

IMPACT



YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We thank you for your kindness and ongoing support.

A MESSAGE FROM

THE STATE PRESIDENT AND CEO

As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we look back on a period of intense upheaval and disruption. We remember the early lockdowns, the loss of thousands of jobs, families separated by border closures and waves of the COVID-19 virus affecting thousands of Australians.

Many faced personal hardships during this period, but the challenges experienced by vulnerable West Australians didn't stop, and since the end of the Coronavirus supplement and rental moratorium, have been exacerbated by the impacts of the pandemic.

We are seeing a rental market with barely any vacancies and rapidly rising rents, forcing tenants to choose whether to pay the rent or put food on the table. We are seeing people struggling to pay their bills and put fuel in the car, and a year ago we also saw a bushfire devastate a community.

The work of Vinnies WA in supporting the most vulnerable members of our community has never been more important. It's through the generosity of donors like you, that when times are hard, we are here.

We are pleased to present you with the first edition of our bi-annual Impact magazine, in which we show you the difference you have made to lives of the people we support.

We hope you feel proud reading about all the wonderful things you are helping to make possible. The good works Vinnies does in our community is only possible with your kindness and generosity.

With gratitude,

Susan Rooney
CEO

Gladys Demissie
State President



55,000+

West Australians helped in 2020/21 across Vinnies WA programs and services.

Vinnies WA offers vital support and guidance to people in need, helping to change the lives of thousands of West Australians.

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.

2021 WINTER APPEAL UPDATE



Your support provides vulnerable families with a sense of safety and a chance at a better future.

You might remember Darren and Olivia's story from last year's Winter Appeal. They had spent months couch-surfing after fleeing an unsafe domestic environment. Darren hit rock bottom when six-year-old Olivia was taken into care, because he couldn't provide a stable home for her.

Things have turned around for Darren and Olivia. With help from Vinnies, Darren found permanent accommodation, received financial counselling and some financial support. He has now found a job on a farm, and most importantly, Olivia has returned to his care, and we're told she is thriving at school.

"It wasn't until I was talking with Danielle, that I started to get some of the faith back again, and seeing that there are people that could help me, and giving me the right tools to work forward".

While Darren and Olivia have turned their lives around, more than 19,000 children under the age of 15 across Australia will not have a safe place to sleep tonight.

It is only through the support of generous people like you that we can continue to help people like Darren and Olivia move out of homelessness and into stable and secure housing.

THANK YOU





OUR 2021 SPRING APPEAL

MADE AN IMPACT

Your support helps Passages Youth Engagement Hubs make a difference to the lives of young West Australians experiencing homelessness. We want to share with you the incredible progress two of the young people are making.

Alana's story

You may recall the story of Alana, a young mother who was trying hard to build a life for herself and her daughter in the face of adversity. With the help of Passages, she was able to get help for an eating disorder and reconnect with her daughter. Alana also began to look for work, and she has since found a job at a restaurant.

Alana is no longer eligible to access Passages due to her age, however, continues to receive ongoing counselling from another agency, which worked closely with Passages throughout Alana's journey.

Marie's story

We also shared with you the story of Marie, a young mother who, after a year of hesitancy, began engaging with the Passages team.

Marie gave birth to her third child in late December, with the Passages team sourcing many supplies to help her prepare for the arrival of the baby. Thanks to the rapport the team built with Marie, they have visited her and partner Steve in their home to provide support. While Marie will transition to adult support services after she turns 26 later this year, the Passages team is helping her plan for that change by working closely with her.



5,447

Visits from young people to Passages Youth Engagement Hubs



"Simply having the support of a youth worker from Passages whilst Marie engaged with other support services made it a much more positive experience as she had someone with her who she trusted".

Jade

Passages Youth Worker

Thanks to your generous support, the Passages team are able to take the time to build trusting relationships and help young people like Marie and Alana break the cycle of homelessness.

Passages Youth Engagement Hubs are a joint venture between Vinnies WA and the Rotary Club of Perth and Mandurah.

