

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY QUEENSLAND – ST PATRICK’S CONFERENCE

Many people are aware that Vinnies in John Street resells pre-owned furniture, white goods, clothing, household items and bric-a-brac. However, not everyone is aware that the Op Shop is only one aspect of the total Gympie St Vincent de Paul Centre of Charity.

There are two separate but related arms to St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland – St Patrick’s Conference.

- 1. St Patrick’s Conference, the Family Assistance and support side** for families or people who are doing it tough (0409 421 281 or sp4570@svdpqld.org.au). Interviews are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from noon to 3 pm. No appointment is necessary but C/L Income Statement is required. We can provide assistance such as furniture, food, clothing, vouchers for medication or advice on utilities bills. While we are a Lay Catholic organisation, **new members are always welcome** and need not be Catholic.
- 2. Vinnies, the Retail side,** (5482 2737 or gympie.shop@svdpqld.org.au) is staffed by a paid manager and volunteers, in a variety of roles from furniture restoration, sorting clothes, picking up and delivering furniture and doing the Food Bank run to Brisbane to actually selling the food, clothing or furniture. Currently there are **vacancies** for a cleaner, people to work on furniture and someone to help coordinate in the Food Division. Replacement sorters and retail assistants are always needed. It is a great place to volunteer!

Did you know?

- Vinnies has a **Food Division**; open 6 mornings a week with access to very cheap food for holders of Health Care Cards (can be extended to others in temporary financial hardship).
- St Patrick’s Conference offers assistance with **NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme)**, to purchase white goods and some other items up to \$1200 and **Step Up loans, (Low Interest Loan Scheme)**, up to \$3000, to cover car repairs and other unexpected bills. Appointments necessary. Phone 0448 626 327.
- St Patrick’s is the Agency for the **Food Bank Brekkie Program** for 12 Gympie and District State Schools.
- The current **Winter Appeal** is seeking donations of money, blankets and tinned foods. Cheques or cash can be left at 2 John Street and clearly marked Winter Appeal and include the donor’s name and address for receipting. In-kind donations can also be left at John St, clearly marked ‘for the Winter Appeal.

For further information please contact Mary Condon, President St Patrick’s Conference, on 0409 421 281