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June 2025 • Edition 10

Welcome to the 10th Edition of Volunteering At Vinnies - June 2025

In May we came together to mark National Volunteer Week, Australia's largest celebration of volunteering, with the inspiring theme 'Connecting Communities.' Across the state, we marked this week by recognising incredible Vinnies Volunteers and by celebrating both locally and together.

In this edition of Volunteering with Vinnies, you'll read the moving stories of Peter, whose generosity and tireless service have made him a pillar of our community, and Bev, whose warmth and empathy at Vincentian House continue to lift the hearts of all those around her. We bring you highlights from our National Volunteer Week Awards Ceremony, a celebration of our diverse and dedicated volunteers. We also take you behind the scenes of the Roadshow on our new Member and Volunteer Website (called 'MAVS'), where volunteers and members across NSW have been engaging with new tools and systems to more effectively serve our mission. Additionally, we highlight moments of unity and advocacy through the Sydney Alliance Pre-Election Assembly and the Wagga Family Fun Day, which remind us that connection is not only about service—it's about shared belonging. We highlight the vital role of Vinnies Assist, our frontline referral and support program and call for more helping hands to join our mission of compassion. And finally – we celebrate the launch of Vinnies Finds – our new online Vinnies Shop bringing the store straight to people all over NSW.

To all our volunteers: thank you. Your presence, passion and care are what make the Vinnies community so powerful.



Spotlight on:

Vinnies Service Medallion Launches For High School Students

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW is giving young people the opportunity to give back to their local communities with the launch of a new service-based program designed for high school students.

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Good News Stories



Celebrating Peter: A Pillar of Generosity and Compassion

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Member and Volunteer Information Sessions – MAVS Roadshow & CAMS Consultation Update

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Celebrating Volunteer Week: A Heartfelt Thank You to Bev

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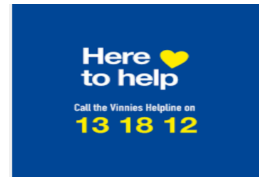
Celebrating the Heart of Our Community: 2025 National Volunteer Week Awards Ceremony

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Sydney Alliance Federal Pre-election Assembly

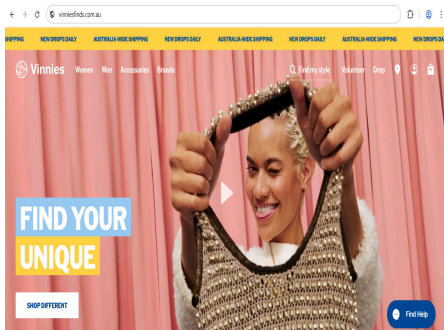
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Vinnies Assist: A Lifeline for People in Need — And a Call for More Helping Hands

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Updates & News



Vinnies Finds Online Retail Store is now open! (www.vinniesfind.com.au)

We are delighted with our NEW Vinnies Finds online store website that was launched on 26 May 2025.

The Vinnies online team has been streamlining processes and fine tuning to ensure we have happy and satisfied customers.

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Vinnies Reconciliation Movement: Poster Competition!

At the Society, our vision for reconciliation is for a just and equitable Australia - one characterised by strong and meaningful relationships between the First Peoples of Australia and non-Indigenous Australians. An Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, histories, knowledges and connections to Country are valued and celebrated.

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Recognising dedication: Dianne's 35 years of volunteering with Vinnies

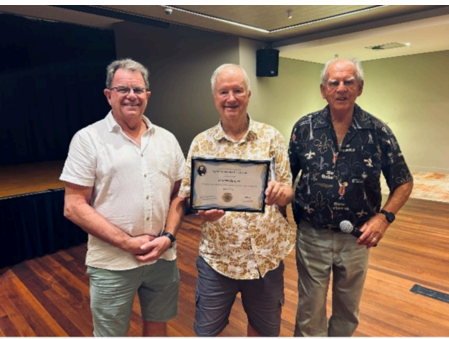
Dianne Maher has been a dedicated Vinnies volunteer for nearly 35 years, leading the Casino shop with warmth, integrity and a deep commitment to community. This National Volunteer Week, we're celebrating Dianne's people-first approach, strong leadership, and unwavering support for Vinnies' mission.

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30 Years of Service: The Workshop According to Bob

Congratulations Bob! Thank you for three decades of mighty service, as a Volunteer and as an Associate Member of the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW.

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Today surprises final Have A Go Hero winner - Anne Barry

The Today show's "Have A Go Hero" segment, which honours everyday Australians making extraordinary contributions to their communities, wrapped up with a heartwarming surprise. Anne Barry, a dedicated retail volunteer from Cessnock, was left speechless after being named the recipient and awarded a special community prize in recognition of her selfless service.

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Beautiful new music album, "All Our Tomorrows", fresh from the Ozanam Learning Centre Woolloomooloo (OLC)

The Ozanam Learning Centre (OLC) in Woolloomooloo is a welcoming community hub operated by Vinnies, offering adults—especially those facing homelessness or social isolation—a safe space to connect, learn, and build life skills through creative, educational, and wellbeing programs. The OLC has just released a stunning new music album, All Our Tomorrows, showcasing the powerful results of its Music Programs. These programs foster self-expression and provide participants with a creative and emotional outlet, all within a supportive and uplifting environment.



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Share your stories, pictures and videos of 'Everyday Reconciliation'

We encourage all volunteers and friends of the Society to join in our Everyday Reconciliation initiative. Reconciliation is everyone's business. We would love to hear from you and your community and what you are doing to foster the 'big and the small' of reconciliation, inclusivity and cultural safety.

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Wagga Wows with Family Fun Day: A Celebration of Community, Connection and Joy

The Vinnies Family Fun Day held in Wagga on Saturday, April 26, was a heartwarming celebration of community spirit, drawing more than 1,200 adults and children for a day filled with free fun, laughter, and meaningful connection.



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