



## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **LIONS AUSTRALIA DONATES \$20,000 TO VINNIES DROUGHT SUPPORT**

**6 June 2008** – The St Vincent de Paul Society's drought support programs in the Bathurst, Orange, Forbes and Wilcannia regions have been recognized and strengthened by a \$20,000 donation from Lions Australia.

Lions Australia Council Chairman Bob Buckley will present a cheque to St Vincent de Paul Society Bathurst and Wilcannia/Forbes dioceses, at a special afternoon tea on Wednesday June 11 at 2.30pm at the Vinnies Centre at 27 McNamara Street, Orange.

The donation, from the Lions 'Give Back' Appeal, will be split equally between the two dioceses. It will ensure that drought support, including providing food, medical expenses fuel, water and electricity bill assistance, can continue.

Bathurst Diocese President Gillian Ferguson says, "We were ecstatic when we heard that Lions had chosen Vinnies and the Rural Task Force in particular to make this generous donation."

"Even though we've had some rain, it doesn't mean the drought is over. Recovering from the effects of drought can take a decade," Ms Ferguson said.

Lions Australia members in rural communities will work with Vinnies to extend their visiting program, where friendship is provided to anyone who needs a cup of tea and a chat.

Lions Australia Council Chairman Bob Buckley says Lions chose Vinnies as the recipient of the donation, because the drought support programs in place provided the structure and framework for ongoing support for rural communities.

Mr Buckley comments: "The 'Give Back' appeal by our Lions in Sydney raised the funds to help communities in western NSW."

"Our Lions in western NSW look forward to working with Vinnies volunteers to help our rural communities who are still struggling with drought. We know this is not just about money. Lions as a community service organisation stands ready to roll up our sleeves and pitch in."

Anyone in the rural community who needs drought assistance should call their local Vinnies Centre.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Amanda Ireland, Communications Officer, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW on 02-9568-0298 or 0417-446-430 or [amanda.ireland@vinnies.org.au](mailto:amanda.ireland@vinnies.org.au)**

District Governor Bob Buckley [DGN4@lions.org.au](mailto:DGN4@lions.org.au) 0448 550 275

#### **About Lions Australia**

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organisation with 1.5 million members in 45,000 clubs in 200 countries. Lions Australia is one of Australia's largest service organisations with almost 28,000 members and 1,400 clubs across Australia. Lions Australia raises over \$20 million per annum to assist in community and health projects, and funding for Lions foundations and programs