

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

**CLIMATE ACTIVE**

# **CARBON NEUTRAL STANDARD**

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE SUMMARY**  
**1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020**



**An Australian Government Initiative**

Australian Government

## Climate Active Program Public Disclosure Statement



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*




An Australian Government Initiative

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: St Vincent De Paul Society Victoria

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

### Declaration

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Statement is true and correct and meets the requirements of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard.

Signature 	Date 16 July 2020
Name of Signatory Susan Cattermole	
Position of Signatory Chief Executive Officer	



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources**

Public Disclosure Statement documents are prepared by the submitting organisation. The material in Public Disclosure Statement documents represents the views of the organisation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth does not guarantee the accuracy of the contents of the Public Disclosure Statement documents and disclaims liability for any loss arising from the use of the document for any purpose.

# 1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

## Introduction

The St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc (Vinnies Victoria) acknowledges that we are on Aboriginal land. We pay our respects to all traditional custodians, past, present and future, and share their respect for Mother Nature.

Social justice is at the heart of Vinnies Victoria's work and implicit in that is the belief that natural resources should be used respectfully, responsibly and equitably.

Vinnies Victoria is acutely aware that society needs to decarbonise and leadership in this space is paramount to ensuring that is done in an equitable and timely manner. Vinnies Victoria's work helping the most marginalised members of our community is what drives our long-held commitment to addressing climate change and sustainability. Research has shown that climate change adversely impacts first on the world's poorest people, from fishing villages in Thailand to young families in Australian cities.

Vinnies Victoria receives less than 1% government funding, so relies entirely on bequests, fundraising and the profits from our shops to fund our work. The continuing success of Vinnies Victoria Shops means that our increasing proceeds supports the vital community work of the organisation. Vinnies Victoria was established in Australia more than 165 years ago to help alleviate poverty and social injustice. Today, through a wide network of 12,000 members and volunteers around Victoria, the charity provides practical frontline support, advocacy and friendship to society's most vulnerable members through a network of volunteer groups called conferences.

As a lay Catholic organization, Pope Francis' encyclical on the climate crisis urging the church's global membership to have an "ecological conversion" and act to mitigate our personal and organizational impact on the planet reflects the St Vincent de Paul Society's beliefs – and aligns with our work and determination to become carbon neutral.

---

*Social justice is at the heart of Vinnies Victoria's work and implicit in that is the belief that natural resources should be used respectfully, responsibly and equitably.*

---

## Carbon Neutral Information

As Vinnies Victoria looks to provide practical assistance to those in need, we recognise the disproportionate impact climate change can have on people living in poverty, placing those who already live in disadvantaged circumstances at a greater risk of falling into poverty.

To further demonstrate our commitment to create a positive impact on society, we have undertaken the process of quantifying the emissions associated with the Society's services to determine a baseline in which to begin our emissions reduction journey and become certified carbon neutral. Notably, this excludes emissions associated with VincentCare but includes all other Vinnies services such as;

- Operations (refer Appendix B – Figure 2)
- Vinnies Shops (refer Appendix B – Figure 3)
- Soup Vans (refer Appendix B – Figure 4)
- Education & Tutoring (refer Appendix B – Figure 5)
- Overseas support services (including asylum-seeker and refugee assistance) (refer Appendix B – Figure 6)
- Temporary accommodation and holidays homes (refer Appendix B - Figure 7)
- Community support services (i.e. conference visitations) (refer Appendix B – Figure 8)

This public disclosure statement (PDS) details the certification of Vinnies Victoria (excluding VincentCare) going carbon neutral under the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Products & Services (the Standard for Products & Services). This includes detailing the approach taken to quantify our Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions boundaries, our emissions reduction strategy, and documentation of our offsets surrendered to become certified carbon neutral. The base year of 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019 is considered to be a 'business as usual' period of operations and so represents an appropriate baseline for the Standards purposes. Our first reporting period will be from 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021.

To ensure we captured the complete boundary of emissions, we have developed robust and transparent assumptions to ensure all relevant emissions of Vinnies Victoria's (excluding VincentCare) are included.

