

# Good Works

## NORTHWEST NEWS SPRING 2024

### Regional Director

Dear Members,

As you will see from the updates in this newsletter, it's been a very busy few months for our teams in the North West with fundraising, training, community engagement and member support activities. I'm approaching five months with Vinnies and I am definitely a bit more advanced on my learning curve!

I was really pleased that we were able to arrange two weeks of face-to-face training sessions in Vinnies systems for our conferences in the Armidale and Bathurst Central Council areas. We received some very positive feedback from Members. The team from Sydney also found these sessions enlightening as they got to understand, first-hand, the issues faced by our conferences in using the technology. They commented on the warmth and hospitality from our members – thank you for embracing the opportunity and we hope to continue to bring you support where and when you need it. Bathurst and Armidale teams are engaged with a planning process to identify our priorities for the next 12 months and as one output of that process I plan to bring you a calendar for 2025 activities with the next newsletter. We are focused on bringing value to our Conferences through support, training, member recruitment, community engagement and fundraising. An important part of our role is to also provide engagement and spiritual development opportunities for our members through workshops, retreats and masses and we will work with our Central Council Presidents to develop a calendar for 2025.

Thank you.  
Sarah Wilson

### Bathurst Central Council President - Marina Gray

You know that song, 'What's going on'? Well, a lot! The State President election took place on 29 August and Peter Houwelling was elected. Congratulations Peter.

I want to say and make sure you guys know, You guys are amazing of all things and activities you accomplish and do.

During the week of 27 September, Members celebrated the Feast Day of our patron, St Vincent de Paul. A quote from St Vincent de Paul:

***"If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary, Your mere presence will touch hearts"***

There were a few Festival Masses and celebrations around the area. Well done to all.

I have, where I can, been visiting our Conferences in the Bathurst Central Council. It has been a pleasure to meet everyone, and I am in awe of what you do. We recently had the Insight forum in Orange where members, volunteers and staff came together to listen and discuss subjects relevant to us in the region. It takes a bit to get there because of travel distance, but well worth it. So if you can make it, these meetings are beneficial. So please take the opportunity where you can attend.

We have just had our Regional Meetings around the Bathurst Central Council, and they were so beneficial to hear from the Regional Presidents, Conference Presidents, members and volunteers. I would encourage you all to come along to your Regional Meeting and see what goes on, listen learn and have a say.

With 10 short weeks to go before Christmas, now is the time to plan, if we haven't already started. Before you know it, we will be all busy bees and no time to scratch ourselves. If you need assistance, please reach out.

God Bless  
Marina

## Armidale Central Council President - John Adams

I'm very pleased to report that Mrs Kerry Steller has accepted my invitation to accept the position of Vice President, Armidale Central Council.

In other news from Armidale Central Council:

- We recently farewelled Cassie Croft who is taking maternity leave. Cassie is our Schools and Youth Engagement Coordinator.
- It was with regret that Don Hewitt passed away in Armidale on the 26 September. Don was a true Vincentian for some 58yrs and will be sadly missed. Rest well true and faithful servant.
- At the recent Namoi Barwon Festival Mass and Regional Council Meeting held in Moree it was my privilege to present Margaret Guest from St Xaviers Conference, Narrabri with a Lifetime Service Award. Margaret was nominated for this award by Colleen Nash, also a life member of the society. Margaret has been active in the society for in excess of 35yrs. Congratulations Margaret.
- I am pleased to report that Father Damien Locke from has agreed to celebrate Holy Mass prior to each Central Council Meeting in Armidale.
- Sarah and staff from the Central Council Office in Armidale are currently looking for a new premises to house the Armidale Office. The current office is unsafe, crowded and in a totally inaccessible position and I am very concerned as to its work health and safety compliance. We are also currently reviewing our premises in both Moree and Tamworth for possible future development.
- There are a number of premises throughout the Central Council Area that are no longer used or fit for purpose. These premises are located in Armidale, Warialda and Mungindi and these will be sold in the near future.
- I recently attended the Member Leaders Forum held in Sydney on the 7 and 8 September. During this forum a report from The McKell Institute was tabled titled "Immediate Aid, Measurable Impact, Examining the effectiveness of emergency relief", I would encourage all to read this document as it is really a tribute to you all in your daily work supporting those in need. If you would like a copy of this document, please contact Nirmal at the Armidale Office and Nirmal will email you the full document.

Thank you to all members, volunteers and staff for all the work you do.  
God bless you all, John.

### Event Notice:

#### Stannies' Festival Mass

St Stanislaus' College in Bathurst have invited Vinnies members to their Saint Stanislaus Kostka Feast Day Patron's Day Mass on November 13.

A lunch will be arranged for our Members, please let us know if you are coming – email [bathurst@vinnies.org.au](mailto:bathurst@vinnies.org.au) or phone 9173 1220.

A bus has been arranged for members and volunteers to attend and will leave Mudgee at 8.30am, then through Ralston-Kandos to Bathurst and return after lunch.

### Central Council Meetings

Next meetings:

#### **Armidale Central Council - 5 November**

Armidale Regional Council - 5 November  
North East Regional Council – 11 November  
Namoi Barwon Regional Council – 16 February  
Tamworth Regional Council - 20 November

#### **Bathurst Central Council – 12-13 November**

Castlereagh Regional Council – 19 November  
Cudgong Regional Council – 20 November  
Evans Regional Council – 17 November  
Orange Regional Council – 4 December

**All members welcome to RC meetings**

# In Review – Member & Community

## Insight Forums

Insight Forums were held during August in both Orange and Tamworth, featuring presentations from CEO Yolanda Saiz, Leo Tucker (Exec Dir Mission and Formation) and Brett Macklin (Dir Homelessness & Housing). They were well attended and received by members who provided very positive feedback.

(See the last pages of this newsletter for some of the data that was presented at the Forums).

## Homelessness Week Expo Orange 9<sup>th</sup> August

Orange Conference Member Bill Kelly, Associate Member & Van Volunteer Margaret Wendelin, Member & Community Engagement Coordinator Gab McDonell and Conference President & Van Volunteer Tony Davidson joined with other local service providers at Robertson Park to raise awareness about critical homelessness issues in our community. MPs Sam Faraway and Andrew Gee also attended the event.

## Dubbo Volunteer Expo 3 September

Congratulations to the organising committee of the inaugural Volunteer Expo in Dubbo, featuring more than 40 local groups, services and charities - including Vinnies of course!



L-R Tony Davidson, Gab McDonell, Andrew Gee and Keith Dowling



L-R Ian Wray, xx, xx, Rhonda Gleeson

## Conference Workshops for CAMS, MAVS & Vinnies Assist

**Bathurst Diocese** was conducted in person Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August with Bree Harding and her team in 5 locations in Oberon, Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo and Mudgee. The feedback from members and staff has been very positive.

**Armidale Diocese** was conducted in person Monday 23 - Friday 27 September in Narrabri, Inverell, Armidale and Tamworth and again saw excellent attendance from members and very positive feedback.

We are serious about helping our Conference members to build their confidence and capacity with new systems and processes and we appreciate their positivity and effort.

Members are encouraged to reach out to the office for assistance and support.



# In Review – Grants & Fundraising

## Orange Ex-Services Club Vinnies Van \$10,000 Grant

**Orange Ex-Services' Club** contributed to over \$150,000 in category 1 funding to 28 local projects run for the benefit of the Orange community. **Orange Vinnies Van Service** was honoured to be a recipient of a grant for \$10,000 for crisis support.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is most grateful for the recognition and support. Thank you!

