

# St Vincent de Paul Society

1854 –

**Other Names:** • Society of St Vincent de Paul

**URL:** <http://www.vinnies.org.au>

## Details

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The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic religious organisation with a volunteer base who work to assist people in need and counter social injustice. The Society of St Vincent de Paul established its first conference in Australia in Melbourne in 1854. It then established conferences across the country, with one in New South Wales in 1881, and in Tasmania in 1899. The Society has a long involvement in child welfare across Australia, operating orphanages, family group homes, children's homes and maternity homes.

In 1854, Father Ward established Australia's first conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Melbourne. Immediately the St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Prahran was opened to care for Catholic orphans. This was quickly followed with the building of St Vincent de Paul Orphanage on Emerald Hill. The conference lapsed upon the death of Father Ward in 1858 but work continued under the auspices of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria, until it was formally reformed in 1885.

In 1896, in New South Wales, the Society partnered with the Marist Brothers and established St Vincent's Boys Home at Westmead for orphaned or homeless boys. This partnership continued until 1968.

When the New South Wales State Children's Relief Board introduced probation for children, through the Children's Courts, members of St Vincent de Paul served as Honorary Probation Officers.

The Society continued to expand across Australia and opened children's homes in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales.

## Gallery

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**"A Brother of St Vincent de Paul Society arriving at St Anthony's, 13 Palace Street, Petersham with his precious neglected children, 1923"**

**Description:** This is a copy of an image reproduced in K.E. Burford's *Unfurrowed Fields*.

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# More info

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## Related Entries

### Ran

- [St Joseph's Home for Destitute Children, The Society of St Vincent de Paul \(1888 - 1890\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage \(1857 - 1874\)](#)
- [Kurrawong House \(1967? - c. 1997\)](#)
- [Family Group Homes run by St Vincent de Paul, Victoria \(c. 1960 - 2000s\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Prahran \(1854 - 1857\)](#)
- [Keaney House \(1955 - 1965\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Boys' Hostel \(c. 1973 - c. 1980\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Society Home for Boys at Waterton Hall \(1978 - c. 1991\)](#)
- [Cortona Hostel \(1973? - 1989?\)](#)
- [St Vincent's Boys' Home \(1891 - 1985\)](#)  
The St Vincent de Paul Society ran St Vincent's Boys' Home.  
Date: 1891 - 1968
- [St Anthony's Petersham \(1922 - 1925\)](#)  
Date: 1922 - 1925
- [St Anthony's Home Croydon \(1925 - 1980\)](#)  
Date: 1925 - 1952

### Related Organisations

- [Morning Star Boys' Home \(c. 1936 - 1975\)](#)  
The St Vincent de Paul Society retained control and ownership of the property upon which Morning Star was situated, and was responsible for its finances and its maintenance.  
Date: 1936 - 1975
- [Catholic Adoption Agency \(1967 - 1993\)](#)  
The St Vincent de Paul Society auspiced the Catholic Adoption Agency from 1967 until 1993

## Resources

- St Anthony's Foundling Home, *Silver jubilee, 1922-1947, St. Anthony's Home, Alexandra Avenue, Croydon, N.S.W. ; conducted by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.*, 1947
- Burford, Sister Kath R.F.J., *St Anthony's Family Care*, 1989
- St Anthony's Family Care, [SAFC History](#), No date
- Burford, Sister Kathleen, [A history of St Anthony's Home Croydon](#), July 1989
- [Catholic Women's Association: Hospital Visitors' Activities](#), The Catholic Press, 10 September 1936
- [Legal News](#), The Age, 8 October 1855
- Coldrey, Barry M., *The Scheme: the Christian Brothers and Childcare in Western Australia*, 1993
- Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Perth, [The Record](#), 1874 - current. *Relevance:* The activities of the St Vincent de Paul Society in WA are recorded in articles in 'The Record'

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