

# Vinnies News

## Thousands of children receive Vinnies emergency assistance in the past 3 months alone

**New data from Vinnies WA released during Anti-Poverty Week has revealed that from July to September, the charity provided emergency assistance to 4,715 households, including 6,600 children.**

Among the most common types of assistance provided were food and clothing, furniture and bedding, help with utility bills, and transport such as fuel and smart riders.

This year's Anti-Poverty Week (16-22 October) urged Parliamentarians across Australia to legislate to halve child poverty by 2030.

"The number of children who are experiencing poverty and disadvantage is alarming," said Vinnies CEO Susan Rooney.

"In a state as wealthy as Western Australia, it is simply unacceptable that children have to grow up without access to the most basic necessities like food, clothing and a safe, stable home," she added.

Rising interest rates and rents as well as a lack of affordable housing are placing unprecedented pressure on WA families.

Vinnies financial counsellors are reporting that WA families have been forced to decide whether they can keep a roof over their head, put fuel in the car, attend medical appointments or buy food.

### **Vinnies is calling on the Federal Government to:**

- Raise the rate of JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and other income support payments permanently and to a level that ensures people can cover their basic living needs, including housing.
- Increase the rate of the Commonwealth Rent Assistance payment by 50 per cent for low income

households who are privately renting and expand the eligibility criteria.

- Develop the promised National Housing and Homelessness Plan as a matter of urgency and fund it appropriately. This plan must include a specialised youth homelessness framework and fund approaches and services that are consistent with the best available evidence and practice to prevent and end youth homelessness.



*CEO Susan Rooney and State President David Kennedy signed the Anti-Poverty Week pledge on behalf of Vinnies WA.*

Ms Rooney is also urging the State Government to support WA renters.

"In these challenging times, if the State Government were to introduce a rental subsidy, it would make a very real difference to vulnerable West Australian families experiencing rental stress, and stop them from sliding into homelessness," she said.

# CROFT Housing project

**A little over a year since Vinnies took over the CROFT Housing complex in Inglewood, renovations on the property are in full swing.**

Work is underway to upgrade the five one-bedroom units and four two-bedroom units to turn them into modern transitional accommodation for individuals and/or families experiencing, or at high risk of, homelessness.

“The complex has exceeded our expectations, and we can’t wait to continue our great work of providing housing for those in need of a safe place to call home,” said Sally McVicar, Manager of Housing Plus at Vinnies.

After an Expression of Interest process, the board of Community for the Restoration of Family Trust Incorporated (CROFT), awarded the complex to Vinnies in July 2021. We are very grateful that the board entrusted Vinnies to carry-on CROFT’s proud legacy of providing housing to people who are experiencing homelessness.

Vinnies Housing Plus program provides a variety of medium-term housing options in the greater Perth and Mandurah area for families and young people who face barriers accessing housing.

A flexible tenancy management model offers the capacity to manage tenancies on a case by case basis, while homes come fully furnished and are move-in ready, including white goods, bedding and crockery.

This allows us to seamlessly coordinate the transition to stable accommodation for those who meet the eligibility criteria.



*Renovations at CROFT are in full swing.*

## Tough Night Out raises more than \$33k for homelessness services

**Over 130 West Australians toughed it out in early September for Vinnies’ newest fundraising event.**

The Tough Night Out raised more than \$33,000 for people experiencing homelessness in WA. The funds will go towards the Passages Youth Engagement Hubs in Perth and Peel.

For one night, participants of all ages slept rough in their homes, their schools or in their workplaces.



The event wasn’t just a regular sleepout. The more money participants raised, the tougher their night got. It meant they had to change locations through the night, lose their pillow or set their alarm to wake up every two hours.

While withdrawing a few comforts does not come close to what people experiencing homelessness really face, the event did provide further insights and information on Vinnies Specialist Homelessness Services and the people they assist.

Among the participants was a group of 81 students from Ursula Frayne Catholic College, who raised a total of \$13,270, making them the biggest single fundraising group for the event.