## OCTEC Donation \$15,000 Grant

In response to the Vinnies Van Service Community Sleepout, local employment and training organisation OCTEC made a generous donation of \$15,000.

Thank you OCTEC!

## Flood Grants – Department of Community and Justice

**Orange Regional Council** has been supporting flood affected community members from Eugowra, Molong, Canowindra and surrounds since the catastrophic flood event on 14 November 2022. Part of the support saw Conference Members from Orange, Canowindra, Cowra and Molong in attendance at the Vinnies Assistance days held at the Eugowra Bowling Club. Financial and pastoral care was provided to approximately 70 households per session. Over the past 2 years over 200 households on many occasions have received assistance from grant and Society flood assistance money.

The latest **\$50,000** flood grant monies from the Department of Community and Justice allocated to our area assisted 54 households with 44 residents from Eugowra and 5 each respectively from Canowindra and Molong. Of the households, 31 were single households, 18 were couple households and three were household families. Most assistance requests were for water and land rates, electricity and gas bills, car expenses such as registration, insurance and repairs and home insurance costs.

Our sincere thanks goes to all the Members who have and continue to support flood impacted community members through your local Conference and on our designated Vinnies Support days. The care and compassion shown as part of this Conference work has been exemplary. It has been of great benefit and very much appreciated by so many. We could not have done it without you.

## Namoi Barwon Regional Council

In late October 2023, we received an NGO Flood Recovery Program Open Grant from DCJ to assist those most affected in the region of Walgett and the Moree Plains Shire, which were severely affected in the 2022 floods.

The total grant was \$50,000 which enabled the Society to offer specific assistance over a very large area of land to people who had lost a variety of household items, farming equipment, livestock, livelihood and in some cases their health and wellbeing.

Sixty- Eight families were assisted in total from our first point of contact on 5 Dec 2023 to our final one on 20 Sept 2024, taking the total number of people assisted to more than 100.

The items of most need were basic groceries including meat, outstanding rates notices, general household items including cleaning goods and chemist and health expenses which were neglected in households which deemed other expenses more important than their own health and welfare. This was most remarkable in our older rural Australians. Some too proud to accept let alone ask for help.

All local businesses in the region were used to supply the goods and services required and the owners were most appreciative as this helped get them “back on their feet” after suffering flood damage and loss themselves.

One lady just cried because it was her first “proper grocery order” in many months. She remarked, “I don’t know what to choose first”.

Thank you to members and staff who contributed to this effort – special thanks to Colleen Nash, Joy Howe, Vince Tydd, Vanessa Hickey, Glenda Bettens and Barry Read

# In Review – Grants & Fundraising

## Community Sleepouts August 30

The following successful sleepouts were held in the Northwest region on August 30 and received tremendous support from these communities. Congratulations to members and staff that put an enormous effort into the coordination and networking for these events.

- Dubbo Gaol Community Sleepout raised **\$6,037**
- Armidale Community Sleepout raised **\$35,401**
- Orange Vinnies Van Community Sleepout raised **\$20,316**



*Dubbo Community Sleepout - Old Dubbo Gaol*



*Armidale Community Sleepout held at the University of New England gymnasium*



*Figure 1 Vinnies Van Sleepout - Orange*

### Thank you **Rapid Relief!**

After a cold and somewhat sleepless night, participants of the Orange Vinnies Van Community Sleepout were treated to a hearty breakfast provided by the efficient and generous **Rapid Relief Team**.

Armidale Community Sleepout was also supported by the Rapid Relief Team with a delicious evening meal being enjoyed by all in attendance.



# In Review – Conference Highlights

## Armidale Festival Mass & Commissioning September 21



Commissioning for Anthony Dale, North Eastern Regional Council President. Photo L-R: Anne Dale (Sacred Heart, Inverell), Anthony Dale (North Eastern Regional Council President), Fr Damien Locke (Sts Mary and Joseph Cathedral Armidale), Kerry Stellar (Armidale Regional Council President)

## Mary Behan – A Retirement Well-deserved

After 30+ years of service, Conference members and Centre volunteers came together from near and far to say thanks and goodbye to Mary. You rarely meet a person so selfless and devoted, and we were honored to have you Mary on our volunteers' team. A special thank you for all the inspiration and energy you have given over the years. I hope you know the priceless impact you have had on so many lives.

- Marina Gray



Members from Armidale and North East Regional Councils came together to celebrate the Festival Mass and the Commissioning of Anthony Dale, North East Regional Council President.



Front – Sue Adams (St Mary of the Angels, Guyra), Nirmal Nanayakkara (Member and Engagement Coordinator, Armidale), Kerry Stellar (Armidale Regional Council President), Anne Dale (Sacred Heart, Inverell), Caroline Chapman (St Augustine's, Armidale), Liz Fitzgerald (St Augustine's, Armidale), Carol Kahn (St Joseph's, Armidale), Jim Maher (St Joseph's, Armidale), Neroli O'Brien (Sacred Heart, Inverell), Sue Dennison (St Augustine's, Armidale), Helen Dixon (St Joseph's & St Augustine's, Armidale). Rear - Anthony Dale (North Eastern Regional Council President), David Stellar (St Augustine's, Armidale), Tony Da Silva (St Joseph's, Armidale), Greg Clarke (St Joseph's, Armidale), Peter Steir (St Joseph's, Armidale), Paul Robinson (St Augustine's, Armidale), Robyn Driscoll (St Louise, Armidale), Margaret Atchison (St Louise, Armidale), Veronica Ryan (St Louise, Armidale), Wendy Clark (Executive Assistant, State Council President), Kerry Muir (St Patrick's, Glen Innes), Benjamin Uphill (St Augustine's, Armidale).

## St Raphael's Mass St Vincent de Paul Feast Day, Cowra, 24 Sept

The mass was attended by members, volunteers and staff member Gab McDonell. This was followed by a lovely morning tea at the Japanese Garden Café at the Cowra Japanese Garden & Cultural Centre, just in time for the Cherry Blossom Festival. A great few hours of catching up and celebrating our friendships.



Cowra Festival Mass 24 September L- R Maria Brown, Dawn Beath, Peta Leseberg, Marina Gray, Mary Apps, Father Dong, Pat Smith, Gab McDonell & Natalie Dwyer



# In Review – Conference Highlights

## Kandos – Celebrating 95 Years 4 August

What an achievement - 95 Years of Vincentian mission and dedicated work in the community.

A celebration on 4<sup>th</sup> August was held firstly with Mass and was celebrated with the Kandos Conference members current, previous, centre volunteers, local parishioners, staff, friends and invited guests.

After Mass guests were invited to the most delicious meal put on by the members and volunteers.



*Kandos members from L to R: Carol Morrissey (President St Dominic's Kandos), Maureen Forbes, Louise McPherson, Doreen Wurth, John Coffey and Marina Gray (Bathurst CC President).*



*Kandos members cutting the cake for – L to R: Maureen Forbes & Doreen Wurth.*

## Wallerawang Festival Mass St Vincent de Paul Feast Day Sunday, 28th September

The mass was attended by members and a number of the congregation. This was followed by a lovely meal at the Wallerawang Bowling Club. A great few hours was had by all.



*Members past and present of St Ignatius Conference – and Fr Reynold Jaboneta (Parish Priest) and Gail Gilbert (Staff - Operations Support Officer)*



*New and existing members of St Ignatius Conference in Oberon attended the mass. L to R - Christine O'Mahony (Acting Evans Regional President), Brother Gordon Smith (existing member), (new members) Ben Rawakerei, Patricia Tukana, Rosalie Manhood and Mari*



# In Review – Conference Highlights

## Moree Festival Mass September 29

Members and staff enjoyed a beautiful day celebrating the commissioning of Deanne O'Connor as St Therese President, Moree; and the presentation of a Lifetime Service Award to Narrabri Member Margaret Guest. A fantastic lunch was provided, followed by the Regional Council meeting for Namoi-Barwon.

