



St Vincent de Paul Society
NATIONAL COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA Inc. *good works*

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

2021-22



'Let's build a Fairer Australia'

CONTENTS

President's Report	2
CEO's Report	4
National Council Members - 30 June 2022	7
Boards and Directors Meetings	8
National Council Secretariat Staff - 30 June 2022	10
National Statistics	10
Membership Renewal	11
Strategic Plan	12
National/Jurisdictional Collaborations	14
National Redress Scheme Limited	15
Social Advocacy Report	16
Emergency Relief National Coordination Group	19
Overseas Development Program	20
National Communications Report	24
National Statement of Comprehensive Income 2021-22	25



In the spirit of reconciliation, the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

While St Vincent de Paul Society is not a First Nations organisation per se, we have a long history of working with and assisting Indigenous communities and individuals. We are acutely aware of the disadvantage and pain so many First Nations people have experienced, and how their pleas for social justice have been ignored.

We encourage our Parliamentarians and all Australians to answer the invitation of Indigenous Australians, expressed so generously through the Uluru Statement from the Heart, to walk together to create a better future. Being able to influence national decision makers on a range of key issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people is fundamental to creating [A Fairer Australia](#).

Front cover: National Council President Claire Victory and Deputy President Warwick Fulton (rear) with (l-r) newly elected State Presidents Michael Quinn (Vic), Trish McMahon (Qld) and Paul Burton (NSW).

OUR VISION AND PURPOSE

Our Mission

The St Vincent de Paul Society (the Society) is a lay Catholic organisation which aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Our Vision

The Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering 'a hand up' to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

Our Aspiration

An Australia transformed by compassion and built on justice. The Society advocates on several pressing social justice issues such as homelessness, poverty, and asylum seekers. To read more about the Society's work in these areas and others, please visit the 'Our Impact' section of our website.

Our Key Values

We have identified seven key values to which we are aligned. They include commitment, compassion, respect, integrity, empathy, advocacy and courage. We are proud of the key values for which we stand and invite you to find out more through the 'Get Involved' section of our website.



Commitment

Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values.



Compassion

Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgement.



Respect

Service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions.



Integrity

Promoting, maintaining, and adhering to our mission, vision and values.



Empathy

Establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship, and perception.



Advocacy

Working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the causes of human injustice.



Courage

Encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future.

Faith in Action

Vincentians believe that Jesus Christ is not only God, but also truly human and at home in our world. When the voice of the poor calls, they willingly leave their prayers, or other religious practice knowing that they are leaving God for God.

They seek to honour, love and serve their truly human God by honouring, loving and serving the poor, the abandoned, the victims of exclusion and adversity. Inspired by the compassion of Jesus Christ to all people, Vincentians seek to be compassionate, kind and deeply reverent to all those they serve. With trust in God's help, they see their work as a continuation of Christ's own work. Vincentians express their love for God and for all God's people, by the sweat of their brow and the strength of their arms. They seek to do this with gentleness and humility, striving to be selfless and genuine, yet passionate about the needs of the poor.

With Thanks

St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia wishes to acknowledge and sincerely thank those Foundations and individuals that have made generous bequests and donations to support our work over the past year. As a not-for-profit organisation we are immensely grateful for the financial support we receive.



CLAIRE VICTORY
National President

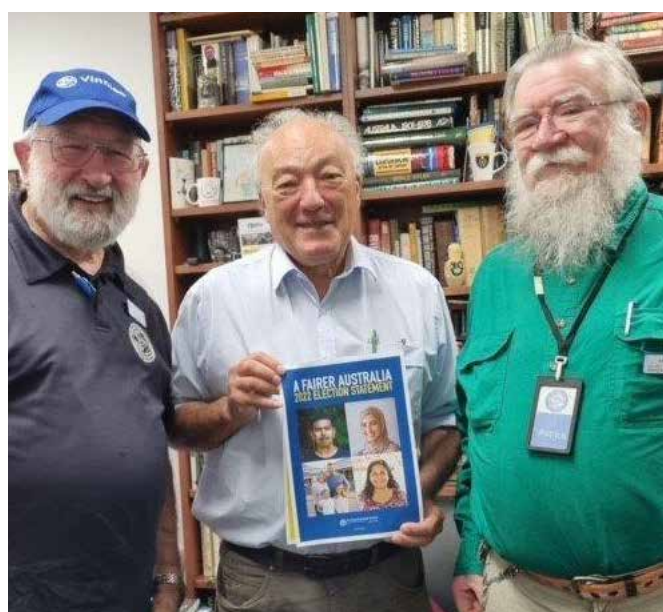
As I reflect on my nearly four years as President of the National Council, I cannot fail to be impressed by the role the Society has played in Australian society at many levels. While we are widely recognised for our work assisting people in need and, of course, for our more visible Vinnies shops, what has come to my mind over this 2021-22 year is how the day-to-day efforts and experiences of our members has informed some extraordinary advocacy efforts.

The Federal Election campaign based on the theme of [‘A Fairer Australia’](#) showed the Society in Australia at its best: collaboration between our people (members, volunteers, staff) at all levels, experience-informed development of policy positions, grassroots expertise informing national advocacy efforts, and the development of high quality but accessible research and policy materials enabling all members to share the experience of driving our policy positions in their communities.

This is the way that we should operate: in a mission-centred way, with paid and volunteer members of our Society contributing their respective talents and expertise and supporting each other to work to create a more just and compassionate Australian community, informed by the daily struggles of our companions and inspired by our Vincentian values.

I am grateful to National Council and its committees for their strategic leadership in this space; to the National Secretariate for its dedication and professionalism in helping get such a high-quality campaign up and running; and to the members across Australia who stepped up and reached out to their local MPs and candidates to advocate for our companions by telling their stories.

Our commitment to advocating for those on the margins does not go unnoticed. As well as having regular opportunities to speak with the wider community via various media platforms, we are recognised in the Catholic community as living gospel values; while the institutional church is criticised for its hierarchical and exclusionary nature, the Society is seen as a true example of faith in action; of people following the example of Jesus and reaching out to people with love, respecting their dignity and speaking for them when they are rendered voiceless.



Before this year's Federal Election, members Tom Gersbach, the Social Justice representative for Wollongong, and Patrick Jordan met with the Member for Macarthur, Dr Mike Freeland (centre) to discuss the Society's A Fairer Australia policy document.

We could certainly make improvements in our internal diversity, especially in leadership positions, but gradually, across Australia, we are taking steps towards being (and being recognised as) an organisation that actively promotes inclusion and diversity.

Over the past year we have continued to tackle the difficult challenges posed by governance issues. It is difficult to get the balance right; to ensure that the needs and pressures of modern-day governance serve and assist, rather than cloud or override, our mission and values.

We must resist writing off the valuable contributions of our staff and legal entities as 'bureaucracy' or 'corporatisation', but so too must we protect against mission drift and ensure that our Society remains a member-centred, member-driven organisation. I am grateful to the Legal and Governance Standing Committee, the Rule Review Committee and Deputy President Warwick Fulton in particular for their tireless efforts in this regard.



‘Our commitment to advocating for those on the margins does not go unnoticed.’



This past year I was honoured to represent the St Vincent de Paul Society as a member of the fifth Plenary Council, a major event in the calendar of the Catholic Church in Australia. The Plenary Council conducted two lengthy assemblies (the first since 1937) in October 2021 and July 2022. The deliberations sparked some vigorous debate among the 277 attendees and generated considerable media coverage, not all of it fair or accurate.