“We’re grateful to everyone who took part, donated or supported the event. It was particularly wonderful to see so many young people in schools take part. Thank you to all of you for helping change lives with us,” said Niamh Kiely, Manager of Homelessness Services at Vinnies WA.

# Our very own local hero

Vinnies' own Pauline McIntyre is a tireless champion for those less fortunate than herself, and recently she found yet another way to help.

As a deserving finalist in the Westfield Local Heroes grants program, she won \$5,000 for Vinnies emergency assistance services in her area.

Pauline says even though her sister nominated her, she was reluctant to participate at first.

"I realised that it was a great way to raise awareness around the work of Vinnies, and also to raise much-needed funds," she said.



Pauline donated her \$5,000 prize to Vinnies.

She added that she enjoyed meeting the other finalists and making new connections.

"The whole process has been very rewarding and fulfilling. Thank you to everyone who voted."

Pauline has volunteered for Vinnies for more than 25 years as both a member and an Archivist.

As a member, her contribution includes listening to and engaging with families who call for assistance, delivering food and clothing vouchers and organising help with urgent furniture deliveries, utility bills and car registration.

More recently, calls for assistance from victim-survivors of family violence and families at risk of homelessness have been on the rise and Pauline helps find accommodation and arranges referrals to free qualified financial counsellors, who can help sort out more complicated money matters.

## Christmas Appeal 2022

**In our Christmas Appeal we share Kelly's story, a mother who is struggling to provide essentials for her family due to the cost-of-living crisis.**

With two teenage daughters to care for, families like Kelly's have been unable to afford the sudden rise in basics like food, electricity, furniture, and rent.

Despite cutting back, Kelly's family did not have enough money to get by. Every bill adds another pressure, bringing them closer to losing their home.

With one in four families turning to Vinnies WA for the first time in the last year, Vinnies is asking supporters to dig deep to help West Australians struggling with the cost of living this Christmas.

Donations can provide immediate relief like food, assistance with medical expenses, bills and rent to keep families in their homes this holiday season.

To make a kind donation visit [www.vinnies.org.au/donate](http://www.vinnies.org.au/donate)



## Short Back and Sidewalks

For most people, getting a haircut is just a regular part of life. But for young people experiencing homelessness, it can be an unaffordable luxury.

The team from Short Back & Sidewalks has been such an important part of our Passages Youth Engagement Hub in Perth.

They have provided the young people visiting our service with some good-looking haircuts - free of charge and, more importantly, free of judgment.

In late August, they delivered their 7,000th haircut at Passages Perth. The milestone event was attended by Patrick Gorman MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Federal Member for Perth.

“When you’re cold, hungry, scared, and don’t know where you’ll be sleeping, your appearance isn’t a high priority,” said Short Back and Sidewalks founder and CEO Craig Hollywood.

“But positive connection and enhanced appearance are integral to your self-confidence, mental health and well-being.”

Passages Youth Engagement Hub Perth is a joint venture between Vinnies WA and Perth Rotary - Western Australia.



Passages client Travis received the 7,000th haircut. Photo: Jacqueline van Grootel

**PASSAGES**  
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT HUB



## Make Renting Fair

Do you think we should...



3 out of 4 West Aussies think we should \*



\*Polling conducted in August 2022 by Painted Dog Research

**Vinnies WA has partnered with an alliance of other community service organisations, renters and landlords to help Make Renting Fair.**

The campaign is advocating for secure, affordable and healthy homes for more than 700,000 renters in Western Australia.

Share your experiences as a renter in Western Australia by filling out a short survey here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/MakeRentingFair](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MakeRentingFair)

The information collected will inform our campaign for more balance in our tenancy laws.

Learn more about Make Renting Fair at [www.makerentingfairwa.org.au](http://www.makerentingfairwa.org.au)



[vinnieswa.org.au](http://vinnieswa.org.au)

9 Brewer Road Canning Vale WA 6155  
PO Box 1450 Canning Vale DC WA 6970  
P: 08 6323 7500  
E: [info@svdpwa.org.au](mailto:info@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.

To respect the privacy of the people we assist, some of the names and images may have been changed.