*Margaret Guest  
recipient of the  
Lifetime Service  
Award – Narrabri  
Conference  
Member 35 Years  
– presented by  
John Adams,  
Central Council  
President*



*Commissioning of Deanne O'Connor as St Therese President, Moree. Photo L-R John Adams (Armidale Central Council President), Father Vic Ignacio (St Francis Xavier, Moree, Parish Priest), Deanne O'Connor, Vince Tydd (Namoi Barwon Regional Council President)*



*Front – Maureen Wong (St Therese Moree), St Neisha SOSJ (St Therese Moree), Cynthia Wilson (St Francis Xavier Narrabri), Margaret Guest (St Francis Xavier Narrabri), Patricia Maddern (St Therese Moree), Deanne O'Connor (St Therese Moree, President), St Dora SOSJ (St Therese Moree), Maureen Baker (St Therese Moree), Middle – Vince Tydd (Namoi Barwon Regional Council President), Joy Howe (Operational Support, Armidale), Helen Webb (St Francis Xavier Narrabri), Colleen Nash (Namoi Barwon Outreach), Michael Rily (St Francis Xavier Narrabri, President), Cathy Brown (St Therese Moree), John Adams (Armidale Central Council President), Glenda Bettens (St Therese Moree), Rear – Sarah Wilson (Regional Director North West), Mark Humphries (St Therese Moree, Spiritual Advisor)*



# Armidale Schools & Youth

## Homework Help- St Mary's Youth Conference

With a funding boost from the **Gifting Towards Children initiative**, our Homework Help Club has had another successful term. The students who attend this service are from culturally and linguistically diverse families as well as students experiencing disadvantages. Term 3 has seen 11 primary school students enrolled in the Homework Help sessions, which is a great number and a testament to the members that facilitate it. Every week, students taking part are able to share afternoon tea with their tutor, read to and be read to by their tutor as well as take part in hands on, meaningful and interactive learning activities that directly impact their educational goals and engagement. The pre mentioned grant has allowed us to provide new and appropriate resources, afternoon tea as well as helping families with transportation to access this service.



## Schools Winter Appeal

A huge thank you to the schools that have taken part in the Winter Appeal this year! We have had a good mix of engagement, ranging from material donations, financial donations as well as school presentations to gain more understanding of the realities faced by our communities in this cost-of-living crisis. Thank you certificates have been sent to all schools who have taken part this year. Some of the activities undertaken by schools this year include:

**St Mary's Armidale** amazing can drive and PJ day. Each student in the school was asked to donate a can of nonperishable food. Students then worked in teams to create the tallest can tower! The winning team was from year 6.



Figure 2 Photos sourced from St Mary's Primary Facebook page



# Armidale Schools & Youth

**St Edwards Tamworth** held a PJ Day where both staff and students got in on the fun! REC and Mini Vinnies Coordinator Sally Clarke said "Today, our Primary students and staff had a fantastic time wearing their coziest pyjamas, oodles, onesies, and Ugg boots to school! This fun-filled event was all in support of the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. A huge thank you to our dedicated St Edward's Mini Vinnies team for organising such a wonderful day. Thank you so much to all of our families for your support, together we raised \$862.75 for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal this term. Your generosity will make a real difference in our community!"



*Photos sourced from St Edward's Tamworth Facebook page*

**Sacred Heart Boggabri** has this year taken part in the Winter Appeal by collecting food items to create hampers. These hampers were lovingly put together by the students and delivered to their nearest Vinnies Conference in Gunnedah to support the Boggabri and surrounding community.



*Figure 3 Photos sourced from Sacred Heart Primary School Newsletter*

**O'Connor Catholic College** held their annual St Vincent De Paul Mass and Donation Drive. A focus on faith, acts of service and the drive to do as Christ has taught us made a very special Mass celebration.

We have also had many other examples of schools engaging with the Winter Appeal. Some of these have been; St Mary of the Angel's Guyra Pj Day, St Joseph's Uralla crazy sock day, McCarthy Catholic College 'tacky tracky' fundraising day, St Francis Xavier's PJ day, St Philomena's Moree Dress up and care pack supply donation day, St Joseph's Glen Innes dress up day, Holy Trinity Inverell pizza fundraiser, St Joseph's Quirindi mufti day and acts of service focus.

We wholeheartedly thank these schools, their families and the Mini Vinnies coordinators who have supported the 2024 Winter Appeal during these tough times.



# Bathurst Schools & Youth

**The schools of the Bathurst Diocese** have again been incredibly generous with their continuing support for our Winter Appeal. St Laurence's Coonabarabran centred their donations on the Year One Mass, collecting items to the Year One classroom prior to the day.

St Pius X Primary at Dubbo held a Teddy Bears and a Chiily Day fundraiser, and the proceeds purchased 8 winter weight doonas.

St Marys' Primary at Dubbo held a Pyjama Day, which raised \$760.

St Laurence's Primary school asked their students to do chores around their homes; the donations raised purchased so many kettles, toasters and hygiene packs - I had trouble fitting them all in my car!

St John's Primary in Dubbo had a Snug as a Bug in a rug day which raised \$450.



Jo Taylor, the Religious Education Coordinator of St Pius X, said, "The teddy competition was for the various categories. We all wore PJs to school for a 'warm snuggly day'. I asked our local Vinnies if we could buy something tangible with the funds raised and it was suggested that we buy quilts. We were able to purchase 8 winter weight doonas to donate"

Cathedral Primary in Bathurst held a Knit In, which raised \$397 and their Mini Vinnies collaborated with the Ag Student group to create a feast from their own kitchen garden to honour their craft assistants.

The newly formed Mini Vinnies at St Joseph's Manildra made a huge number of snack packs for the Orange Van. These snack packs consist of healthy items that children can take with them to schools the following day, so when they sit with their friends and eat they don't feel left out.

In Orange Catherine McAuley Primary Mini Vinnies held a Toy Sale, and St Mary's Primary at Orange raised \$300 with their fundraising.



St Mary's Primary School Dubbo raised \$760 for the Winter Appeal. Luke Wilson, the principal of St Mary's, said, "Our children are very aware that some people in our local community don't have access to heating and blankets to get through those cold winter nights. We hope that the money we raised helped some local families stay warm this winter."



Paula Clifford, the Religious Education Coordinator of St John's Primary, said, "Our students were asked to commit to donating something - either clothing/blankets from home (many were new) or if they had no material items, they would donate financially. We were able to buy many new pillows and doonas with the \$450 that we raised as well. All items were donated to our Dubbo Branch to support the people we see locally in need of our help. It was incredibly heartwarming to see our kids' faces when they saw how many donations were made over all."



# Bathurst Schools & Youth

For our high schools, three had sleepouts. St Matthews at Mudgee again had close to one hundred high school students participating, raising \$2700 on the night, and the next day held the Pyjama Day and tin collection from their primary school stocking St Mary's conference with close to two thousand tins of food!

La Salle Academy at Lithgow had 22 students at their sleepout and raised \$380 for St Patrick's conference, and St Raphael's in Cowra had 24 students from Year 10 doing a sleepout, raising money for ten blankets donated to their local conference.

James Sheahan at Orange held a hygiene products drive - this is a wonderful and discreet way to further assist people who frequent the van service.