From the outset I was hopeful that the dialogue, the relationship building, and the nature of the personal sharing would bring the Church in Australia to a better place. By the end of the six-day second assembly I felt that this historic event would encourage, and assist lay, religious and clerical Catholics to work together as true equals and to see the value in continuing to do so.

It was truly encouraging for such a diverse range of Catholics to reach agreement on a number of bare minimum principles, including endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart, incorporating Indigenous spirituality, expressing sorrow for those the Church has hurt and excluded, committing to care for the Earth and vulnerable people, acknowledging the diversity of the Church in Australia and using more inclusive language.



It was truly encouraging for such a diverse range of Catholics to reach agreement on a number of bare minimum principles.

The Plenary Council further confirmed my belief that the majority of Australian Catholics want a Church that is more open and inclusive, and more responsive to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. In this, they are aligned closely with the ethos of the St Vincent de Paul Society. This positions the Society and its members well to be leaders within both the Catholic community and the Australian community; to help build a more just and compassionate society.

Claire Victory
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



TOBY O'CONNOR
Chief Executive Officer

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact on Australians, directly or otherwise, throughout the reporting period, bringing grief and distress to a large number of the people the Society provides assistance to. Notably, there was a marked increase in requests for help from people who have not previously sought assistance from us, not in all likelihood from other charities.

Throughout the year, National Council worked hard to continue to bring the voice of those living in difficult circumstances to the attention of the Australian government, with particular attention being paid to the impacts that flowed from the pandemic.

On top of the health crisis pandemic, many parts of the eastern seaboard, especially from Northern Rivers NSW down to Sydney's outskirts, were hit by unprecedented flooding, while across the continent, in WA, severe bushfires struck in late 2021-22.

We are a membership driven organisation

National Council could not have advocated for change in government policy without the evidence that comes from our members' direct experiences with Companions of all ages and circumstances. Walking alongside people who are suffering the consequences of the pandemic and natural disasters allows National Council to provide government with information in real-time. This in turn has seen government adjusting their support resources to better match need in many local government areas.

The direct involvement of our members was, and remains, key to our advocacy work. Just as in the days when Frederic Ozanam and his confreres walked the streets of Paris offering succour to the downtrodden, the centrality of person-to-person contact continues to lie at the heart of our mission.

On behalf of the broad Australian community, we thank our members and our volunteers. Their commitment to giving a helping hand have been particularly evident over the past two years of dealing with the high anxiety caused by major catastrophes. Their empathy and love, and their countless volunteer hours, are central to helping keeping local Australian communities resilient.

Our advocacy work



Members of the Stirling South Australia Conference Des Stapleton and Wayne Broadbridge met with Independent MP Rebekha Sharkie, the Federal Member for Mayo.

Government, at all levels, understands and acknowledges the essential place of charitable organisations in creating and maintain healthy and inclusive communities. This foundation brings credibility and credence to the Society in respect of our advocacy work. For a large part of the year, National Council oversaw a comprehensive pre-Federal Election strategy that centred around the engagement of our members with candidates standing for election in a large number of what were considered 'marginal seats'.

This initiative commenced with the development of a document, *A Fairer Australia*, that articulated Catholic Social Teachings prepared for the Society and applied them to the current political context. The social teaching principles articulated in this publication provided the Society with benchmarks for judging how well particular social policies proposed by political parties aligned to relevant principles. The assessment of political policies was undertaken by the National Council's Secretariat in collaboration with the Society's Social Justice Advisory Committee.

“ The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.

Gaudium et Spes (Pastoral Constitution On The Church In The Modern World)
Pope Paul VI, 1965



A second piece of work involved the commissioning of a paper from the Australian National University that outlined how some of the Society’s proposals for a better life for those on income support could be funded via minor changes to parts of the taxation system.

The most important and a central element of the pre-Federal Election strategy revolved around the engagement with members.

The social policy positions were articulated and discussed with members via an online seminar convened just after the Federal Election was announced. Our members then inquired of candidates in the identified marginal seats to outline their policies in a number of specific policy areas that had been agreed would be the focus of the Society. The five key policy areas were:

- Poverty and Inequity
- Housing and Homelessness
- People Seeking Asylum
- Secure Work
- First Nations (particularly a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution)

National Council wrote to the major political parties and to sitting Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate highlighting the Society’s ‘asks’ as outlined in the [A Fairer Australia](#) brochure.

The Secretariat maintained an online chart of responses received from the political parties and from electoral candidates and this was displayed on the National Council website and promoted in the general and social media.

We know that while the website held the material for only the last three months of the year, [A Fairer Australia](#) attracted 60% of all website traffic over the 12-month period.

This was a terrifically successful member-driven advocacy campaign. It illustrated just how the Society can be a

respected participant in working towards a better, more fair community. National Council received positive feedback from a number of politicians during and since the Federal Election campaign period.

As the Albanese Government moves forward with its legislative agenda over the next three years, National Council has endorsed a new advocacy campaign, Working for [A Fairer Australia](#), picking up on the theme and seeking to further advance the Society’s pre-election asks.

Being a contemporary member-based organisation

Australia’s 17th National Council put in place a three-tiered governance framework sitting under National Council that assists National Council to operate in an increasingly complex and regulated environment.

Standing Committees, Advisory Committees and Working Groups bring to National Council significant scope and access to a variety of skills and expertise. This approach allows National Council working in collaboration with State and Territory Councils to have a risk conscious approach to all the operations of the Society in Australia.

Members of National Council are mindful that their role is to facilitate the work of the Society at Conference level. This governance framework is ultimately about making the doing of good works carried out by our members in their local community as effortless as possible by always requiring the least intrusive operational protocols.



National Council’s Legal and Governance Standing Committee has furthered its work of providing informed advice to National Council and to State and Territory Councils on governance matters to try to bring the intent of The Rule to the constitutions and to the structure surrounding contemporary governance arrangements in the Society’s incorporated bodies. Clarifying the role of Society members, members of incorporated bodies, members of

incorporated bodies and the interaction with employees in ways that align legislative requirements with obligations that arise from the Society's own statutes should be helpful for all councils.

Early in the period, National Council made a decision to review The Rule Part III – the domestic statutes that guide the work of the Society in Australia. The last edition of Part III was published in 2012. This will be a long process. The first consultation round with the members was open for over 10 months. A drafting committee was formed at the end of the period and will provide a proposed amendments for the approval of National Council prior to these being circulated. There are two further five-month periods of consultations planned. If all goes well, final amendments will be put to the International Council General by mid-2024.

The Review of Part III coincides with the second year of a national initiative that is focussing on supporting our members and growing the Society's membership base. National Council regards members and membership matters as 'core business'. Internal and external research, which includes communications and sharing with the national councils of Canada, England and Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and the USA, has highlighted that the Society must explore new ways of interacting in our contemporary world if we are to attract the next cohorts of members.

Examples being explored with State and Territory Councils include new and flexible formats for Conferences; making the Society appealing and attractive to people from diverse backgrounds who may experience exclusion in other parts of their communities because of their differences; and encouraging people who choose to volunteer due to life commitments feel welcome to join as a member in Conferences that can accommodate a more episodic connection. All Councils are exploring how the Society might look in 2035.

There will most likely be learnings flowing from this core business that will be reflected in some amendments to the statutes presently outlined in Part III.

Our presence in the modern world

By the end of the period, the Society's website redesign program moved into its third year. The model being worked on will continue to use a Hub and Spoke framework which will allow some Councils to continue to operate websites that are independent of the main website but are fully integrated. The redesigned websites will be much more user friendly and will see the Society's presence being much more accessible through hand-held devices accompanied by a strong social media presence.

