

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

It's no understatement to say that since the last edition of Impact, the lives of West Australians have changed dramatically.

After almost two years of a hard border, COVID-19 has arrived in our state and made its presence felt. Virtually every family and every workplace has had to adapt to the rising number of cases. It's brought changes to our lives that we had yet to grasp at the start of the year.

At the same time, our economic situation has deteriorated. Inflation is now at record levels, meaning that for many WA families, every day goods are becoming out of reach. Rising interest rates are causing further pain, and finding an affordable rental property has never been more difficult.

Throughout this incredibly difficult period, Vinnies has walked alongside vulnerable West Australians, and provided the support they need. Whether it is through our Emergency Assistance and Support Program, financial counselling or our homelessness, housing and mental health services - when times are hard, we're here.

This is only possible through the generous support of our donors. In this edition of Impact, we invite you to take a look at some of the things we've achieved together.

We look at the support we provide to women and children fleeing family and domestic violence, we check in on the stories that touched us through our Autumn and Winter Appeals, and we visit one of Vinnies WA services that provides supported accommodation for adults with a persistent and enduring mental health diagnosis.

As you read these stories, we hope you feel optimistic about the future, knowing that your generosity has made a very real difference, even in the most turbulent of times.

With gratitude,

Susan Rooney
CEO

David Kennedy
State President



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.



STEVE MAKES

A LASTING CHANGE

You may recall our Autumn Appeal, which featured the story of a father’s struggle with addiction, ill-health, homelessness and how, with the help of Vinnies and supporters like you, he regained care of his daughter.

Steve found himself in a perfect storm.

“Things went haywire, it came to the point where I had to abandon the house, we went to the streets.”

As he could not provide a safe and stable home for Sarah, she was removed from his care. Steve was devastated.

He knew something had to change, and that’s when Vinnies became an integral part of his story.

Steve was given the opportunity to transform his circumstances and get his daughter back. By having a safe place to call home and wrap-around services, Steve could focus on his health, well-being and provide the stable home needed for his daughter to thrive.

With support from Vinnies, Steve’s perseverance paid off when he was reunited with Sarah.

We recently checked in with Steve, and he’s doing very well.

He is now living permanently in a Department of Communities property and enjoying life. He no longer needs the assistance of support workers. Most importantly, Sarah is thriving at school.

Steve’s story shows that the generosity of our donors can lead to lasting change.

AARON'S STORY

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, Vinnies is able to help people through a number of specialist services. One of these is an accommodation service for adults with a persistent and enduring mental health diagnosis who may otherwise be homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Known as The Village and consisting of 28 units, it provides residents with 24-hour person-centred care that promotes their recovery and maximises their independence.

One resident on this journey to independence is 26-year-old Aaron.

Aaron came to The Village six months ago after a long stay in hospital. Prior to this, Aaron was living at home with his parents and brother, but it wasn't the best arrangement for him or his family.

Aaron has complex mental health challenges, and was struggling to remain in the family home. During his stay in hospital, he agreed to a referral to Vinnies Mental Health Services, so he would have access to support and recovery

resources to build a life of his own and work towards independence.

When Aaron moved into The Village he was very quiet and withdrawn, barely speaking to anyone and spending most of his days pacing around the grounds. In time, Aaron began working with his Recovery Support Worker and has since obtained a NDIS funding package.

He has also started volunteering in one of our Vinnies shops for a few hours per week.

The Village's peer support program has allowed Aaron to get involved in new and exciting activities, including roller skating, rock climbing and learning how to cook. Aaron says he does not like rock climbing, but he's glad he gave it a go.





Aaron has settled into life at the Village and now actively engages with staff and seeks them out to have a chat.

Aaron is very new to his recovery journey, but he has come so far already in such a short time. His long-term goals are to go back to school, to start working and to rebuild healthy relationships with his family.

Your support is helping Aaron on his journey.



The Village is a 28 unit facility which provides a 24 hour person centred service.