PASSAGES
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT HUB

Perth
Rotary



Vinnies
good works



A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT

GOES A LONG WAY

We want to say a big thank you to all that took the time to write messages of encouragement to our young people.

Here are some of the Spring Appeal postcard messages that we have passed on.

"There are people who care.
Don't feel disheartened. We will
get through this. Lots of love."

.....

"We all need help sometimes.
You are not alone. My heart goes
out to you. With all my love."

.....

"God bless you. Keep going,
believe in yourself.
You are a valued person."

.....

"Keep staying strong.
Things will get better.
Wishing you all the best."

.....

"Don't ever give up hope.
It may take a while for you,
but believe me it will come.
I wish you all the best for
your ongoing treatment. Hugs."

.....

"Keep persevering. You will
reach your goals. I know
you will. Best wishes."

.....





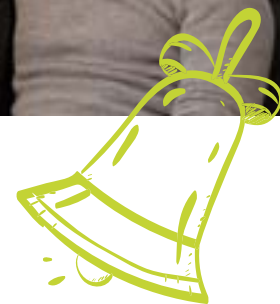
PASSAGES

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT HUB



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

2021



Before Christmas, we shared the story of Heidi and Nikolas with you. The couple were expecting their first child when they were forced from their home after Nikolas lost his job. They were couch-surfing with friends for a while until that was no longer possible.

The couple was living in a tent in a park when Vinnies Members John and Sharni found them and offered help. Heidi was heavily pregnant and terrified of giving birth in a tent. John and Sharni immediately placed them in a motel and organised temporary accommodation for Heidi and Nikolas.

John and Sharni reached out to their Vinnies networks and thankfully, their call for help was answered when a kind member of the community offered them an affordable house.

Not long after moving in, baby Jake was born. "He's adorable, just perfect," Nikolas says proudly. They couldn't wait to show their new son his home... one filled with love, joy and hope for the future.

Heidi and Nikolas are so grateful for the help they have received.

"When you've got nothing, it's hard to make something out of it. Having John and Sharni believe in us when no-one else did, with no judgement, was a huge step in the right direction. We haven't looked back."

Heidi

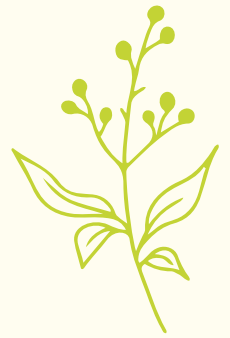
Thanks to support like yours, Vinnies was able to help this young family thrive. Nikolas has gained employment as a concreter, and they spent their first Christmas together as a family, which is about to get bigger, with Heidi and Nikolas expecting their second child.

Thank you for being there for vulnerable people like Heidi and Nikolas in times of great need.



YOUR REACH IN THE REGIONS

HELPING FAMILIES HEAL



Thanks to your ongoing support Vinnies' reach extends into the furthest corners of our vast state. A special partnership with a local parish in Kununurra is bringing your help to the regions. By partnering with local community groups, we strengthen the good work they're already doing.

With your help, Vinnies is able to support the Family Support and Pastoral Care Ministry run by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Halls Creek Broome Diocese with a grant partnership, emergency assistance, in the form of gift cards, and the provision of warm blankets and children's clothes.

The Make a Change Program – Helping families Heal – Healing the Cause of Violence addresses the multiple problems of suicide prevention, domestic violence, crime, and mental health issues within the Kimberley communities.

The program provides community development, emotional education, counselling, and support for the underlying effects of intergenerational trauma and childhood adversity.

The program's Clinical Psychologist, Christabel Chamarette, has visited communities like Halls Creek, Balgo, Mulan and River Soak to run community workshops. Last year saw an increase in both the number of participants and people being referred to counselling.

Sister Alma, who helps to run the program, says it's all about helping the community by providing particularly children with a safe space to express themselves.

“From all we learnt this year in working with the young women in the Self Care Workshops and from being invited to, is the need to focus on outreach to the young men in the communities in 2022.”



BUSHFIRE APPEAL

HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS REBUILDING LIVES

In February 2021, Hills resident Tanja escaped the devastating Wooroloo Bushfire with her family. With the generous donations received through our Bushfire Appeal, Vinnies helped her rebuild.