Mackillop College at Bathurst held a Winter Appeal Casual Clothes Day and raised \$947 for Assumption conference in Bathurst.

St Stanislaus College at Bathurst was likewise generous, and held a St Vincent de Paul fundraiser which continued with the sale of Friends of Stannies merchandise throughout term three. They donated winter bedding and \$1500 to their local conferences.



*St Stanislaus' College in Bathurst – students with Winter Appeal donations received by Peta Leseberg and Marina Gray (L-R)*

St Matthew's School Mudgee held their annual Vinnies Can Appeal and donated 1800 cans to the conference. This school with its amazing students, staff and families continue to support St Mary's Conference with ongoing donations. They are a credit to the Mudgee community.

## St Mary's Spirituality Day

Thirty-seven teachers attended this event at St Mary's School Orange on August 12. Topics included: introduction to the Society's works, Laudato Si (Climate justice and sustainability), Rerum Novarum, Catholic Social Teaching and the principles of the Society, followed by Vinnies Van training. Teachers were split-up into groups, with one group doing food prep and van work, and another doing hygiene and snack/food packs. Discussions included: volunteering with the Society, Mini Vinnies, and ways that students could actively work to support Vinnies with practical activities such as food preparation. Ten teachers went on to experience a Vinnies Van shift, making sandwiches and attending night patrol!



*St Mary's members Keith Baker and Ivy Higgs unpacking 1,800 cans!*



# Vinnies Van Update

Since the beginning of this year, 5th February - 1st October 2024, the Van Service has supported a total of **2438 individuals**, that's an average of **48.7 per night** with **children representing 61.5%** of the total. During this time the service has provided **30 referrals** to Conference's Care and Support and **2 referrals** to Housing Plus. Compared to the same period last year, where we assisted a total of 1588 individuals on a fortnightly service schedule. Since the introduction of a weekly service on 20<sup>th</sup> May, the new alternate week has quickly reached parity with numbers on the previous fortnight cycle.



*Van Volunteers from St Mary's Spirituality Day – see previous page.*



**ORANGE YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL:** The Vinnies Van received a wonderful contribution of pre-packaged hot food for the Night Patrol on 21 August. As part of YAC's support for the Van service, they registered as a team for the Community Sleepout and got together to prepare and cook 30 delicious pasta dishes for our visitors to the Van. The meals were much appreciated!



**VINNIES AT HOMELESSNESS WEEK EXPO:** Sam Farraway, Keith Dowling, Gab McDonnell & Margaret Wendelin at Robertson Park to raise awareness about critical homelessness issues in our community.

# Safeguarding & Compliance

At Vinnies we hold ourselves to high standards – and they are necessary standards. We have a range of legislative obligations when it comes to working with children and vulnerable adults and the Society has a commitment to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is a fundamental aspect of our work in providing a hand up to those facing adversity. In order to meet our commitment, we are responsible for:

- **Reporting** our concerns about children and vulnerable adults
- **Screening** and onboarding checks for members
- **Safeguarding & Code of Conduct** training for members

Members whose **Working with Children** and **Police Checks** expire will be unable to participate in Conference work. Don't worry, your local office will be in touch with you in advance of your next expiry date and will provide support through the process.

## Safeguarding & Code of Conduct Training

Compliance with Safeguarding & Code of Conduct across the North West is low, and we need your help.

Members can do the training at their own pace, online, by going to [mavs.vinnies.org.au](https://mavs.vinnies.org.au) and logging in with their email address and password.

Once logged in, go to 'Your Learning' on the right-hand side and you will see a list of self-guided learning modules. The important ones are Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Learning.

If you get stuck, please call or email your local office for help (see back page for contacts).

We are also exploring options for group training, however the self-paced online training is hopefully a convenient option for most members. Call us for support!

## Reportable Concerns

- A family with children is homeless
- A child or young person is homeless (not with parent/carers)
- A parent with children is fleeing, or discloses domestic violence
- Someone tells you that a child has been or is at risk of being harmed Including a coworker or person we assist
- You are concerned that a child may not be safe
- A family needs ongoing support for food, rent or bills
- An elderly person has no access to their money
- A person with a disability cannot access support
- A person with a mental health condition is living in squalor

## Vinnies Safeguarding Team

Phone: 1800 4SUPPORT (1800 478 776)  
Email: [childprotection@vinnies.org.au](mailto:childprotection@vinnies.org.au)

Outside of business hours contact:

NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) (formerly FACS)

Phone: 132 111 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

After making a report concerning a child or young person to the DCJ, please inform the Vinnies Safeguarding Team as soon as possible after making the notification.



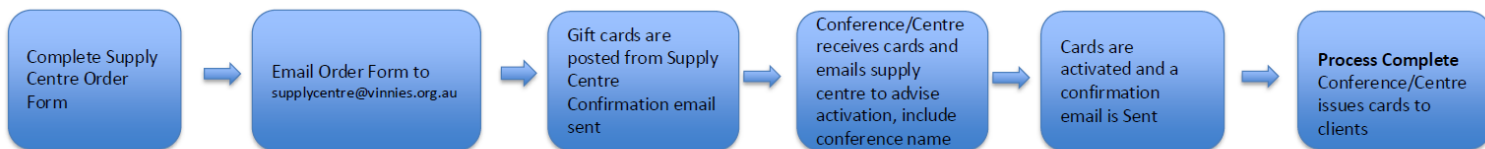
# Launch of Vinnies Gift Cards

## Ordering Process for Conferences

Family Assistance forms will be discontinued 1 November 2024.

Conferences/Centres will **order** and **activate** the cards through the Supply Centre:

Maria Gordon House Supply Centre,  
Address: PO Box 5 Petersham NSW 2049  
Email: [supplycentre@vinnies.org.au](mailto:supplycentre@vinnies.org.au)  
Phone: 0468 578 590



Product Description	Image	Price	Qty	Total
How We Can Assist Brochure		\$0.00	\$	
Trading Hours		\$0.00	\$	
\$500 Wireless Gift Card (Pack of 50)		\$0.00	\$	
\$50 Wireless Gift Card (Pack of 50)		\$0.00	\$	
\$25 Wireless Gift Card (Pack of 50)		\$0.00	\$	
List for Collection Bureau		\$3.30	\$	
Collection Bucket 2-2 <a href="#">Link</a>		\$4.00	\$	

Send

To supplycentre

Cc

Gift Cards for XXXX (Conference Name)



**To** XXXX Conference/Centre

The cards for XXXX (Conference/ Centre) have been activated



Please activate  
my cards



Once cards are activated, please write expiration date on the back of the card (3yrs from activation)

Supply Centre Email: [supplycentre@vinnies.org.au](mailto:supplycentre@vinnies.org.au)

## Providing Assistance with the cards

- Conference/Centre to determine amount of assistance to be provided
- A Retail Pricing Guide detailing average prices will be provided as a reference.
- Engagement with retail to determine local pricing is recommended
- Provide allowance for delivery when assisting with furniture, e.g., \$50
- CAMS is set up with a new shortcut under the Assistance and Referrals tab to simplify the recording process
- Conference/Centre will need to enter the details of each card barcode

## Redeeming cards

- At any Vinnies NSW Store (Excl. Canberra/Goulburn)
- Cards not fully expended will retain a balance for later use for up to 3 years
- People we assist are responsible for the balance that exceeds the given gift card amount

Please contact your local office if you don't have an order form, or if you require any other assistance.