The new website will be launched before Christmas 2022.

The Society Style Guide will be reviewed in the coming year for the purpose of keeping the Society's brand contemporary. There is no intention of changing our visual logo but other aspects of communication such as tone and user-friendly text is important to keep the Society accessible to all Australians.

Supporting National Council and our members

National Council remains committed to supporting and facilitating the good works performed by our members. While National Council, as an incorporated body, has compliance obligations attached to the manner in which it delivers the Society's mission, there continues to be an overwhelming focus on strengthening the place of personal over transactional relationships.

The Secretariate continues to be mindful and respectful of the fact that the Society is a membership led organisation; and that employees are here to facilitate and to support the good works carried out by the members. The Secretariate carries out the decisions and the directions of National Council. It has no role in directing the affairs of National Council.

I acknowledge the significant talents and contributions my colleagues in the Secretariate bring to the work of assisting National Council implement the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. Our strength in the public policy space means the quality of research and strategic intent sitting behind the Society's advocacy work advances our cause for bringing about better conditions for those who are struggling.

We know that working for [A Fairer Australia](#) is not a short-term journey. We will work with National Council to ensure that Australians in need do not fall off the edge.

On behalf of National Council's Secretariate, I thank each of the members of National Council for their vision and commitment to the Society's mission in Australia and to building relationships with our sisters and brothers in our overseas development program.

The very significant contribution made by our National President, our Deputy President and other office holders, and the State and Territory Presidents who have significant duties attached to their own councils deserves to be acknowledged by our members.

National Council continues to inspire and to lead the Society's good works in Australia.

Toby oConnor
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS – 30 JUNE 2022

Member	Position	Dates
Claire Victory	National President	<i>Elected March 2019 Member from May 2011</i>
Warwick Fulton	Deputy President	<i>Appointed March 2019 Member from March 2016</i>
Ryan Erlandsen	Secretary	<i>Appointed June 2019</i>
Sr Therese Haywood DC	Spiritual Advisor	<i>Appointed June 2019</i>
Paul Trezise	Treasurer	<i>Appointed July 2019 Resigned May 2022</i>
Kevin McMahon	State President Vic	<i>Elected effective March 2018 Term ended February 2022</i>
Michael Quinn	State President Vic	<i>Elected effective March 2022</i>
Gladys Demissie	State President WA	<i>Elected effective July 2018</i>
John Feint	Territory President Canberra-Goulburn	<i>Elected effective June 2019</i>
Mark Gaetani	State President Tas	<i>Elected effective January 2019</i>
Jocelyn Cull	Territory President NT	<i>Elected effective August 2020</i>
Dennis Innes	State President Qld	<i>Elected effective June 2018 Term ended June 2022</i>
Patricia McMahon	State President Qld	<i>Elected effective June 2022</i>
Brad Hocking	State President SA	<i>Elected effective October 2020</i>
Peter McNamara	State President NSW	<i>Elected effective November 2019 Term ended November 2021</i>
Denis Walsh	Provisional State President NSW	<i>Appointed August 2021 Appointment ended March 2022</i>
Paul Burton	State President NSW	<i>Elected effective March 2022</i>
Maurie Ryan	Vice President	<i>Appointed June 2019</i>
Patrick Wallis	Vice President	<i>Appointed June 2019</i>
Wina Zhu	Vice President	<i>Appointed June 2022</i>

BOARDS AND DIRECTORS MEETINGS

St Vincent De Paul Society National Council Of Australia Inc. Board Of Directors Meetings

Director	Description	A	B	C
Claire Victory	National President	8	8	
Sr Therese Haywood DC	Spiritual Adviser	8	6	
Warwick Fulton	Deputy President	8	8	
Paul Trezise	Treasurer	7	7	
Ryan Erlandsen	Secretary	8	8	
Paul Burton	NSW State Council President	3	3	
Jocelyn Cull	NT Territory President	8	6	
Gladys Demissie	WA State Council President	8	0	5
John Feint	Canberra-Goulburn Territory President	8	8	
Mark Gaetani	Tas State Council President	8	7	
Brad Hocking	SA State Council President	8	5	
Dennis Innes	Qld State Council President	8	7	
Kevin McMahon	Vic State Council President	5	5	
Patricia McMahon	Qld State Council President	1	1	
Michael Quinn	Vic State Council President	3	3	
Peter McNamara	NSW State Council President	1	1	
Denis Walsh	Provisional NSW State Council President	4	4	4
Maurie Ryan	Vice President	8	5	
Patrick Wallis	Vice President	8	5	
Jacob Miller	Vice President	1	1	
Wina Zhu	Vice President	1	1	

Legend

A = Meetings held during the period

B = Meetings attended by Director

C = Meetings attended by Representative of State/Territory Council President

Board Standing Committees

Committee	Chair
Mission & Vincentian Spirituality	Sr Therese Haywood DC
Legal and Governance	Warwick Fulton
Audit Risk and Finance	Paul Trezise / Vacant from 30 May 2022
Data Integrity & Cyber Security	Ryan Erlandsen
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Claire Victory
Brand Stewardship, Marketing & Fundraising	John Feint

Advisory/Standing Committees

Committee	Chair
Social Justice Advisory	Matt Nunan
Vinnies Refuge Network Advisory	Tim McKenna
Membership Advisory	Trish McMahan
Overseas Partnerships Advisory	Kevin McMahan
Spirit of Youth Advisory	Wina Zhu
Plenary Council	Claire Victory
Improving Transparency of Charitable Donations During National Disasters	Maurie Ryan

St Vincent De Paul Society National Redress Scheme Ltd Board Of Directors Meetings

Director	A	B
Denis Walsh (Chair)	4	4
Damian Walsh	4	1
Liz Callahan	2	2
Anne Stanfield	2	2
Dennis Innes	1	1

Legend

A = Meetings held during the period
B = Meetings attended by Director

Meetings Held

Meeting	Date	Via
National Council	July 2021	Face to Face
	October 2021	Online
	November 2021 (AGM)	Online
	December 2021	Online
	February 2022	Face to Face/ Online
	19 April 2022	Online
	30 April 2022	Online
National Redress Scheme	June 2022	Online
	October 2021	Online
	November 2021 (AGM)	Online
	March 2022	Face to Face
	June 2022	Online

NATIONAL COUNCIL SECRETARIAT STAFF – 30 JUNE 2022

Chief Executive Officer

Toby oConnor

Executive Officer

Donna Scheerlinck

Executive Assistant

Karen Hutchinson

National Policy & Research Director

Rose Beynon

National Communications Director

Judith Tokley

To February 2022

National Communications Director

Phillip Adams

From April 2022

Communications Officer

Lynne Minion

To September 2021

Director of IT & Digital Services

Vincent Nguyen

Overseas Development Program Facilitator

Tricia Wilden

Overseas Development Administrative Assistant

Lyn Holt

From February to June 2022

National Strategy and Projects Manager

Julie Goodchap

National Publications Officer

Robin Osborne

Digital Social Media Officer

Nodi Karimova

National Manager – Drought Relief Program

Cass Bull

To August 2021

National Manager Membership & Spirit of Youth Support

Cass Bull

Website Content Writer

Deborah Gai Hicks

To June 2022

Secretariate – Emergency Relief National Coordination Group

Ellen Keeffe

Seconded from Department of Social Services

NATIONAL STATISTICS

	Canberra-Goulburn	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Amelie House	Total
Number Conferences	48	368	4	205	60	28	245	76		1,035
Number Members*	546	3,138	57	2,581	796	263	3,574	1,114		12,079
Number Volunteers	1,386	7,742	295	4,770	1,782	721	6,434	74		24,973
Number employees (F/T)	116	690	27	365	38	36	172	108	84	1,590
Number employees (P/T)	61	414	7	215	46	204	181	128	53	1,260
Number of Retail Centres	38	315		30	31		21		13	409

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

“ *Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future, because the number of its past works is still very small and the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite.* ”

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

To ensure a strong future for the Society, the 2021-2022 financial year saw National Council undertake a real commitment to Membership support, bringing Membership and Membership Support in as core business of the Council.

