



9th June 2022

A.C.C.C

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Canberra ACT 2601

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We wish to raise a submission on the application for authorization made by the Australian Bedding Stewardship Council (ABSC) received by the A.C.C.C. on 26th May 2022.

I have worked with Vinnies Victoria since 2016 in the position of Executive General Manager of commercial operations, and also act as a director on the board of Charitable recycling Australia. I am responsible for the oversight of the supply of mattresses to our Vinnies shops throughout Victoria and wish to provide feedback in relation to the proposed application and the impact we envisage to the areas in which we operate.

As highlighted in your letter dated 31/05/2022, we would like to provide some background on how we operate in this space, provide evidence and views on the public benefits and or concerns, and suggest how the scheme could work more equitably.

Background

Vinnies shops have been providing material assistance to Victoria's disadvantaged since 1854, and established our first retail shop in Ascot Vale in 1927.

We have over 100 shops across Victoria offering a wide range of pre-loved clothing, household items, furniture and bric-a-brac. By using profits from the sale of goods in our shops, we're able to provide crucial material and financial support to people in need.

Our ability to serve the community through Vinnies shops relies on the kindness and generosity of those who donate quality items to sell in our shops. We encourage donations of clothing, household items, furniture and bric-a-brac. Thanks to 5500 volunteers in our shops we're also able to keep running costs to a minimum and in turn provide even greater support to our community.

People who shop with us are from all walks of life and by shopping at Vinnies, they know that every dollar spent in store is used to fund our programs and services, giving something back to our community. Further information about our good works can be found via this link [About - St Vincent de Paul Society - Good Works \(vinnies.org.au\)](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

Vinnies supplies a range of goods that we do not receive adequate donations, and are required to outsource. In 2010 we launched our "Vinnies own" range of products, to be able to offer affordable basics to the community. Items such as blankets, socks, underwear, handkerchiefs dressing gowns and tea towels.

Lastly, we provide quality new and refurbished mattresses as part of our material aid programs for the disadvantaged and as an affordable option to general shoppers in our retail shops.



Vinnies Mattress business.

A key part of our business and assistance offer is the supply of mattresses. Vinnies has always looked for locally manufactured cost-effective ways to supply these to the community, mindful of the impact that used mattresses can have on waste and landfill.

Our mattress business today allows us to provide at now cost mattresses to Victoria's most disadvantaged.

Vinnies Victoria is certified Carbon Neutral under Climate active and are always looking for innovative ways to reduce our impact on the environment by embracing and leading the circular economy. Our approach to mattresses is approached in the same fashion.

Proposed Funding model parameters.

It should be said that Vinnies support the implementation of a levy on mattresses in line with the summary Scheme design.

We do however strongly recommend that manufacturers and charities that assist the community with the supply of a mattress **should be exempt from attracting the surcharge** when:

1. the mattress is constructed as a hybrid or recycled product. In this case we feel that the original mattress has already attracted the levy.
2. The mattress is given to a person or persons experiencing disadvantage. To impose an additional cost will directly impact the quantity that can be provided by a Charity to people experiencing disadvantage.

This consideration, when placed as an exemption in the scheme will allow us to continue to deliver quality, recycled /refurbished or new mattresses to Victorians.


Kind Regards,

Jeff Antcliff – Executive GM Commercial
St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria

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