Tanja's story

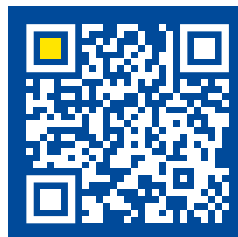
Tanja fled her Tilden Park home with her three children, her dog and her cat just hours before the bushfire swept through her community, leaving a trail of destruction. She was devastated to leave behind her two ponies, which she had raised from birth.

Luckily, Tanja's home was saved, although her property was damaged, and miraculously, her ponies were saved by neighbours. Tanja and her children, then aged 11, 8 and 2, were able to return to their home after two weeks. With power in the area yet to be restored, and a cost of \$600 to get a generator up and running, Tanja received help from Vinnies in the form of a \$1000 grant, a fuel voucher and gift cards.

Tanja says Vinnies' support meant a lot to her.

"I was so busy, I had so much else going on at the time, like everyone else did in that situation."

"It really has helped financially as well as made me feel like some people do care," Tanja said.

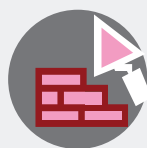


You can read more about Tanja's story and a full report of how Vinnies has supported by scanning the QR code.

YOU'VE HELPED US PROVIDE:



Emergency
Financial Assistance



Emergency Assistance -
Rebuilding and Refurnishing



Emergency Assistance -
Living Expenses



A LETTER

OF THANKS

Recently we received some wonderful and heartfelt feedback from a client. Stacey had been supported by the Society for some years and speaks of her struggles with depression and the family facing potential bankruptcy. Below is an excerpt from the letter:

"Our family has been surviving on my husband's carers pension and almost losing our home and belongings, as we almost ended up bankrupt.

Through it all, we tried to endure, eventually taking a community member's advice, swallowed our pride and asked for help. Since then, it's been a few years and we are slowly getting back on our feet.

We were buckled, the kids were missing school, we were having beans on toast for dinner and had no fuel. You helped us just like you have so many times the last few years.

For every step we tried to take forward, it felt as though we were pushed back two, and every time I didn't know what to do or how we would get through, you have been the angels that have been there for us.

I hope one day to own my own home, be in a better position financially and return the kindness, joy and help to Vinnies for them to help others the way you have helped us.

Until then we cannot do much but hope and work hard towards that goal.

Thanks to your Society and our community, our children had presents under the tree this year and we had ham on the table. From the bottom of our heart we wanted to thank you, but as we couldn't return the kindness in the form it came to us, we hope this will show the same amount of appreciation.

It is slightly unfinished but we say, thank you to all of St Vincent's for all it's done for me, my husband and my children."

- Stacey



Stacey and her children made a painting to say thank you

BEQUESTS

LEAVING A LEGACY

Alongside your generous donations, charitable gifts in the form of bequests are some of the most valued and important sources of funding for Vinnies WA.

Arthur was a long-time donor to Vinnies. It was only after his passing that Vinnies learned he had left a portion of his estate, along with all his furniture and effects, to us.

Vinnies received over \$110,000, an extremely generous bequest, and his belongings, which included his late father's Last Will and Testament from 1941, medals from the Second World War, letters sent from his father to his mother, and many photos.

These items provided us with a precious glimpse into Arthur's life, and we're grateful he chose to share the things that were important to him with us.



Once loved ones are provided for, many people choose to leave a charitable gift in their Will to a cause close to their heart. When you leave a bequest to Vinnies, you are ensuring that we will continue to help change the lives of vulnerable West Australians now, and into the future.

Vinnies WA is proud to partner with several solicitors in Western Australia who are happy to provide simple wills free of charge to anyone who is considering a gift to Vinnies.

For more information about the Honorary Solicitor Service or be connected with a solicitor near you, please call Natasha Prins on 08 6323 7535 or email bequests@svdpwa.org.au.



St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc
P: 08 6323 7500
Donation line: 13 18 12
W: vinnieswa.org.au

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