

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of vulnerable Queensland families.



Year in review:
a snapshot of
achievements you
made possible



Your kindness
is giving Luke*
and his dad a
brighter tomorrow



How you've helped
Jacqueline* and her
children towards a
better future

SPRING 2024



Vinnies
good works



An exciting and warm welcome to your new-look Making A Difference newsletter

You are so important to making a difference in people's lives, and we at St Vincent de Paul Society QLD (Vinnies QLD) want to celebrate you by sharing stories of your extraordinary impact.

Among these are the stories of people like Luke* and Jacqueline*, who have overcome the most difficult of circumstances thanks to you.

And while I cannot wait for you to read about them today, there are still so many more vulnerable Queenslanders who need us. Who need you.

People like Bernadette*.

As costs of living continue to rise, many families like Bernadette's are still struggling to feed their children and support them through school.

I am so grateful for you being a part of the caring Vinnies QLD community. Your ongoing, unwavering support is such an integral part of the good works our community stands for.

Together, we can make more stories like Luke's and Jacqueline's possible, especially for people like Bernadette, who need your support now more than ever.

You can help give vulnerable Queenslanders

the support they need to lead happy, healthy lives – not just barely get by.

Already, your kindness is making such a difference in people's lives.

Luke and his family no longer endure the cold while living in a tent in a park, and Jacqueline's children feel more confident at school with new uniforms and stationery.

All thanks to you.

Today, in your new-look Making A Difference newsletter, I hope you will see how your support is changing the lives of vulnerable Queenslanders like Luke and Jacqueline, and that you are inspired by all the good works you are making happen.

Thank you for everything that you do.



P. McMahon

Trish McMahon

State President,
St Vincent de Paul Society QLD

YOUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

1st December 2023 - 1st May 2024





YOUR SUPPORT

for Luke and his family
has put a roof over their
heads – for good.



Your ongoing support for vulnerable families like Luke's makes these achievements possible – thank you.

Thanks to you Luke, his dad Colin*, and dog Ruby* now live in secure housing.

It's because of you that Luke and his family received the assistance of our incredible and dedicated volunteer members, Dennis and Grace.

Since Luke met Dennis and Grace, his life, and the lives of his loved ones, have completely transformed. And Dennis and Grace couldn't be happier. Dennis shared:

"Now they're healthier, having good sleep, safe accommodation, and good meals, they're certainly back on track!"

Not only do Luke's family now have secure housing, but Colin's health has come a long way, too. Colin's lung diseases, emphysema and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), which only worsened under the circumstances of homelessness, have seen significant improvement from all the medical support you helped provide him with. Getting medical support, moving in off the streets and into a safe, secure home have made all the difference.

Today, Luke's family feels much more hopeful about their future. Luke told us:

"Since Vinnies QLD helped us, it's all changed. Dad's health is getting better, and I feel happier every day."

Your support has given Luke's family the immediate and long-term assistance they need to not only survive, but prosper. Your help has allowed them to achieve so much. We are so proud of how much progress they have made, and we're sure that you are, too.



"Because of you, Vinnies QLD were able to help me and dad rebuild our lives when we had nowhere else to turn to." - Luke

YOU HELPED

Jacqueline's* children
succeed at school.

Liana, Hana, and Ari have
achieved so much with
your help – thank you!



Because of your kindness, Jacqueline's children - Liana, Hana, and Ari* - have well-fitting uniforms, shoes, and the required stationery and textbooks for school.

You've given them the confidence to attend school with pride, enjoy learning and engage in class! Jacqueline shared:

"Without your kindness and understanding, my children wouldn't be so determined to reach their goals and shine. You've opened a pathway for my children to succeed and get somewhere, to believe in themselves."

Every child at a disadvantage faces unique challenges at school, such as falling behind in their learning, or the isolating struggles of not fitting in.

This year, back-to-school costs are skyrocketing in Queensland, with parents needing to put aside \$3000 per child. And that's just for school supplies.¹

Your unwavering support is providing practical assistance for struggling parents so they can afford to not only send their children to school, but to send them with new uniforms, books, and stationery. Thank you.

But there are more families who need help. Families like Bernadette's*.

Her children don't have the basics they need for school. They're missing out on the chance to learn and unlock their true potential. But you can help.

When our volunteer members, Sara and Katherine*, met Bernadette, she was raising her four children alone, struggling to make ends meet.

Despite trying her hardest, Bernadette can't provide the essentials they need for school. Sometimes, she can't afford food. Katherine shared:

"Bernadette's biggest desire is for her children to start school with confidence, but she's struggling... fearing she'll lose her accommodation and not be able to pay her bills. This worsened since her father passed away."

For Bernadette, it feels like the weight of the world is on her shoulders.

The kindness you've shown families like Jacqueline's can be what helps lift that weight for Bernadette, too.

Every child deserves to feel engaged and involved at school, to enjoy learning, and to feel they belong. With your support, they can have a truly positive schooling experience, and break the cycle of poverty. Thank you.

*Names and images have been changed to protect privacy. Thank you for understanding

¹ <https://www.couriermail.com.au/queensland-education/queensland-back-to-school-costs-skyrocket-as-parents-forecast-to-fork-out-3k-per-kid/news-story/c80c623c19c10a74e70b485dc9f715a6>