with us. We welcome Farron Studt as our new General Manager Enterprise Operations and look forward to working with him.

The Committee welcomes any interest from anyone who would like to join us and help the Society grow its commercial activities.

Sandro Canale — Vice President Commercial

SHOP AND CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

SHOPS

Adelaide	108 Waymouth St
Barmera	19 Barwell Ave
Brighton	5/430 Brighton Rd
Campbelltown	544 Lower North East Rd
Coober Pedy	Post Office Hill Rd
Croydon	449 Port Road
Elizabeth	8 Langford Dve
Enfield	271 Main North Road
Gawler	48 Murray St
Hawthorn	21 Abbotshall Rd
Kadina	7 Doswell Tce
Kidman Park	308 Grange Rd
Maitland	21 Robert St
Millicent	85 George St
Morphett Vale	Shop 1, 199 Main South Rd
Mount Barker	7-9, 79 Gawler St
Mount Gambier	2 Crouch St South
Murray Bridge	11 Second St
Naracoorte	212 Smith St
Noarlunga Centre	Colonnades Shopping Centre, Beach Road
Norwood	70 The Parade
Parkside	99 Glen Osmond Rd
Port Adelaide	*Closed*
Port Augusta	Shop 2, 7 Commercial Rd
Port Lincoln	10 Edinburgh St
Port Pirie	Alexander St, Corner Gertrude Street
Prospect	*Closed*
Royal Park	18 Tapleys Hill Rd
Salisbury	Shop 1-2, 89 John Street
Semaphore	*Closed*
Tailem Bend	Station Drive/Kulde Rd
Taperoo	356 Victoria Rd
Valley View	12/901 Grand Junction Rd
Victor Harbor	68-78 Victoria St
Whyalla	104 Essington Lewis Ave
Whyalla Westland	Shop 30 Westland Shopping Centre, 1 Nicolson Avenue

CONFERENCES

Aberfoyle Park / Blackwood Conference

Adelaide / St Francis Conference

Aldinga Conference

Barmera Conference

Bordertown Conference

Brighton Conference

Clearview Conference

Colonel Light Gardens Conference

Coober Pedy Conference

Croydon Conference

Davoren Park Conference (Elizabeth West previously)

Dernancourt Conference

Dulwich Conference

Edwardstown/Plympton Conference

Elizabeth North Conference

Gawler Conference

Glen Osmond / Parkside Conference

Glenelg Conference

Goodwood Conference

Greenacres / Walkerville Conference

Hallett Cove Conference

Hectorville / Tranmere Conference

Henley Beach Conference

Hindmarsh Conference

Kadina / Wallaroo / Moonta Conference

Kingswood Conference

Lefevre Conference

Lockleys Conference

Millicent Conference

Modbury Conference

Morphett Vale Conference

Mount Gambier / St Pauls Conference

Mount Gambier Women's Conference

Mt Barker / Strathalbyn Conference

Murray Bridge Conference

Naracoorte Conference

Newton Conference

Noarlunga Conference

Norwood Conference

Payneham Conference

Port Adelaide Conference

Port Augusta Conference

Port Lincoln Conference

Port Pirie Conference

Prospect / Kilburn Conference

Salisbury Conference

Seacombe Gardens Conference

St Marys Conference

Stirling Conference

Tea Tree Gully Conference

Thebarton Conference

Victor Harbor Conference

Whyalla / OLHC Conference

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT VINNIES



VOLUNTEER

By volunteering at Vinnies, you can be sure you're making a difference. For some people, volunteering is a chance to give something back to the community, to use their skills and experience to make a difference in the lives of people who need assistance the most. For others, it is a chance to develop new skills and experience in a supportive environment. A range of volunteering options are available — and one that's just right for you.



FUNDRAISE FOR VINNIES SA

Each year, community members generously donate their time and energy by organising fundraising events and activities to help Vinnies help others.

There are lots of ways to make a difference, from BBQs to bake sales, fun runs to morning teas, trivia nights or sporting events and everything in between, you can get creative and fundraise your own way for Vinnies.



LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A bequest to the St Vincent de Paul Society makes lasting positive change and is a powerful reflection of the values and principles you treasure. It enables you to create a legacy of love and care for those who most need assistance, and it will continue your life's aims beyond your own lifetime.



VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout is our biggest annual fundraiser in SA and the money raised is critical to the services we provide in our community. Open to CEOs, senior executives and business or community leaders, consider joining us or nominating your boss or a family member!



WORK WITH US

The St Vincent de Paul Society provides exciting career opportunities for people who have the desire to apply their professional skills in a job that gives back to the community.

We are a predominantly volunteer-run organisation, and employees undertake a cross-section of administrative, coordinator and management roles.



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

These days, your customers expect your organisation to be socially and ethically responsible. Building a Corporate Partnership with an iconic, trusted brand like Vinnies will enhance your organisation's reputation by demonstrating your compassion and desire to give back to people facing hardship.

Plus, it feels good!



GET INVOLVED vinnies.org.au/get-involved

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

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

St Vincent de Paul Society SA

good works

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