

MEDIA RELEASE

11 December 2019

Don't use Vinnies in the religious freedom debate

Claire Victory, National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society, said today that the Society does not require employees and volunteers working in the Society's commercial activities to be Catholic.

Ms Victory made the comments this morning in an effort to further clarify ongoing public comment being made about the Society and its charitable works in the context of discussion about the religious discrimination legislation which is currently before the Federal Parliament.

'We have never required this of people working in our shops', Ms Victory said.

Nor do we require employees and volunteers engaged in the state and national secretariats to be Catholic.

'Certain roles within our conferences and councils which have particular responsibility for overseeing our mission and Catholic ethos are usually filled by Catholics but may also be filled by people who share basic Catholic beliefs.

'As the culture bearers for a large national organisation this leadership embodies the Christian values that underpin the Vincentian vocation', Ms Victory said.

Read the previous statement issued on 6 December 2019 [here](#).

The Society of St Vincent de Paul consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 Conferences located in individual parishes across Australia.

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