Extensive detail and analysis in support of all key calculations and assumptions used to calculate Vinnies Victoria's total emission footprint have been documented in our submissions to the Climate Active team. This submission has also undergone an external 'verification engagement' in line with the Standards requirements.



---

*Vinnies Victoria looks to provide practical assistance to those in need*

---

## Reference Unit

The reference unit for the Vinnies Victoria service is the emissions per \$m of supplier spend to support vulnerable Victorians (tCO<sub>2</sub>e/\$m of supplier spend to support vulnerable Victorians).

## Definition of service

Vinnies Victoria (excluding VincentCare) provides a service that supports vulnerable Victorians through price competitive retail, soup van meals, operational activities, multiple community programs and local conferences (refer to Figure 1 for service emissions boundary which is cradle-grave).

## Standards

In preparing the underlying carbon account, Vinnies Victoria has followed the carbon accounting principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy.

We have also leveraged the guidance from the following key data sources:

- The Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Products & Services;
- The Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations;
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol – Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (GHG Corporate standard);
- GHG Protocol – Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard (2011);
- GHG Protocol – Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard;
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (NGER Act) and supporting legislation and documentation, including National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008 (1 July 2019 compilation) (referred to as NGER 2019).

Where there are conflicts between these different standards and protocols, the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Products & Services takes priority.

## Operational Approach

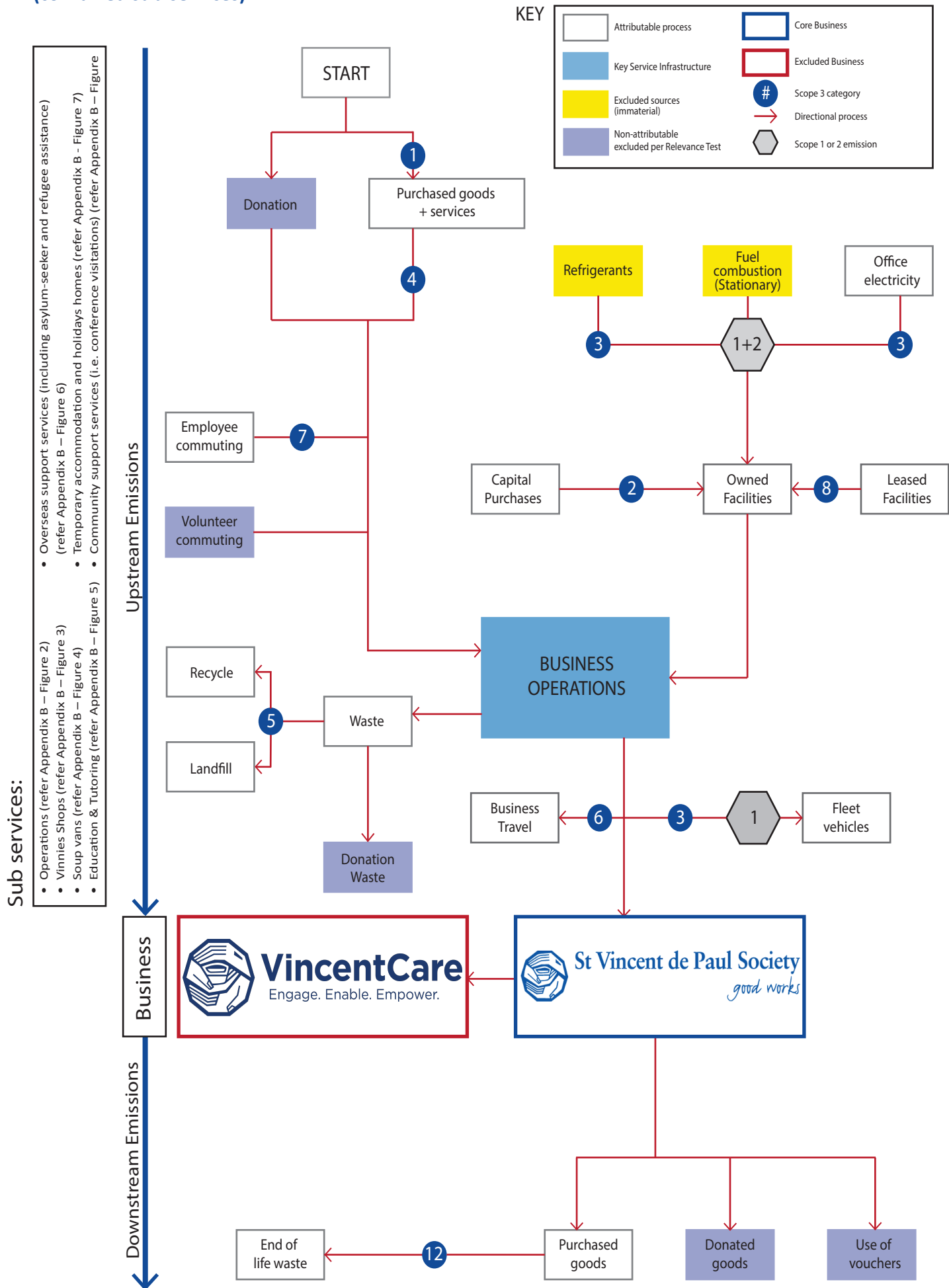
Vinnies Victoria has used an approach that accounts for 100% of GHG emissions in activities over which we have operational control. This represents accounting for emissions where Vinnies Victoria has the greatest authority to introduce and control policies and thus emissions. We have included all Vinnies Victoria's scope 3 emissions that are quantifiable and applied the relevance test as appropriate.

