



MEDIA RELEASE

4th September 2018

Catholic Schools Team up with Vinnies to Raise Drought Relief Cash

McCarthy Catholic College partnering with St Vincent de Paul Society in \$20K pilot

Senior students will help those affected by the drought by launching a fundraising project along with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Students at McCarthy Catholic College have been amazed at the nationwide drive to support farmers, their families, farm workers, contractors and local businesses and decided to act themselves to raise \$20,000.

The first part of the initiative involves the whole college taking part in a 'walkathon' on Friday 7 September. All students from Years 7-12 will participate in a 12km walk, commencing at 9:00 am and concluding at approximately 1:30 pm. The walking course extends largely along the riverside walking track in Tamworth, which will be supervised by staff. Each student aims to raise \$30 to reach the school's target.

In consultation with the College Principal, students have also entered into a partnership with the local St Vincent de Paul Society. There is now a bank account into which locally-raised funds can be deposited. In partnership with the Society and the College, students have also identified a process by which those in need can be identified and appropriate support targeted to them.

Staff and students have also organised raffles, bake sales and other fundraisers in conjunction with the student sponsorship money. The environmental council have also received non-perishable items to donate as well.

If successful, the project will be extended across the Diocese, inviting Catholic high schools with sufficient student numbers to become involved. The project will extend to smaller communities too, and metropolitan schools may partner smaller schools so that they are not draining stretched local resources.

The College Principal Mr Geoff McManus said, "McCarthy Catholic College students have set a target of \$20k to be raised despite a number of families associated with the school themselves, having to cope with drought-induced difficulties."

"I'm deeply impressed with the willingness of the staff and the dedication, enthusiasm and energy of the McCarthy Catholic College students in becoming part of a broad approach in addressing the needs of persons and families in dire circumstances," said Mr Paul Burton, President of the local St Vincent De Paul Society.

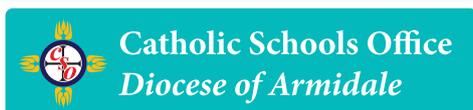
The main initiative launches at 9:30 am at McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth, on Wednesday 5 September. For more information please contact:

Tahnee Denton, CSO Communications Officer, tdenton@arm.catholic.edu.au 0418 227376

Philip Sen, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Communications Manager, philip.sen@vinnies.org.au 0477 778 850

About the St Vincent de Paul Society

Every day in NSW the Society helps thousands of people through home visitation, hospital visitation, prison visitation, homeless services for men, women and families, migrant and refugee assistance, support for those living with a mental illness, supported employment services for people with intellectual and other disabilities, Vinnies Shops, overseas relief, budget counselling and youth programs.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works