As part of the Membership Renewal project established by National Council, a full-time resource dedicated to Membership Support and Renewal was employed.

The Membership Renewal Project in 2021/2022 contributed to:

- Development of a Membership Research Green Paper
- Established a National Membership Network
- Reintroduction of a National Membership Advisory Committee, and appointment of a National Council member to be a champion for Membership Renewal
- Re-establishment of the National Mission and Spirituality Committee
- Introduction of an International Membership Network, which includes participation and involvement from the UK including Scotland, Ireland, America, Canada and NZ.
- Extensive research was undertaken throughout the year from Society conferences across Australia
- Research and strategy analysis of other Not for Profits facing Membership challenges, including Rotary Australia, Surf Life Saving Qld, CWA, Salvation Army, various Catholic Parishes and Archdiocesan Staff, local level Girl Guides and Scouts Associations.
- A membership Research Green paper was produced and circulated to Australian Conferences for feedback.
- A national roadmap and support state/territory discussion paper was produced to assist with membership related conversations at all levels of Society.
- As well as ongoing high-level consultations, presentations and regular feedback to National Council via various reports and contributions.

The Society, like many not-for-profit organisations, finds itself being asked to reflect deeply on its Mission, and to adapt to an ever-changing environment, made even more complex by the uncertainty and unpredictability of the COVID-19 Pandemic.



National Council is aware that to ensure a strong future for the Society, we must provide a fulfilling experience to every potential member and companion we assist. Conferences are being asked as part of the Membership Renewal project to listen to what their companions and potential new members require, and to start actively making changes to meet those needs, whilst staying true to the Society's mission and vision. National Council understands that by remaining flexible and receptive to new ideas we make members and companions feel valued and respected.

It is a commitment from National Council, to work collectively with the states and territories to ensure that all people who wish to join us in our works are able to find long-term value in their relationship and journey with the Society. Our reflection informs us that if Frederic Ozanam were here today, he would not be satisfied with maintaining the status quo. Frederic would be at the forefront of responding to emerging social needs in our country and would be passionately advocating for those who are constantly marginalised.

Change and challenge is at the heart of founding story, so collectively, members of National Council and the National Council Secretariate continue to advocate for renewal and an urgent agility that will only come to full fruition when all levels of Society are actively working together.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The National Council Strategic Plan 2020-2023 outlines the purpose and mission of the National Council and provides a roadmap for building conferences of well-informed and spiritually enriched members, to do good works in a safe and sustainable manner, and to influence law and policy through example and tenacious advocacy.

Five strategic goals are identified in the strategic plan. The table below provides a snapshot of progress made towards delivering these strategic goals during the period.

Strategic Goal	Intent	Outcomes
<p>Our spirituality and membership</p>	<p>To support people in their Vincentian spiritual journey through a positive and supportive environment where people are welcomed, valued and committed to contribute to the mission. The desired outcome was an increase of 5% in the number of members and volunteers. Whilst an increase in members and volunteers has not been realised, many specific measures outlined within the strategic plan have been, or are being, implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A National Membership Network has been established • State and Territory Councils are progressing work on membership development • Current numbers of members, associate members and volunteers are documented • Best practice models for membership are being explored • Emerging Leaders program from Spirit of Youth is in place and under review • A national platform for sharing resources has been provided to the National Mission & Spirituality network • Amendments to The Rule in relation to membership are being explored.
<p>Our Advocacy</p>	<p>Influencing Australian national priorities by connecting the voice of those experiencing disadvantage with those who can make a difference is a key focus of the National Council. The National Council Social Justice Advisory Committee has developed a workplan to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The Society has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed 25 submissions to advocate for those experiencing disadvantage • developed policy papers for people seeking asylum, housing and homelessness, poverty and inequity, welfare and tax reform • worked with key federal stakeholders • formed strong strategic alliances with other major church charities and peak NGOs • delivered public statements in support of our national advocacy positions. • Partnered with the Department of Social Services to ensure funds are directed to those in need in the aftermath of national natural disasters • provided advice to the Commonwealth relating to responses during national natural disasters and during the recovery phase <p>National Council successfully prepared and implemented A Fairer Australia campaign around the 2022 Federal Election which involved members contacting potential House of Representative candidates in local electorates and potential Senators.</p> <p>Progress on data-sharing protocols and national research priorities has been slow, due to resource constraints and conflicting priorities.</p>

Strategic Goal	Intent	Outcomes
Our Governance and Leadership	<p>The goal of the National Council is to provide structures and support to serve the community and ensure the Society's reputation is maintained.</p>	<p>Despite the impact COVID-19 has had on the ability to meet face to face, a positive and collaborative culture exists within the membership of the National Council, in part due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Council meets with the Society's CEOs at least annually Brand Stewardship, Marketing and Fundraising Standing Committee established Legal and Governance Standing Committee is progressing the review of The Rule Part III and advising on principle to sit behind key clauses in corporate body constitutions Safeguarding Policy progressed and early plans for Safeguarding training for members of National Council and its Secretariate.
	<p>National Council supports the Council General International to grow the Society's effectiveness worldwide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in Council General International meetings Lead contributor to the Committee which is reviewing The Rule Part II Share resources and information within the Council General International Participation in the Committee on Good Governance Sharing of information with other overseas National Councils relating to the transfer of funds to some countries in the Asia and Oceania Regions that face internal administrative challenges. Support of the ITVP to promote good governance practices within National Councils across the Oceania Region
Our Work Together	<p>National Council identified further development and utilisation of the capabilities within the National, State and Territory Councils to improve efficiency and effectiveness for the Society, with the aim of every Council (National, State and Territory) being involved in at least one new cross-jurisdictional activity.</p>	<p>An array of activities that promote working together include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging Relief Secretariat Membership national Working Groups Website Redesign Program Establishment of a national events and communications calendars Publication of the Risk Appetite Statement and Risk Management Framework.
Our Sustainability	<p>The aim is to ensure the National Council Secretariate is adequately resourced to support the National Council and provide the services required to carry out the strategic goals, and the Society in Australia is financially sustainable.</p>	<p>Chief Financial Officers are progressing financial sustainability modelling.</p> <p>Performance of the National Council Secretariat is closely monitored through National Council processes.</p>



The aftermath of Lismore's February 2022 flooding.

Queensland and New South Wales Flood Response

The heavy rainfall experienced in South-East Queensland and New South Wales between February and March 2022 resulted in the most catastrophic floods in Australia's history. Compounding the devastation was further intense rainfall throughout New South Wales in June, resulting in flooding in Greater Sydney.

Hundreds of homes, buildings and businesses were destroyed and thousands more severely damaged. The floods have resulted in the displacement of individuals, families and communities, the loss of livelihood and property.

The St Vincent de Paul Society provided immediate assistance to impacted individuals, families and communities. Society members and volunteers provided immediate support in recovery centres, phone lines and outreach services in isolated communities and continue to provide support as communities embark on their recovery. As seen with previous natural disasters, the long road to recovery is often felt for years after the initial crisis and the St Vincent de Paul Society will continue to support those individuals and families in need.