## Armidale Team

Joy Howe – Operations Support  
Nirmal Nanayakkara – Member & Community Engagement  
Cassie Croft – Schools & Youth Engagement

## Bathurst Team

Denise Martin and Gail Gilbert – Operations Support  
Gabrielle McDonell – Member & Community Engagement  
Kim Colbourne – Schools & Youth Engagement

**Sarah Wilson** – Regional Director North West

Address: 11 Bundarra Road Armidale NSW 2350  
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## OUR MEMBERS SUPPORTED MORE THAN 87,000 PEOPLE

with food, clothing, household items,  
cost of living expenses and emotional support



## \$13.7 MILLION IN FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL AID

was distributed by our members



Our network of Vinnies Vans provided more than

## 70,000 INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE ACROSS THE STATE



## 280 Mini Vinnies programs active in NSW schools



We celebrated 100 years of Vinnies Shops in NSW;

## OUR NETWORK OF 221 SHOPS RAISED \$78 MILLION

to support our programs and services



## \$3 MILLION WAS RAISED

through Vinnies CEO Sleepout events in NSW

## A Year in Review



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
*good works*



## 28,250 PEOPLE WERE SUPPORTED

by our Vinnies Services across Homelessness and Housing, Health, and Disability and Inclusion



## 17,700 PEOPLE

were supported with a range of programs and services through our Disability and Inclusion services



### Main reasons for seeking assistance from our Housing and Homelessness Services

- 29% Domestic and family violence
- 6% Housing crisis (e.g. eviction)
- 9% Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions
- 8% Housing affordability stress (e.g. rent too high)
- 7% Relationship/Family breakdown
- 7% Previous accommodation ended
- 6% Financial difficulties
- 18% Other



## \$5.5 MILLION

in direct financial assistance was provided to communities impacted by floods



## 881 RESIDENTS

were assisted with tailored support at our Social and Affordable Housing Fund units throughout the year

## 109 MILLION

containers processed through our Return and Earn container deposit scheme sites





# Assistance Provided

## North West

Jul 2024 - Sep 2024

Total assistance provided

\$288,398

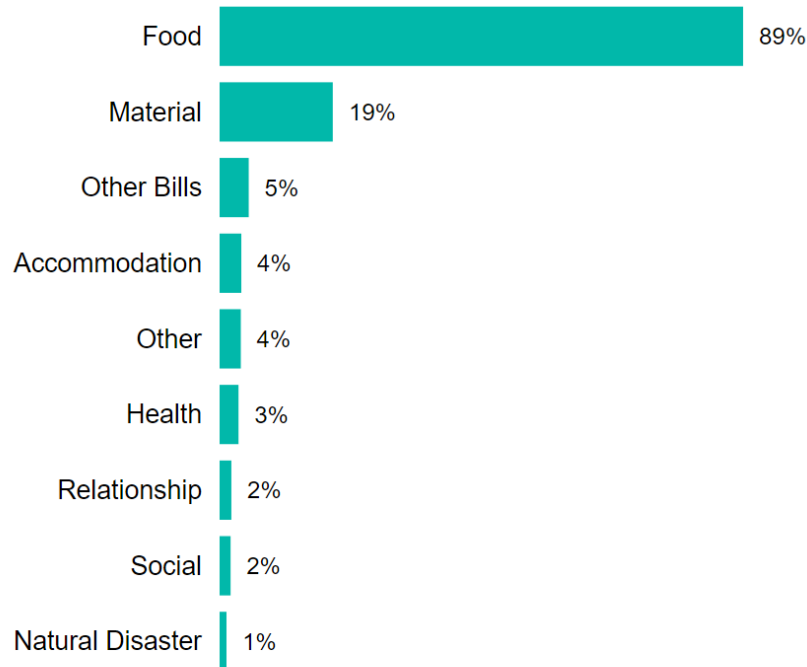
Average per primary person

\$190

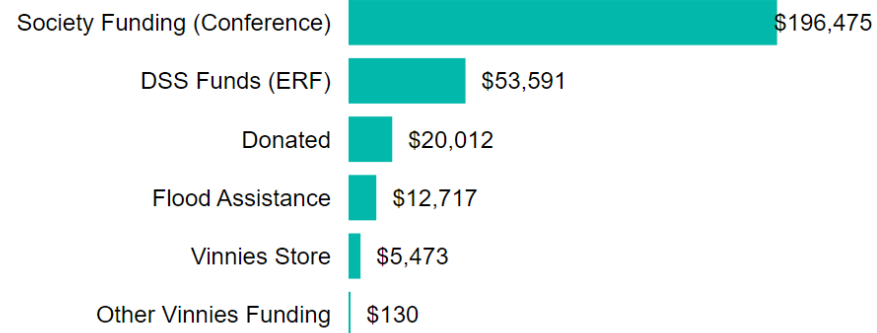
Donated assistance provided

\$20,012

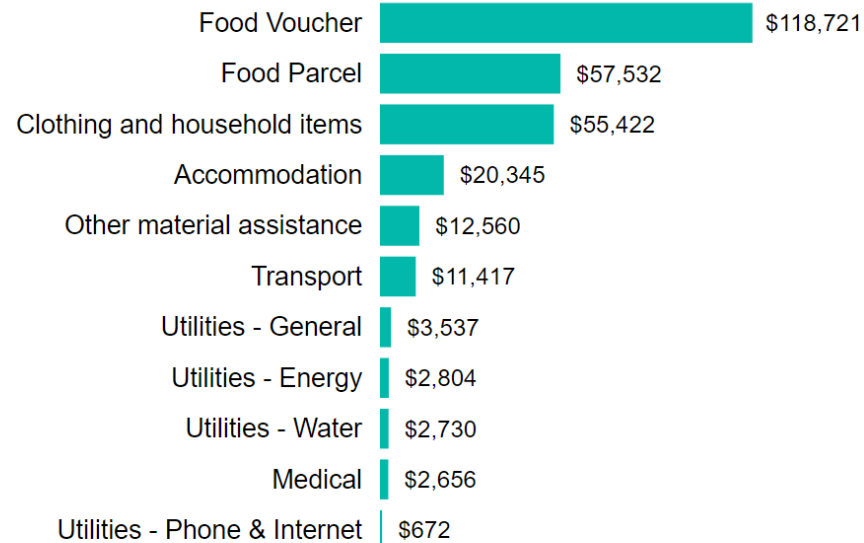
### Percentage of interactions with presenting needs



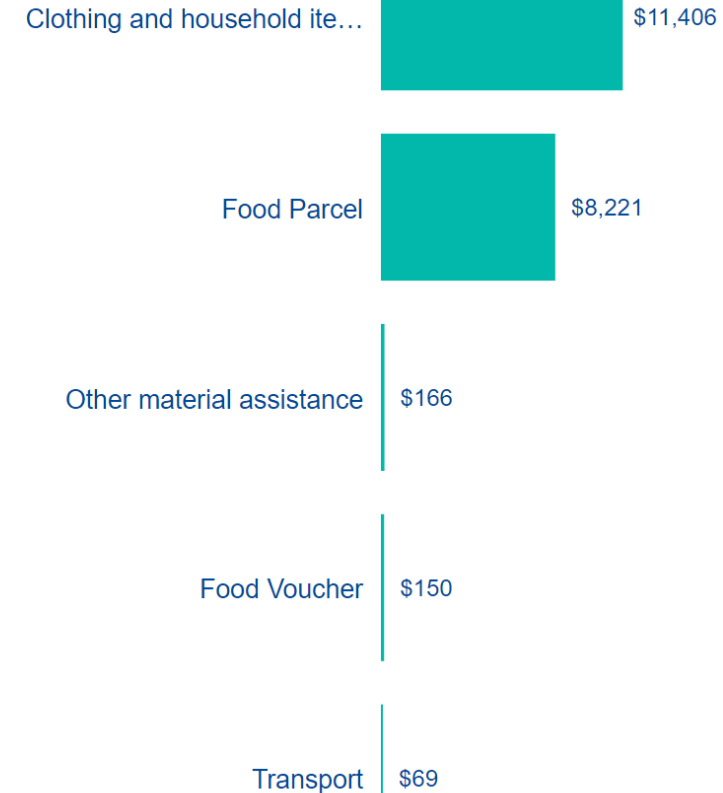
### Assistance Provided by Funding Source



