

## **Saint Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal 13&14 June 2026**

Dear Parishioners,

The winter appeal poster that you may have noticed on entering the church states: **“For More and More People Homelessness Is Just One Sudden Crisis Away”**

The risk of homelessness is a reality with the cost-of-living pressures and housing costs leaving people with less and less money to get from week to week, many people are unable to manage in the event of a sudden unexpected crisis such as by;

- Losing the job or crucial overtime
- Forced from full time employment to part time employment.
- Medical emergency
- Rent increase

The most recent census data shows that nationally 122,000 persons are experiencing homelessness of which 35,000 are in NSW.

Research by Finder last year revealed that 9.2 million Australians have less than \$1,000 in savings, so that about one in every three persons are unable to absorb the financial shock of an unexpected expense.

The SVDP Society supported 6,674 people through our frontline homelessness and housing services in the past financial year. The greatest challenges facing frontline services is meeting the need for assistance is funding.

The NSW Government currently spends less on homelessness services per person than any other state.

### Some scary facts regarding people who are homeless:

- More likely to experience poor mental health
- Lower physical health
- Australian studies suggest people sleeping rough likely to die 30 years earlier
- Median age of death for these people is around 50 years.

Without a stable home and with poor health and safety, people experiencing homelessness find it difficult to work or study, and are often trapped in a cycle of poverty.

Everyone should have a safe place to call home and the supporting services to sustain it. In instances where homelessness does occur, it should be brief, not repeated, and services be available to provide support.

The winter appeal plays an essential role in enabling the good works of the Society by generating funds used to support our members and services. Therefore, I strongly appeal to your spirit of generosity to support it.

As you lay in your warm bed with a roof over your head, you may have your own concerns about your issues regarding the cost of living. Just spare a thought about the less fortunate trying to get some sleep on a cold park bench or in a car perhaps also hungry, concerned about their safety and with little hope as what tomorrow will bring.

- Envelopes for the appeal are in the seats, add your donation and place the envelope in the Appeal Bucket at the entrance
- If you cannot do it today, take it home and return it next week.
- Donations over \$2 are Tax deductible
- You can donate on line [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) or by calling 13 18 12

In the words of our Divine Master;

*“Whenever you did this to the least of your brethren you did it to me”*

On behalf of the Rydalmere Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul, I thank you for your ongoing generous support to our appeals.

Tanking you in anticipation and God’s Blessing to all.

Ron Della Vedova

(President of Rydalmere Conference)