Many individuals and families remain displaced, living in temporary accommodation throughout the coldest months of the year. The Society has supported those through the winter period with the provision of household items and warm clothing.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the Society across Queensland and New South Wales has given \$4,478,000 in direct grants to households, covering over 9,500 people. The funding was provided from the Society's Flood Appeal, Commonwealth Emergency Relief Funding and the Society's own funds.

The National Council Secretariate supported the Society's members and volunteers through its close relationship with the Department of Social Services and the Emergency Relief National Coordination Group (NCG). Information provided by the Society in New South Wales and Queensland was shared with the Department of Social Services, the NCG and the Minister for Families and Social Services to provide real-time information from 'on the ground' regarding the challenges faced by flood victims given the extensive damage caused.

The National Redress Scheme for **Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018** allows all of the Society's incorporated bodies and their related entities to be enlisted as a single 'Participating Group' for the purpose of being joined to the Commonwealth Redress Scheme. St Vincent de Paul Society National Redress Scheme Ltd ('the Company') is the entity that joins the Society in Australia to the Redress Scheme.

Redress claims are limited to a maximum \$150,000 damages and do not require detailed supporting evidence with the threshold being that an allegation(s) "is plausible".

The Society, through the Company, has over 700 institutions (special works, retail centres, offices, etc...) listed with the National Redress Scheme. National Council and the State and the Territory Councils established the Company to make it as easy as possible for a person making a claim of child sexual abuse against the Society. The Company simplifies the past and present activities and structures of the Society in Australia in a way that makes it easier to bring a complaint involving one of the Society's many special works or charitable activities.

National Council is the sole Member of the Company. The Company's board of directors is appointed by National Council.

The Company directors for the period were:

- Mr Denis Walsh (Wollongong) Chair
- Ms Liz Callaghan (Canberra) resigned November 2021
- Mr Damian Wallis (Perth)
- Ms Anne Stanfield (Sydney) appointed December 2021
- Mr Dennis Innes (Cairns) appointed May 2022

The board of directors met four times during the period. The National Council CEO is Company Secretary and works to the Board of Directors. Each of the jurisdictions has nominated contact officers who hold a delegation from the Company to help the Society respond to particular 'Requests for Information' that originate from a person when a claim of child sexual abuse involving the Society is directed to the Company through the Redress Scheme.

These delegated officers respond to the Requests for Information which involves a mix of investigative processes around individual claims made by an individual against the Society.

These investigations always involve searching for information from our records at local Conference level as well as at Regional and State or Territory Council level. This can provide a challenge across the Society where historical records have not been assembled, catalogued or cannot be easily accessed, especially given most requests have to be turned around in 28 days.

Over the past year, a number of the investigations have highlighted the need for the Society at all levels to attend to identifying where documents are located and the implementation of archiving policies so that historical matters can be easily identified, retrieved and interpreted. The memory of our older members has been particularly helpful here and we thank them for assisting the Society in this regard.

Regular reports are provided to National Council and to each State and Territory on the progress of claims made against the Society. To date, the number of claims brought against the Society is small. Not all of the claims have been accepted by the Scheme Operator.

The Company maintains analysis of successful claims against the Society for the purpose of learning how to make the Society's interactions with children, and with other vulnerable people, safer.

In May 2022, contact officers from jurisdictions came together in Adelaide for a workshop that reviewed the claims to date made against the Society and to commence the development of a pastoral care process to assist victims of child sexual abuse who seek an apology from a representative of the Society for the past abuse committed against them.

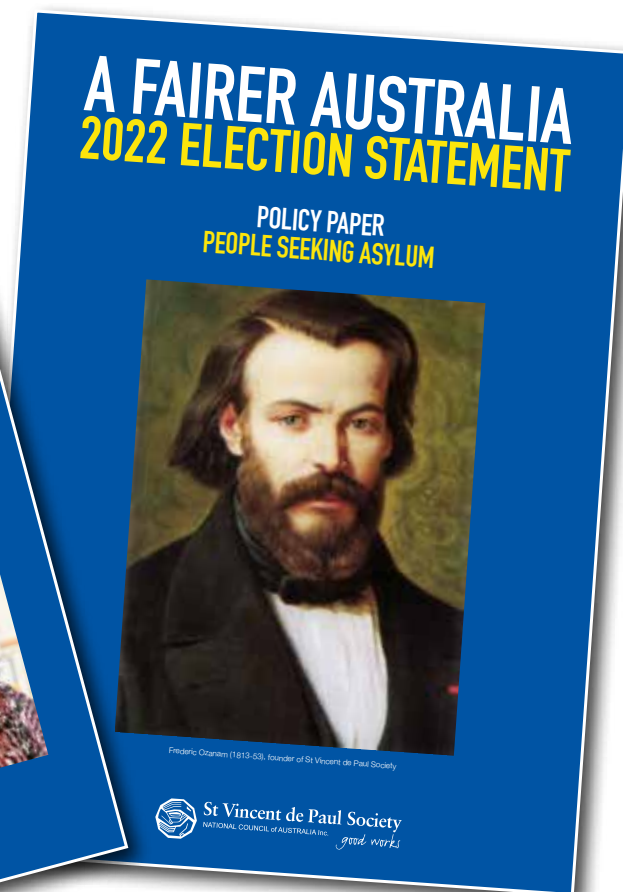
National Council continued to work on developing its safeguarding policy for children and other vulnerable people. It is anticipated that National Council will endorse the policy early in the next period. This policy dovetails with existing safeguarding policies endorsed by State and Territory Councils, and all related entities, and will be made public on the Society's website.

The cost of managing the Company is covered by the Participating Institutions, which are the State and the Territory Councils of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia. The Company is part of the National Council Group for auditing purposes.

The Company is responsible for addressing claims within the National Redress Scheme; it does not receive all claims made against Society entities in respect of child sexual abuse. A number of claims outside of the National Redress Scheme are also lodged across each of the jurisdictions and, where these occur, they are matters for the State or Territory to respond to through normal Court processes using their own advisers.

Toby oConnor
Company Secretary

[National Redress Scheme - St Vincent de Paul Society - Good Works \(vinnies.org.au\)](https://www.vinnies.org.au)



The last financial year continued to present many challenges for us all but especially those doing it tough in our communities.

Pressures in the health and education sectors were immense, with staff pushed to their limits and having to deal with new challenges while maintaining their professionalism. Parents and caregivers became teachers, navigating their children through online learning while trying to hold down their own jobs. Health staff were faced with back-to-back shifts, often managing physically and emotionally difficult circumstances in full Personal Protective Equipment.

Multiple lockdowns at different times in different jurisdictions made it increasingly difficult for many services and businesses to operate, with some sadly folding after hanging on for as long as possible.

While there was a reprieve from bushfires in the summer of 2021, parts of regional Australia experienced devastating and repeated floods, while other regions were overrun by a mouse plague.

Chronic staff shortages saw the Australian Defence Force being called in to help at nursing homes while farmers were forced to watch crops left to rot in the fields.

Amongst it all, a new Australian Government was elected. In the lead up to the election, National Council signed off on 28 key policy asks outlined in *A Fairer Australia*. A booklet, brochure, policy papers, resource documents, report card and videos were developed to support our advocacy efforts. Letters were sent to all incumbent MPs and Senators, presidents of the major political parties and to all candidates in 36 targeted electorates.