### Assistance Provided



### Assistance provided through donations

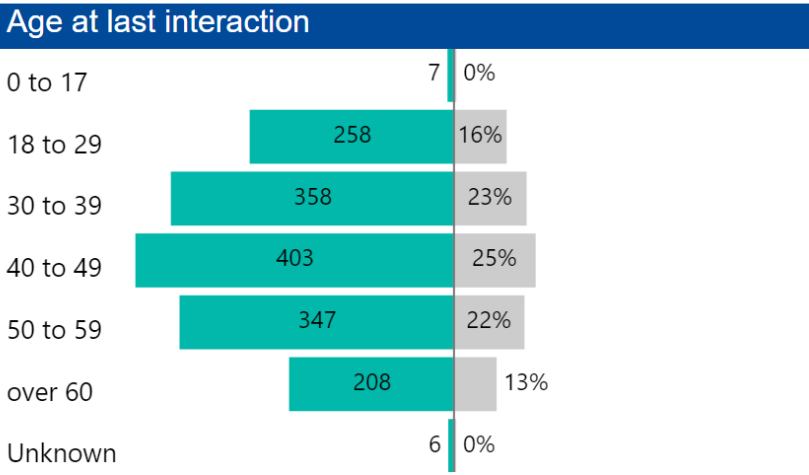
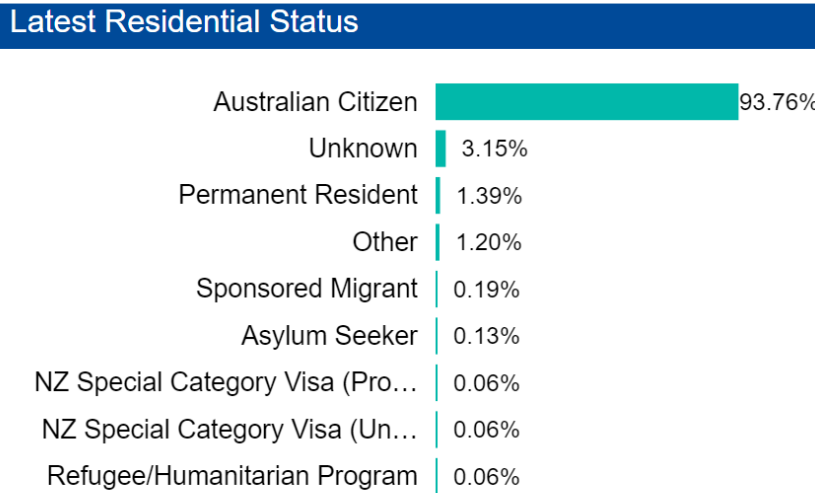
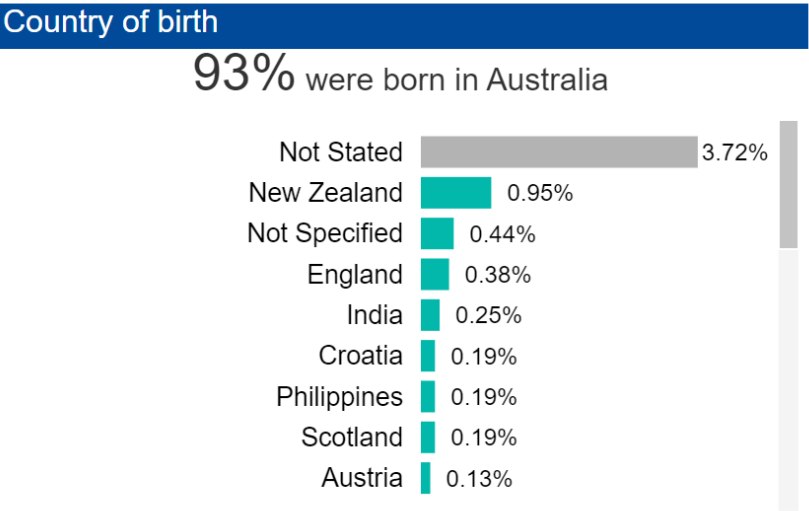
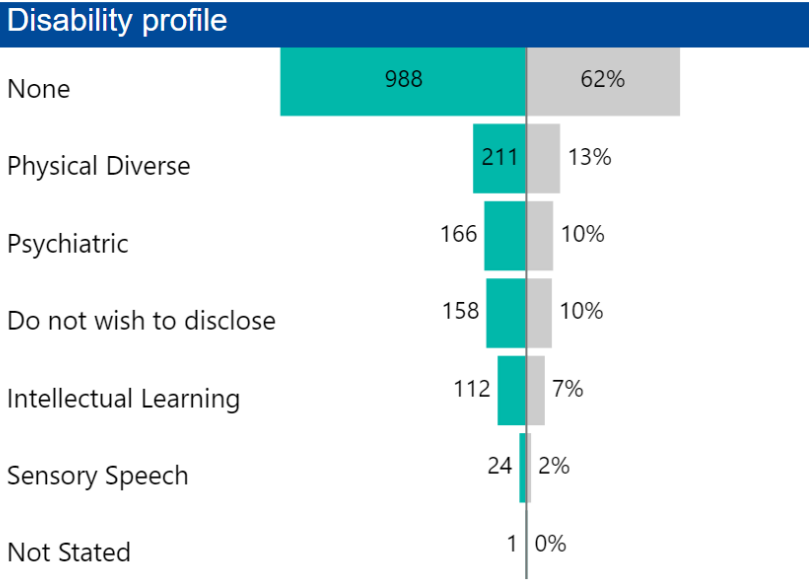
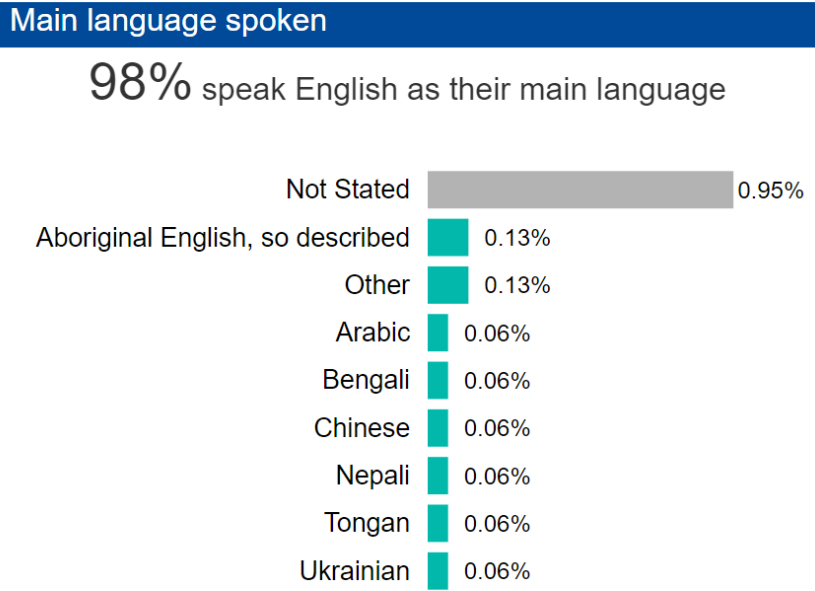
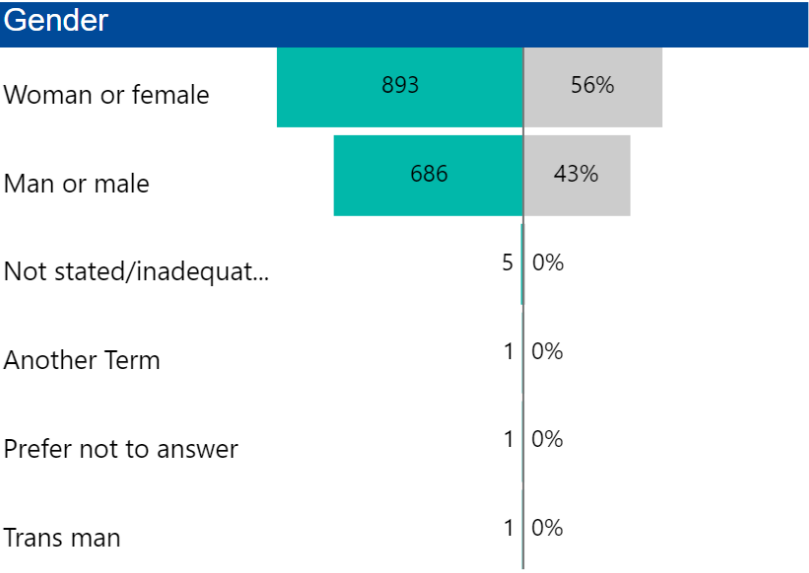