YOUNG PEOPLE GET CREATIVE

TO MARK HOMELESSNESS WEEK

We want to share something special that happened during Homelessness Week in early August.

Throughout the week, our Passages Youth Engagement Hub in Perth facilitated a live artwork piece, which was created by the young people who use the service.

They decided to use a brick wall as the basic concept, which can represent everything from the foundations that make up a young person's journey to the bricks that were used to build Passages.

The young people then got creative and added into each brick either a service, a place, or an experience that has been a part of their journey and experience of homelessness.

The result is a beautiful expression of what Homelessness Week is all about, and a reminder that we need to do whatever we can to end homelessness.

Our upcoming Spring Appeal will help raise funds for the young people at our Passages Youth Engagement Hubs.

We share with you the story of Willow, who at a young age escaped an unsafe home with her younger sister, only to find herself homeless.

She received the support she needed from the youth workers at Passages, who helped her turn her life around.



5,291

Visits from young people to Passages Youth Engagement Hubs in 2021/2022





Young people and Passages staff display their artwork.

Passages Youth Engagement Hubs

Vinnies is committed to supporting the most vulnerable members of the community through our specialised homelessness services.

Passages Youth Engagement Hubs were established more than 20 years ago due to growing rates of youth homelessness and the need for a unique specialist engagement service.

Passages Youth Engagement Hubs are a joint venture between Vinnies WA and the Rotary Club of Perth and Mandurah. The two Hub locations offer a safe, friendly and non-judgemental space to access support and referrals for marginalised and at-risk young people aged 12 to 25.

PASSAGES
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT HUB





A STRONGER SOCIETY,

THANKS TO GLADYS

Thank you

We farewell Gladys Demissie, who led the St Vincent de Paul Society of WA as State President for four years, and helped steer it through the COVID pandemic. She brought members, staff and volunteers closer together, and found new ways to help people in need.

Looking back over her term, Ms Demissie credits the idea of ‘One Society’ as the driving force behind her approach.

“It doesn’t matter whether someone gets paid for what they do or whether they volunteer their time, the fact is, we’re all here because we have signed up to what the Society is about,” she said.

Despite the COVID pandemic having a significant impact on her term as State President, she resolved to overcome any challenges that came her way.

“I’m just so proud of the way that we were agile and flexible. We were all trying to adapt, but not lose sight of why we’re here.”

Ms Demissie highlights one new initiative she started perhaps as her most significant achievement.

“I’m proud of the work we did through the State President’s Housing Fund, which has particularly supported women escaping family and domestic violence.



“We’ve been able to help people to stay in their homes or motels. We helped one woman with seven children stay in a motel, until she finally got a rental. That is a memory that will stick with me,” she said.

The State President’s Housing fund is now a significant part of the help Vinnies provides, and it’s only possible thanks to the generous donations from people like you.

VOLUNTEERING IS A CALLING

Liana volunteers at the Vinnies Call Centre. During each shift, she takes dozens of requests for help, ranging from financial assistance to food or help with housing.

“There are so many marginalised, disadvantaged, vulnerable people in need within my community that are either in crisis, hardship or struggling in some way,” she explains.

As a retired nurse, she has a lifelong passion to work with others on a personal level, assisting struggling West Australians get the support they need.

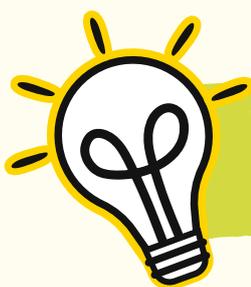
It’s help that is only possible through your donations.

Liana first volunteered at the Vinnies Call Centre in 2017, and re-joined the team earlier this year.

For her, volunteering with Vinnies is about giving something back to her community.

“I have always been inspired by the great work that Vinnies does to provide emergency relief assistance and other support to those in need.