A members' forum was held, and members encouraged to approach their local candidates to advocate on issues that adversely affect our companions and need to change. Members spoke to what was happening on the ground in their electorate and, for the most part, candidates were open and responsive to these views. Members will be called on again to promote our updated advocacy efforts for the next financial year.

It is essential we continue to advocate in the early days of the new Government. Much remains to be done, both

in terms of pushing for timely implementation of the Government's policy mandate and influencing policy direction. Of the 28 policy asks outlined in [A Fairer Australia](#), the Government's policy mandate commits to addressing 57 per cent of them, with 10 fully addressed and six partially addressed. However, no commitment has been made to address the remaining 12 asks, most of which concern welfare reform and increasing the rate of working age payments, the single leading cause of poverty in Australia.

We continue to advocate for change in these areas at the federal level and at every available opportunity.

Our new priorities were outlined in the [Spring 2022 edition of The Record](#) and include continued calls to review the welfare and taxation systems to increase the base rate of working age payments, increases to social and community housing and Commonwealth Rent Assistance, constitutional recognition of Australia's First Nations peoples, support for the Voice to Parliament and increased funding to meet Closing the Gap targets, helping the long-term unemployed, improving job security and giving people seeking asylum a fair go.

Our advocacy includes maintaining representation on key government and non government advisory groups and boards as this provides an opportunity to shape social policy and programs. We have representation on the Department of Social Services' Community Services Advisory Group, National Coordination Group (for emergency relief) and the Data Exchange Working Group, National Shelter Australia's board, Operation COVID Shield National Community Services Partnership, the National Charities Bushfire Recovery Forum, and the Tell Us Once Working Group.

The Society maintains working relationships with the Department of Social Services, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the National Emergency Management Agency. These are the key agencies whose portfolio responsibilities cover welfare (income support), housing, emergency and disaster relief.

The Society continues to work with other major charities and not for profit organisations that hold similar positions on key social policy issues. These include The Salvation Army, National Shelter Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, ACOSS, Refugee Council of Australia, Jesuit Refugee Service, Catholics for People Seeking Asylum, Catholics for Refugees, UnitingCare Australia, Anglicare Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (including the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office) and the Hands Off Our Charities (HOOC) Coalition.

Six submissions were prepared as follows:

- Productivity Commission on the review of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (March 2022).
- 2022-23 Pre-Budget Submission (January 2022).
- Religious Discrimination Bill submission and statement (January 2022)
- Inquiry into Housing Affordability and Supply (September 2021)
- National Climate and Resilience Strategy (September 2021, in partnership with The Salvation Army)
- Submission to The Treasury's discussion paper on the proposed 'Transparency Code' for charities (August 2021)

The Society gave evidence before the parliamentary inquiry into housing affordability and the National President was invited to participate in the National Summit on Women's Safety.

Internal working groups were established on transparency and family and domestic violence. The transparency group was established in response to public calls to improve the transparency of the donation process during natural disasters, as highlighted by the Parliamentary Inquiry and Royal Commission; and to address The Treasury's proposal to implement a transparency code. The family and domestic violence working group was established to understand the capacity and capability of the Society when assisting those experiencing or at risk of family and domestic violence, and to provide advice to State and Territory Councils on training and resources available when undertaking this support.

Regular articles appeared in The Record covering the 2021 and 2022 Federal Budgets, [A Fairer Australia](#), the social determinants of health and the plight of people seeking asylum (by the Vincentian Refugee Network).

The Society signed on to the following campaigns: Financial Counselling Australia's campaign on the harm caused by unregulated Buy Now Pay Later operators, Save Sorry Business coalition to compensate people affected by the collapse of Youpla, Everybody's Home call to The Treasurer to address the housing crisis, ACOSS' call for free Rapid Antigen Tests, CPSU's It's time for a better Services Australia, ACOSS' Guarantee to the Nation and Community Sector Climate Change Declaration, Christians United for Afghanistan, Everybody's Home call to include housing in the Women's Safety Summit, Refugee Council of Australia's call for urgent action to address the Afghanistan crisis and a church-group letter to the Prime Minister raising concerns about the ACNC changes.

◀ The Society continues to be a proud sponsor of Anti-Poverty Week and the Everybody's Home Campaign.

Overall, the Society welcomed the Australian Government's commitment to –

- regulate Buy Now Pay Later schemes, by mid 2023.
- end the cashless debit card.
- establish a \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund, develop a National Housing and Homelessness Plan, establish Help to Buy and Regional First Home Buyer Support programs, establish a National Housing Supply and Affordability Council and restore funding for housing for Australia's First Nations peoples.
- conduct a referendum on constitutional recognition of Australia's First Nations peoples and support for the Voice to Parliament and Uluru Statement from the Heart.
- end temporary protection visas and provide 19,000 refugees with pathways to permanency.
- returning the Nadesalingam family to Biloela.
- end the fast-track processing of people who arrived in Australia by boat.
- progressively increase the annual refugee intake to 27,000.
- work with Indonesia to assess asylum seekers there and consider accepting those found to be refugees within Australia's increased humanitarian intake.
- reject detention of people seeking asylum that is indefinite or otherwise arbitrary.
- support asylum seekers by enabling means-tested access to appropriate support services.
- extend the powers of the Fair Work Commission to set minimum standards for new forms of work
- establish Jobs and Skills Australia and develop a work plan
- amend legislation to set an objective test for determining when a worker is casual and giving workers the right to challenge unfair contractual terms
- legislating same job, same pay conditions to guarantee labour hire workers receive the same pay and conditions as directly employed workers doing the same job
- establish a national labour hire licensing scheme to ensure minimum legal standards are met
- amend the Fair Work Act to strengthen flexible working arrangements, improve protections for workers, include gender pay equity and job security on the Objects.



- The previous Government's announcement of an additional 16,500 humanitarian places (above the cap) for Afghan nationals over the next four years
- The lapsing, at dissolution of Parliament, of the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Consistent Waiting Periods for New Migrants) Bill 2021. If passed, recent migrants would have had their wait period extended to four years before being eligible for certain income support payments.
- The development of a National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children by Aboriginal women, for Aboriginal women.
- The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs' Final Report into Homelessness which contained many recommendations that aligned with the Society's submission
- Amendments to the ACNC Regulations, which would have stymied charities' capacity to advocate, being disallowed.

Finally, thanks go to the National Council's Social Justice Advisory Committee, the Vincentian Refugee Network, Chief Executive Officers and, through all of them, the Society's many members, volunteers and staff for their feedback. Thanks also go to the other charities and not-for-profit organisations with which we have worked to strengthen our advocacy voice in these challenging times.

EMERGENCY RELIEF NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP



The Emergency Relief National Coordination Group (NCG), a ministerial advisory committee, was established in April 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide advice to the former Minister for Families and Social Services, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston and the now Minister for Social Services, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP on the implementation of Emergency Relief (ER), Food Relief (FR) and Financial Counselling (FC) support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The scope of the NCG was expanded following the catastrophic flooding events across New South Wales and Queensland in February and March 2022, to provide advice on the demand for ER, FR and FC support services.

The NCG is a collaboration between the Commonwealth and the community sector, its members include leaders of national charities and non-government organisations providing ER, FR and FC services and the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Social Services (DSS). The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council, represented on the NCG by Mr Toby oConnor, hosted a seconded DSS employee to provide the NCG's secretariat services to the NCG from December 2021. The secondment arrangement has given a unique opportunity for a federal public servant to understand the operations of the Society in Australia, gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by those

experiencing poverty in Australia, and return this knowledge back to the department at the end of the secondment.