---

*Vinnies Victoria has used an approach that accounts for 100% of GHG emissions in activities over which we have operational control.*

---

**Figure 1: Cradle-grave service emissions boundary (combined sub-services).**



# 2. EMISSIONS REDUCTION STRATEGY

We recognise the heart of the Climate Active certification is about continuing to reduce gross emissions each year, before any offsets are purchased. As the first charitable service registered in Victoria to be certified carbon neutral, we have developed our emissions reduction strategy by understanding our key emission sources and are looking to make pragmatic and innovative emission reduction decisions in future periods.

As a charitable organisation that reaches out to tens of thousands of people, we believe Vinnies Victoria is well connected within society to be more climate-aware and take proactive climate action through our existing partnerships and conference bases.

Through new and existing strategic partnerships, ranging from suppliers, customers, employees, government agencies and other charity organisations we will explore innovative ways to reduce our collective environmental footprint. Vinnies' emissions reduction activities are primarily focused on four main areas:

1. Sourcing a greater proportion of total energy from renewable sources
2. Promoting energy efficiency within our operations
3. Identifying opportunities to reuse and/or recycle waste products generated by our operations
4. Utilising existing (or promoting and assisting new) carbon neutral organisations and products

Refer to Additional Information section for further detail on activities where Vinnies Victoria contributes sustainably, but do not have a direct correlation to emission reductions.

# 3. EMISSION BOUNDARY

## Attributable Sources (Within certification boundary)

### Quantified

- Fleet vehicles – diesel & petrol
- Electricity for owned & leased facilities
- Embodied emissions within inventory purchases and other asset purchases, for example office equipment & furniture
- Third party professional products & services
- Fuel and energy-related emissions from transmission/distribution losses
- Third party transportation and distribution
- Waste generated by Vinnie's operations
- Business travel
- Employee commuting
- Electricity for rental facilities not captured in scope 2
- End of life treatment of waste for purchased goods

### Non-quantified

- Stationary fuel – diesel & petrol
- Refrigerants

## Non-Attributable Sources (Outside certification boundary)

- Volunteer commuting
- Embodied emissions of donations received (upstream)
- Manufacturing and disposal of waste related to donated food
- Disposal of waste related to damaged / faulty retail donations
- End of life treatment of donations sold/provided (downstream)
- End of life treatment of food & furniture voucher purchases (i.e. Coles, Woolworths or A-mart)