“It is an honour and privilege to be part of a great organisation at Vinnies, and fantastic team within the Call Centre, all working together to make a positive impact on the WA community,” she says.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Vinnies volunteers:

- Gifted 786,333 hours last year
- There are 3,397 current active members and volunteers
- More of our volunteers are either Aries or Leo – born in the months of April and August!
- Vinnies volunteers are located at 60 sites across WA including 54 retail shops
- 20% of our volunteers are from regional areas



A LIFE RENEWED

You might remember reading Leah's story from our recent Winter Appeal.

She grew up under the constant threat of violence from her abusive father. By the age of 15, she was living in a youth shelter. A year later, she was pregnant with Charlotte and in a violent relationship.

For two frightening years, Leah and Charlotte lived in their car and spent their days in parks because they had nowhere else to go.

But Leah's life turned around when she connected with Vinnies. With your generous support, our team arranged accommodation in a domestic violence shelter, and eventually helped her find a permanent home.

With a safe and secure roof over her and Charlotte's heads, Leah is building her confidence and getting her life back on track. She's even commenced a Bachelor of Social Work at university, so she can one day help others who are struggling.

Thank you for providing hope and a helping hand to people like Leah and Charlotte as well as your beautiful messages of support.

Vinnies WA supports women and children escaping family and domestic violence through its Emergency Assistance and Support program, which provides victims with practical support during times of crisis.





Here are some of the Winter Appeal postcard messages we have passed on to Leah and Charlotte

"Well done you are now on your way to a new life for you and your daughter. God Bless you and keep you both safe and well"

.....

"Dear Leah and Charlotte, I feel so sorry for what you had experienced. I admire your bravery and courage. May God bless you in your better future. Lots of love."

.....

"Dear Leah and Charlotte, my prayers for you are for a safe and happy home. Bless you both."

"What a lovely photograph of you! You both look so beautiful and brave. Thank God, you have found the Vinnies and they are able to help you. I'm glad that through them I can give you a bit of help too. May God continue to bless you and keep you both together safe and cosy and warm. Lots of love to you both."

.....

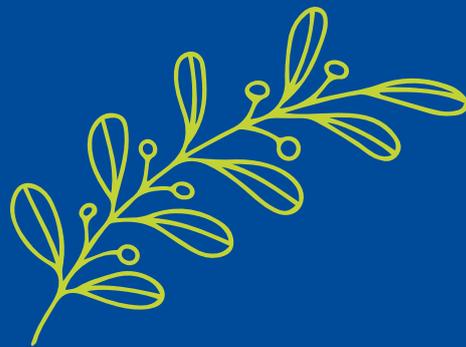
"Each of you will be proud one day looking back on what you have achieved together."

.....

"Much love to you both. Our thoughts and prayers are with you."

BEQUESTS

LEAVING A LEGACY



Harry and Barbara have been volunteer members of the St Vincent de Paul Society in WA for more than 15 years. Like you, the couple has made a lasting difference in our community.

Each week, they provide friendship and a hand up to vulnerable West Australians who need it most; dedicated to serving the most disadvantaged people in our society.

As well making a commitment to meet the needs of people today, Harry and Barbara have pledged to meet their needs tomorrow and always through their generous decision to remember Vinnies WA in their will.

One of our most valued sources of funding comes from people who leave gifts in their wills. It has allowed us to respond to people in need

of assistance in our community by restoring hope and dignity through home visits, financial counselling, homelessness services, our advocacy work and more.

Once loved ones are taken care of, creating a legacy for causes close to your heart is a simple thing to do. It's an act that expresses what you believe in, and one that will have an enormous, positive impact on the future.

It's something you and your family can be proud of for a long time to come.

If you need help creating or updating your will, we offer two services depending on your needs and circumstances. If you wish to complete your will from the comfort of your home, we have teamed up with Safewill who, for a small fee, provides simple wills online at <https://safewill.com/svdpwa>

Alternatively, we have partnered with several reputable solicitors who are pleased to provide simple wills free of charge to anyone who wishes to leave a gift to Vinnies WA in their will.

For more information about these services please contact 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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