Following the outbreak of the Omicron strain of the coronavirus in late 2021 the NCG received briefings from the Department of Health and Ageing relating to the government's COVID-19 health information, including COVID-19 vaccination booking services, information hotlines and the free rapid antigen test (RAT) scheme for eligible concession card holders.

During and subsequent to the initial flooding across New South Wales and Queensland, the NCG provided regular advice and information to the Minister for Families and Social Services on the demand for support and the experiences of flood victims in receiving support. Following advice from the NCG, the government announced the availability of \$25 million for ER, FR and FC services in the flood zones.

The NCG received briefings from the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the former National Recovery and Resilience Agency regarding the government's response to the crisis. The collaboration between the NCG, Department of Social Services and other government departments and agencies was a key driver in being able to support flood victims during the initial crisis and recovery period.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Through its Overseas Partnerships Program (including Twinning, Project Support, Assist-a-Student and response to Emergencies) the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia continues to support fellow Vincentians to undertake good works that help people in need overseas in our partnered countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Conference to Conference and Council to Council relationships are supported through partnerships between the National Council of Australia (on behalf of its State and Territory Councils and Conferences) and the Superior Councils in our overseas partner countries. These are Cambodia, Federated States of Micronesia, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The formation of emerging Societies is also supported by Vincentians in Australia through the Papua New Guinea Advisory Committee (constituted under National Council) and the Timor-Leste Working Group (constituted under Canberra-Goulburn Council).

These partnerships are overseen by the National Council and its Overseas Partnerships Advisory Committee and Council General International's Twinning Commission representative for Oceania as well as the International Territorial Vice Presidents for Oceania and Asia. They are facilitated by the National Council's Secretariate.

Twinning

Twinning is the direct link between an Australian and an Overseas Conference or Council. It promotes spirituality, friendship and an understanding between cultures and consists of prayer, regular communication and financial support via quarterly remittances comprising twinning, grants and projects.

At the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal period, there was a total of 1,909 twinning relationships between Australian and Overseas Conferences and Councils.

The table below summarises the Twinning relationships with the Society's overseas partner countries through the Overseas Partnerships Program for the period

These twinning relationships were supported by 848 Conferences and Councils in Australia. The States and Territories breakdown of relationships with overseas twins was: Canberra/Goulburn (63), New South Wales (551), Queensland and Northern Territory (233), South Australia (122), Tasmania (30), Victoria (431), Western Australia (87) and National Council (11).

The number of Conferences/Councils twinned in each of Australia's partner countries was: Cambodia (20), Federated States of Micronesia (1), India (1192), Indonesia (210), Kiribati (1), Lao PDR (1), Myanmar (112), Philippines (235), Solomon Islands (6), Sri Lanka (7) and Thailand (124).

The importance of the non-financial aspects of Twinning was made apparent in FY 2021-2022 when two of our long-term overseas partners experienced challenges which prevented the sending of remittances. These funds were held at National Council according to its Funds Held policy approved by its Overseas Partnership Advisory Committee.

- The political situation in Myanmar has prohibited the National Council of Myanmar receiving its non-governmental organisation accreditation. This accreditation is required for the National Council to be able to send remittances. The Myanmar National President has requested that Australian Conferences and Councils continue to communicate with their twins and that all Vincentians continue to pray for the country and its people.
- The government of India has changed the way in which overseas development funds are received and distributed through the country. Our Conferences and Councils have stood side by side with their twins and the National Council of India as they worked through the new governance requirements.

Twinning relationships supported through Overseas Partnerships Program in 2021-2022

	Conference to Conference twins	Council to Council twins	Total Twins	% Twins by Country	No. Grants Given	% Grants Given
Cambodia	20		20	1%	11	1%
Federated States of Micronesia	1		1	0%	1	0%
India	1169	23	1192	62%	498	58%
Indonesia	208	2	210	11%	75	9%
Kiribati	1		1	0%	1	0%
Laos	1		1	0%		0%
Myanmar	102	10	112	6%	83	9%
Philippines	228	7	235	12%	98	15%
Solomon Islands	6		6	0%	2	0%
Sri Lanka	4	3	7	0%	3	0%
Thailand	120	4	124	6%	77	8%
Total	1860	49	1909	100%	849	100%

◀ Project Support

Conferences and Councils in our overseas partner countries can request financial support through their National Council for a community focused project to address a specific need in their area.

The number of projects funded in 2021-2022 was substantially less than previous years due to COVID-19, with a total of 23 Projects being funded as compared to 48 in the previous year. These projects were in Cambodia (4), India (9), Indonesia (1), Myanmar (6), Philippines (1), Solomon Islands (1) and Thailand (1).

In 2021-2022, community focused projects included:

- Small community projects which provided livestock and shelter for families in need to breed animals and/or to meet their food security needs or supported the repair of schools and building of latrines.
- The Burns Creek School - Desks and Chairs project carried out by St Louis de Montfort Conference in Solomon Islands provided \$14,500 for the local manufacture of desks and chairs for the students and teachers of a new school.

Emergencies

In 2021-2022, Emergency Relief funding of \$11,367 was provided by the Society in Australia to the National Council in Tonga following the Volcanic Eruption and the Tsunami that struck mainly Tongatapu, Ha'apai Group and Eua Island destroying homes, buildings, infrastructure and food sources. The funding was used to purchase water, food, equipment and to provide counselling support. It was raised as part of a global Vincentian relief effort including CGI's Commission International Aid and Development and the Society in New Zealand coordinated by the ITVP Oceania and National President to ensure it met the needs of the community as identified by the local Society.

Vincentians in Australia continued to support their overseas partners impacted by COVID in two ways. Firstly, individual Conferences and Councils were able to provide grants of up to \$200 to their twin. In addition, they were able to provide support to our overseas National Councils who could then distribute to un-twinning conferences according to need. As the world slowly returns to a new normal these forms of COVID-19 support have now ceased.



Assist-A-Student Program

Unique to Australia, the Assist-A-Student Program recognises the importance of education as a key plank to help break the cycle of poverty.

The AAS Program currently runs over a calendar year. In addition, the countries engaged in the program run different school years so payments are made at different times in the year. This makes financial year reporting a challenge.

In the 2021 calendar year, 1,470 students were supported, with \$100 allocated for each student for a total amount of \$147,000. These students were from Cambodia (150)*, Indonesia (250)*, Kiribati (100)*, Myanmar (250)*, Philippines (285)*, Sri Lanka (200) and Thailand (235)*.

In the 2022 calendar year, 1,780 students have been or will be supported with \$100 allocated for each student for a total amount of \$178,000. These students will come from Cambodia (230), Indonesia (330), Kiribati (100), Myanmar (330), Philippines (330), Sri Lanka (200) and Thailand (260). These will all be funded in the 2022-2023 financial year.

(*supported in the 2021-2022 financial year)

Assistance to other partner countries will be reviewed each calendar year.

Total Funds Provided by Country

The table below summarises the Twinning, Council to Council, Grants, Project and Assist-A-Student funds provided to, or held on behalf of, overseas National Councils through the Overseas Partnerships Program in 2021-2022 financial year.

Please note, the Assist A Student amount remitted differs from above as they relate to the financial year.