## Attributable Sources

Vinnies Victoria have sufficient ability to influence (i.e. has operational control of) the following:

- Fleet vehicles – diesel & petrol (Scope 1)
- Electricity for owned & leased facilities (Scope 2)
- Embodied emissions within inventory purchases and other asset purchases, for example office equipment & furniture (Scope 3)
- 3rd party professional products & services (Scope 3)
- Fuel emissions from transmission/distribution losses (Scope 3)
- 3rd party transportation and distribution (Scope 3)
- Waste generated by Vinnie's operations (Scope 3)
- Business travel (Scope 3)
- Employee commuting (Scope 3)
- Electricity for rental facilities not captured in scope 2 (Scope 3)
- End of life treatment of waste for purchased goods (Scope 3)

## Non-quantified Source (within certification boundary)

The below GHG emissions sources are relevant to the service boundary, however, satisfy the exclusion criteria per sections 2.3.1 and 2.6 of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Products & Services. These have been deemed immaterial as each individually below 1% of total emissions and in aggregate below 5% of total emissions:

- Stationary fuel – diesel & petrol (Scope 1)
- Refrigerants (Scope 1)

## Non-Attributable sources (outside certification boundary)

The below emission sources have been excluded from the service boundary as they satisfy the exclusion condition using the relevance test as per the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Organisations s2.3.1 Standard:

- Volunteer commuting
- Embodied emissions of donations received (upstream)
- Manufacturing and disposal of waste related to donated food
- Disposal of waste related to damaged / faulty retail donations
- End of life treatment of donations sold/provided (downstream)
- End of life treatment of food & furniture voucher purchases (i.e. Coles, Woolworths or A-mart)

For an overview on these exclusions refer to **Appendix A – Relevance test**



# 4. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Service	
Emissions Source	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Fuel combustion (gas, diesel, petrol)	760
Electricity purchased from the grid and transmission losses (market-based approach)	2,767
Purchased goods and services (embodied emissions)	2,445
Capital purchases (embodied emissions)	375
Fuel and energy-related emissions (Fuel extraction and electricity transmission/distribution losses)	39
Upstream transportation and distribution	621
Waste generated in operations	1,445
Business travel	104
Employee commuting	691
Electricity used by rental facilities	96
End-of-life treatment of sold products	1,230
Total Gross Emissions	10,573
Net emissions per reference unit	424.81 tCO <sub>2</sub> -e per \$m of supplier spend to support vulnerable Victorians
Number of functional units sold/projected to be sold as carbon neutral	\$24.889*
Total net emissions	10,573

\*\$m of supplier spend to support vulnerable Victorians

## Electricity Summary

Electricity above was calculated using a market-based approach in line with the Climate Active teams' latest electricity calculator tool. This is evidenced in the screenshots below and reconciles to the total 2,767 electricity emissions in the above table. The 2,767 includes both electricity purchased from the grid (scope 2) as well as transmission losses (scope 3).

The Climate Active team are consulting on the use of a market vs location-based approach for electricity accounting with a view to finalising a policy decision for the carbon neutral certification by July 2020. Given a decision is still pending on the accounting way forward, a summary of emissions using both measures have been provided for full disclosure and to ensure year on year comparisons can be made.

**Table 5: Market based approach Electricity summary**

Electricity Inventory Items	kWh	Emissions tonnes CO2-e
Electricity Renewables	584,795	0.00
Electricity Carbon Neutral Power	0	0.00
Electricity Remaining	2,559,264	2,766.82
Renewable Electricity Percentage	19%	

**Table 6 Location-based summary**

State / Territory	Electricity Inventory items	kWh	Full Emissions Factor (Scope 2+ 3)	Emissions tonnes CO2-e
	Electricity Renewables		-1.12	0.00
	Electricity Carbon Neutral Power		-1.12	0.00
	Netted off (exported on-site generation)		-1.02	0.00
	Electricity Total	3,144,059	1.12	3,521.35
	Total net electricity emissions (Location based)		0.00	3,521.35