### Number of assistance items provided



Excluding all EAPA payments

Printed on: 25 September 2024

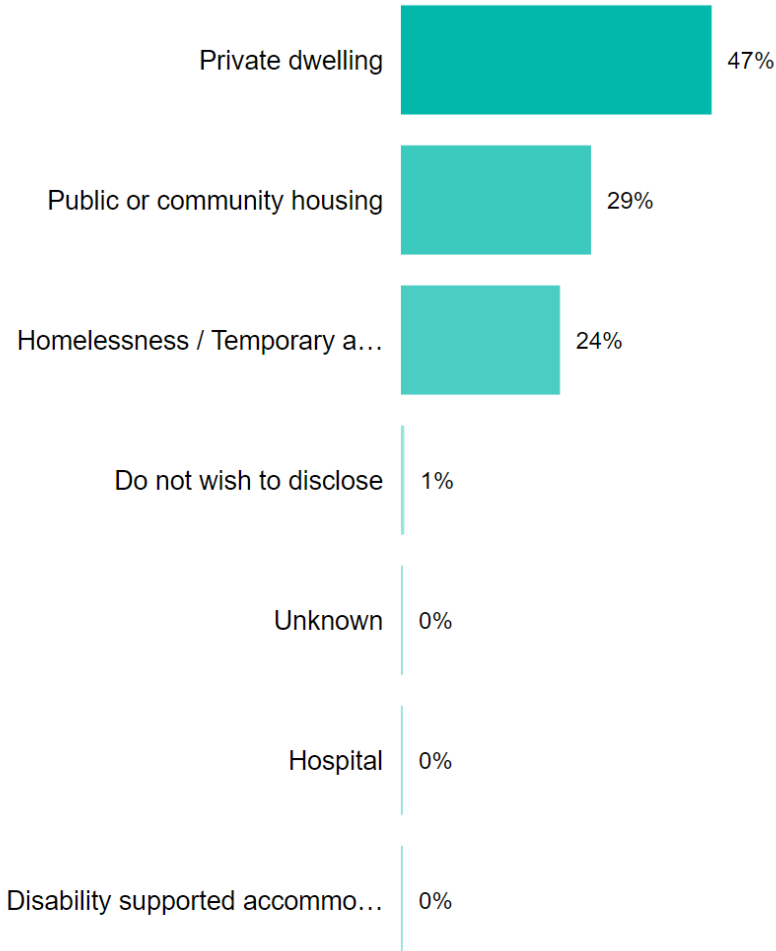




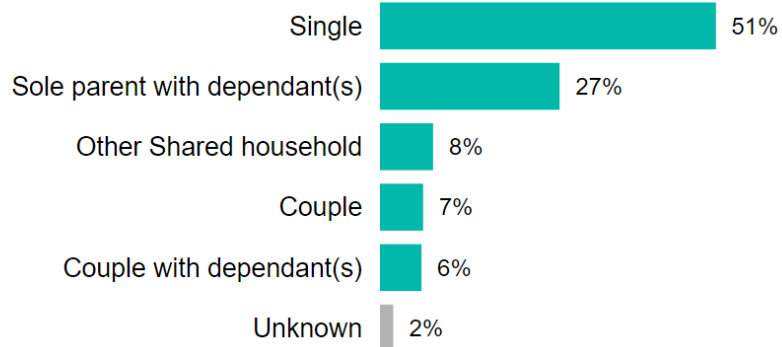
# Income & Accommodation North West

Jul 2024 - Sep 2024

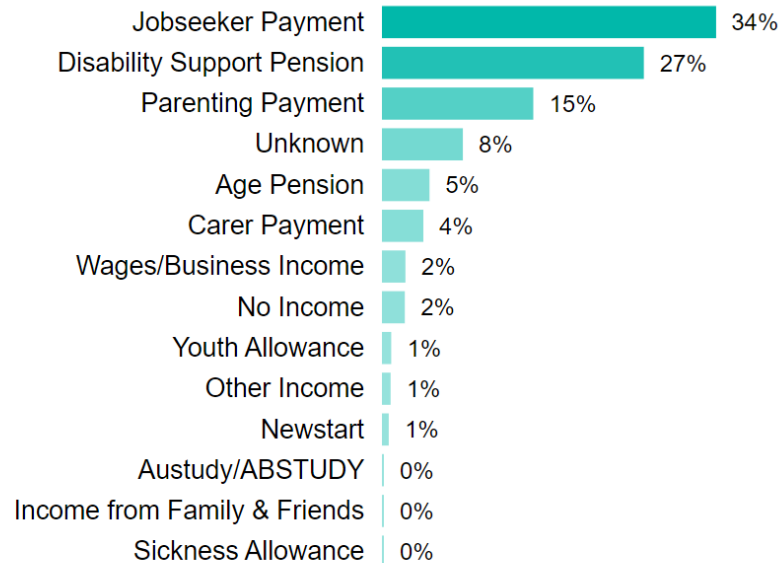
## Accommodation Type



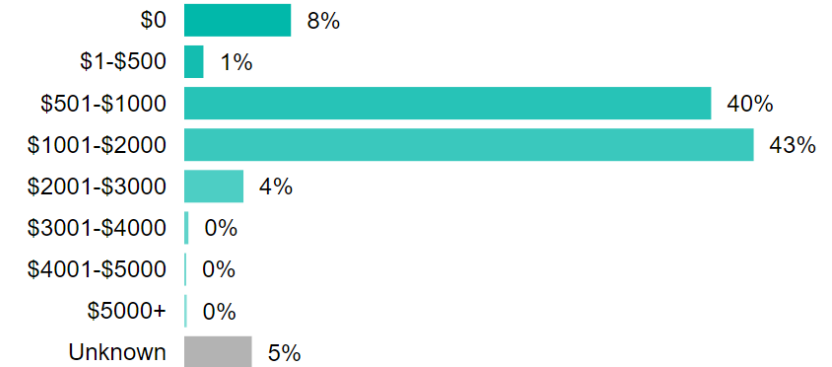
## Household Type



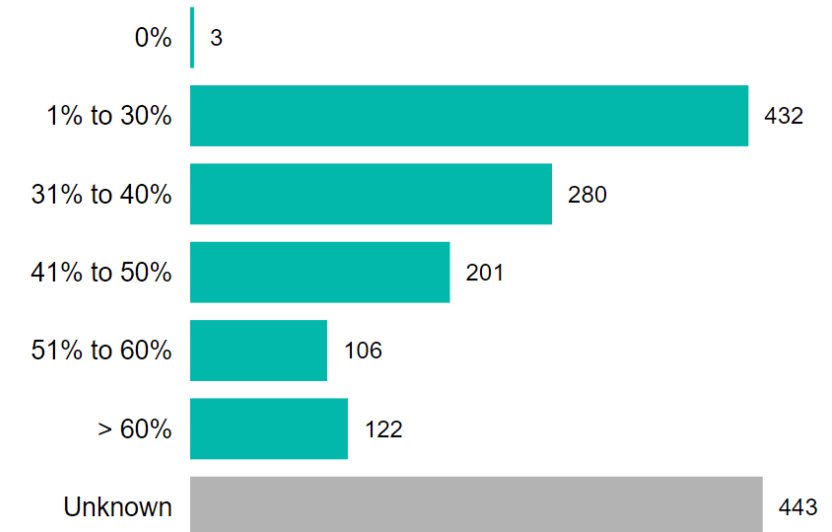
## Primary source of income



## Fortnightly income



## % of income people spend on accommodation



Excluding all EAPA payments

Printed on: 25 September 2024

# Interaction Information North West

Jul 2024 - Sep 2024

Number of interactions

2,313

Avg assistance per visit

\$125

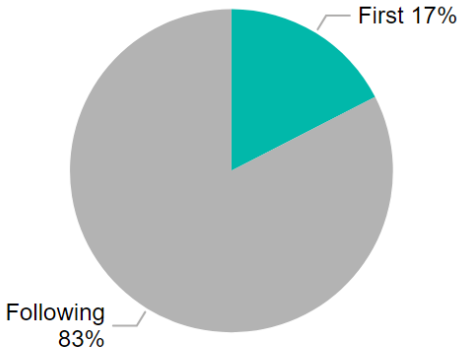
Total interaction time (hours)

877

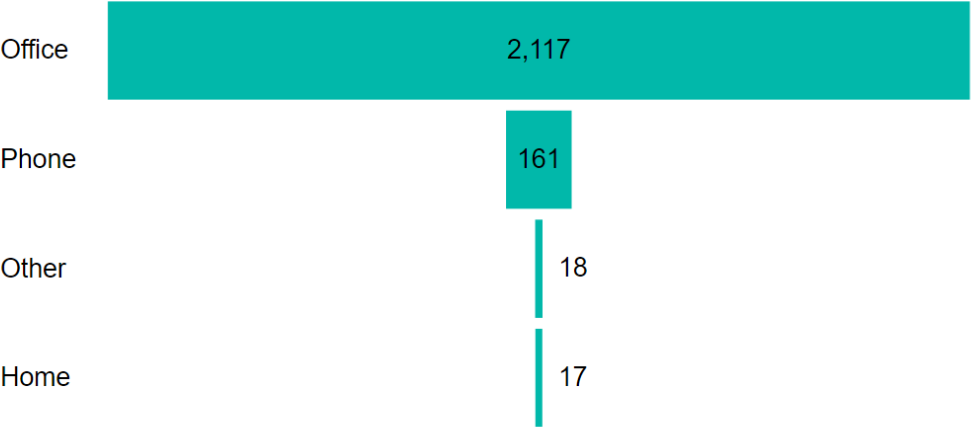
Most common interaction duration (mins)

15

## Percent of people assisted for the first time



## Count of interactions by interview location



## Housing Stress

A household is considered to be in housing stress if their housing cost exceeds 30% of their gross income

Number of people

739

47%

as % of primary people

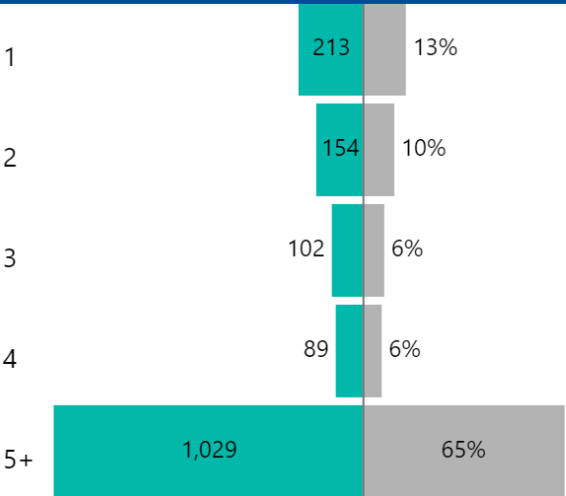
Number of interactions

1,048