Funds remitted (and held) by Overseas Partnerships Program in 2021-2022

	Twining	Grants Christmas/ Easter/ COVID	Council- to-Council	Projects, Emergency & COVID support	Assist-a- Student	Total
Cambodia	\$6,400	\$3,300		\$4,825	\$15,000	\$29,525
FSM (Chuuk)	\$320	\$300				\$620
India	\$166,480	\$111,450	\$9,100	\$30,732		\$317,762
Indonesia	\$65,040	\$21,167	\$3,640	\$100	\$25,000	\$115,267
Kiribati	\$320	\$600			\$10,000	\$10,920
Lao PDR	\$320					\$320
Myanmar	\$16,320	\$13,300	\$7,400	\$2,592		\$39,612
Philippines	\$72,160	\$30,480	\$7,480	\$1,000	\$28,500	\$139,620
Solomon Islands	\$1,920	\$500		\$14,500		\$16,920
Sri Lanka	\$1,280	\$900	\$2,400			\$4,580
Thailand	\$38,240	\$18,230	\$4,940	\$10,000	\$23,500	\$94,910
Tonga				\$11,367		\$11,367
Total remitted	\$368,800	\$200,227	\$34,960	\$75,116	\$102,000	\$781,102
Myanmar (held)	\$16,320	\$12,917	\$7,400	\$18,001		\$54,638
Indonesia (held)	\$320					\$320
India (held)	\$112,800	\$20,220	\$4,000			\$137,020
Total held	\$129,440	\$33,137	\$11,400	\$18,001	\$0	\$191,978

The Communications and Media Team within the National Council Secretariate promotes the voice of the National Council and the Society in Australia through strategic communications, media engagement, advocacy on core policy matters, stakeholder engagement to unify messaging, print and online publications and, postings on social media.

A key focus during the reporting period was promotion, advocacy and engagement in support of the National Council's 2022 Federal Election Statement, A Fairer Australia. The Communications and Media Team developed and implemented the Society's Federal Election Communications Strategy, which secured strong coverage of the Society's core policy and program asks in the lead up to the election across television, radio, print and online media. The strategy also supported the development of a range of print and online resources; communications with internal and external stakeholders, and members; and a dedicated social media plan to amplify the Society's voice with the broader community and engage key stakeholders, including media and candidates for election.

Media engagement continued to be an emphasis across the reporting period, with more than 70 media releases, statements and editorial opinion pieces issued on a range of topics of concern to members and companions, including income support, cost-of-living issues, housing and homelessness, asylum seekers and refugees. The Communications and Media Team continued to curate and distribute a daily media clipping summary across the Society.

The Team developed a national communications calendar and initiated a talking points and background briefing library to support coordinated, consistent and informed communication across the Society on key national policies and dates of relevance.

The Communications and Media Team continued to facilitate the National Communications Network, comprised of communications staff from the National Council Secretariate and State and Territory Offices, to support information sharing and coordination on relevant communications initiatives across the Society.

The Communications and Media Team undertook a review of the National Council's key publications. The Record was reaffirmed as the National Council's flagship quarterly magazine focused on celebrating the work of members and volunteers across all states and territories, social policy advocacy, Vincentian spirituality, developments



22 April 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

CHARITIES COMMITMENT GOOD NEWS FOR AUSTRALIANS IN NEED

The St Vincent de Paul Society of Australia has welcomed today's commitment by the Australian Labor Party to establish a national blueprint for the not-for-profit sector.

St Vincent de Paul Society National President Claire Victory said the announcement recognises the critical role charities play in supporting the most vulnerable in our community.

"Vinnies has stood with Australians in need for decades, providing support for housing and other support services."

"Today's announcement recognises the critical role charities play in supporting the most vulnerable in our community."

@VinniesAustralia
@VinniesAust

Tonight's Federal Budget must address the surging cost-of-living. It is becoming impossible for a growing number of Australians to pay for life's essentials — a safe & affordable home, food, utilities & medical care — this is predicted to worsen in the lead up to Christmas.



3:27 PM · Oct 25, 2022 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets 4 Likes

in governance, leadership, and the sustainability of the organisation. A decision was made to publish a small number of printed copies to promote the work of the Society with key stakeholders. The monthly eNewsletter, which provides a regular update on the work of the National Council, was refreshed and renamed Good Works to reflect the newsletter's focus on promoting the contribution of the Society to the community.

The Society's national social media channels continued to experience strong growth and engagement during the reporting period. The Communications and Media membership team initiated an update of the Society's social media strategy and commenced engagement with States and Territories to ensure national social media channels fully represent the depth and diversity of the Society's work across Australia.

NATIONAL STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME 2021-22

The Society's financial accounting is done primarily at the State and Territory level, where the various incorporated entities function. This statement presents an amalgamated financial view of these entities.

	Revenue \$	Operating Expenses \$	Net surplus/(deficit) \$
COMMUNITY SERVICES			
Aged Care	214,011,641	219,746,692	-5,735,050
Community Housing	152,869,739	112,188,210	40,681,530
Disability Services	23,951,083	32,532,743	-8,581,661
Financial Assistance Services	2,905,644	2,977,489	-71,845
Help for People in Crisis	14,891,143	57,861,209	-42,970,066
Home assist services	120,797	334,806	-214,009
Homeless Services	76,073,721	82,194,593	-6,120,873
Accommodation and Support Services	44,119,050	34,745,070	9,373,980
Migrants and Refugees	541,116	1,192,760	-651,645
Drought Disaster Recovery and Relief	1,633,005	1,782,030	-149,025
Other Natural Disaster Recovery and Relief	10,612,752	7,587,111	3,025,641
Overseas Development	61,951	1,224,363	-1,162,412
Youth Services	346,866	2,521,692	-2,174,826
Misc Programs	1,161,711	1,096,938	64,773
Total Community Services	543,300,218	557,985,707	-14,685,489
SUPPORTING SERVICES			
Fundraising	59,099,003	11,162,517	47,936,487
Operational Support Services	8,910,617	27,103,075	-18,192,458
Retail Operations	187,298,456	144,345,110	42,953,346
Total Supporting Services	255,308,076	182,610,701	72,697,375
SHARED SERVICES			
Management and Administration Services	19,709,377	19,738,927	-29,549
Finance Services	7,511,411	18,973,931	-11,462,521
Human Resource Services	14,616	9,188,062	-9,173,446
Information Communication Telecommunication Services	521,987	22,312,514	-21,790,526
Legal and Compliance Services	135,879	4,525,382	-4,389,504
Total Shared Services	27,893,270	74,738,816	-46,845,545
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Reclassification adjustment on sale of available for sale financial assets	1,177,360	-	1,177,360
Reclassification adjustment on impairment of available for sale financial assets	-	-	-
Net changes in fair value of available for sale financial assets	38,910,305	18,009,310	3,759,934
Total other comprehensive income for the year	40,087,665	18,009,310	4,937,294
Total comprehensive income for the year	866,589,229	833,344,534	16,103,634
INTERSOCIETY TRANSACTIONS			
Drought	-	13,269	-13,269
Disaster	47,625	341,618	-293,993
Levies (incl National, O/S & Marketing)	3,321,606	1,879,082	1,442,524
Payroll	-	64,457	-64,457
Insurance	-	43,414	-43,414
Other	-	386,024	-386,024
Overseas Development	648,584	120,554	528,030
Total Intersociety	4,017,815	2,848,418	1,169,397
Total Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	870,607,044	836,192,952	34,414,092



St Vincent de Paul Society

NATIONAL COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA Inc.

good works

Responsibility for this document rests with the
St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia Inc.

ISSN: 2652-8886

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The St Vincent de Paul Society of Australia respects the privacy of the people it assists, our members, volunteers and employees. As a result, the names of clients, members, volunteers or employees featured in this report may have been changed and pictorial models used.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE

PO BOX 243, Deakin West ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6202 1200
Fax: 02 6285 0159
Email: admin@svdp.org.au