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MEDIA RELEASE

VINNES NEGOTIATES WITH NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO HELP ADDRESS HOUSING CRISIS

The Society supports calls made by homelessness organisations to the Federal and Northern Territory Governments for immediate action to address the ongoing homelessness and housing crisis in the Northern Territory.

‘The Society in the Northern Territory has provided homelessness services for over 50 years in the Darwin area alone, assisting the estimated 2,000 homeless people by providing 200 to 300 meals per day,’ National President Mark Gaetani said.

The Northern Territory has the highest rate of specialised homelessness service clients in the country – almost three times higher than the next jurisdiction, Victoria. The public housing wait time is extraordinarily long and the shortfall of housing stock is around 5,000.

‘We are not surprised at these statistics. We help people every day but are acutely aware of the fact that their options are limited as they are forced to seek help many times over simply because there is no resolution,’ said Northern Territory President, Jocelyn Cull.

This is why the Society is currently negotiating with the Northern Territory Government to explore homelessness and affordable housing options, including making better use of existing land and redevelopment.

‘We are negotiating with the Northern Territory Government to ensure the continued provision of our Darwin homelessness services, providing interim accommodation solutions for homeless and transient visitors in the urban centres and, ultimately, increasing affordable and social housing stock.

‘The Society looks forward to a timely resolution of our negotiation efforts. We know that housing is the first step to helping people get on with their lives and achieve their full potential’, said both Mr Gaetani and Ms Cull.

<ENDS>

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 45,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 groups located in local communities across the country.

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