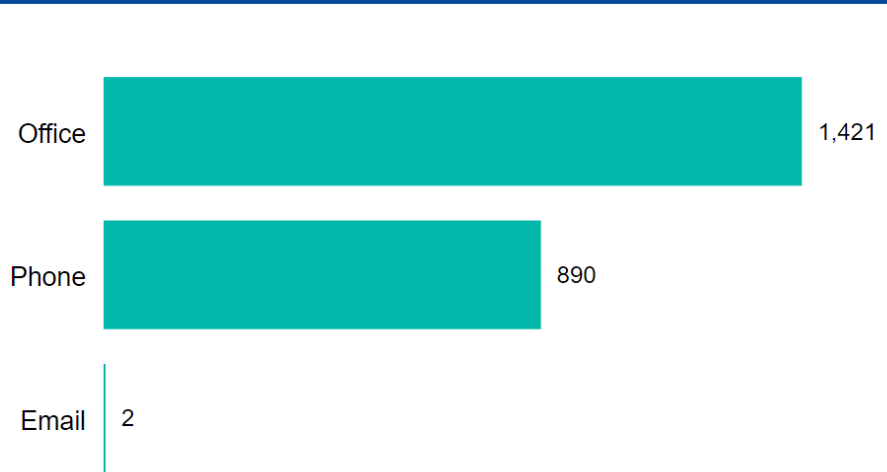
45%

as % of interactions

## All interactions per person by end of report period



## Count of interactions by each method



## Jobseeker or Newstart

People with their main income source as Jobkeeper or Newstart

Number of people

552

35%

as % of primary people

Number of interactions

782

34%

as % of interactions





# VINNIES ASSIST



*Provides information, referral pathways and resources accessed by, our Members, Conferences, Volunteers, Staff and external stakeholders*

## HOW WE CAN HELP:

- Telephone support to meet immediate needs
- Access to crisis and short-term accommodation
- Immediate referral services to our Welfare services
- Support to access Vinnies Services across NSW
  - Homelessness & Housing
  - Disability & Inclusion Services
  - Health Services
- Support in accessing external services

Vinnies Assist aims to bridge the gap for members, volunteers, staff and the general public requiring up to date information, guidance and support across all the Society's 7 Directorates



Scan to  
request further  
information



**CALL 13 18 12 OR EMAIL**  
**VINNIES@VINNIES.ORG.AU**



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
*good works*