# 5. CARBON OFFSETS

Our first year of carbon neutral certification will be FY2020/2021 and we have opted for 'forward offsetting' approach for purchasing carbon offsets in line with s.2.5 and s3.4.1 of the Standard. Through our business partnership with Belong (a brand within Telstra) they have performed a market scan of available offsets projects and purchased the offsets required to offset our emissions upfront on a pro bono basis. Offsets have been purchased to ensure we are carbon neutral for the 12 month period end being 30 June 2021. A true up will then be performed at the end of the reporting year to ensure that a sufficient quantity of units have been retired. Our purchasing arrangements with Belong will be reassessed on an annual basis for future certification periods.

Our offsets have been purchased in line with Appendix A of the Standard and include a mix of the following;

- Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) issued by the Verified Carbon Standard
- Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) issued by the Clean Energy Regulator in accordance with the framework established by the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011

## Offset Purchasing strategy: Forward purchasing

**Table 7a Forward Purchasing Summary**

1. Total offsets previously forward purchased for this reporting period	0
2. Total offsets required for this reporting period	0
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	0
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased for next reporting period	10,573

Table 4 Offset Summary

<b>1. Total offsets required for this report</b>					10,573				
<b>2. Offsets retired in previous reports and used in this report</b>					0				
<b>3. Net offsets required for this report</b>									
<i>Project description</i>	<i>Eligible offset units type</i>	<i>Registry unit retired in</i>	<i>Date retired</i>	<i>Serial number (including hyperlink to registry transaction record)</i>	<i>Vintage</i>	<i>Quantity (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e)</i>	<i>Quantity used for previous report</i>	<i>Quantity to be banked for future years</i>	<i>Quantity to be used this report</i>
300MW Hydropower project by JHPL	VCUs	CBL	6/03/2020	Total offsets purchased by Telstra (Belong): 28,753 Serial number of purchase: 7919-440853852-440882604-VCU-001-MER-IN-1-92-01012013-30062013-0 <a href="https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=31098">https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=31098</a> Total offsets allocated to Vinnies certification: 1,012 Vinnies allocated serial numbers: 7919-440853852-440854863-VCU-001-MER-IN-1-92-01012013-30062013-0	01/01/2013-30/06/2013	1,012	-	-	1,012
Jiangsu Dongtai Phase II Wind Power Project	VCUs	CBL	5/03/2020	Total offsets purchased by Telstra (Belong): 193,438 Serial number of purchase: 7610-410809366-411002803-VCU-034-APX-CN-1-1356-01062014-31122014-0 <a href="https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=29403">https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=29403</a> Total offsets allocated to Vinnies certification: 9,016 Vinnies Allocated Serial Numbers: 7610-410809366-410818380-VCU-034-APX-CN-1-1356-01062014-31122014-0	01/06/2014-31/12/2014	9,016	-	-	9,016
Negros Island Solar Power Inc.	VCUs	CBL	6/03/2020	Total offsets purchased by Telstra (Belong): 15,000 Serial number of purchase: 5921-266979053-266994052-VCU-029-APX-PH-1-1735-01012017-25112017-0 <a href="https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=27623">https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=27623</a> Total offsets allocated to Vinnies certification: 528 Vinnies allocated serial numbers: 5921-266979053-266979580-VCU-029-APX-PH-1-1735-01012017-25112017-0	01/01/2017-25/11/2017	528	-	-	528
Savanna Burning Investment Ready Project – Cape York Pilot Aurukun	ACCU	ANREU	16/12/2019	Total offsets purchased by Telstra (Belong): 500 Serial number of purchase: 3786111714-3786112213 <a href="http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/OSR/ANREU/Data-and-information">http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/OSR/ANREU/Data-and-information</a> Total offsets allocated to Vinnies certification: 18 Vinnies allocated serial numbers: 3786111714-3786111731	2019-20	18	-	-	18
<b>Total offsets retired this report and used in this report</b>	10,573								
<b>Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports</b>							10,573		

## 6. USE OF TRADEMARK

As this is our initial year reporting we have not used the trademark yet. However we envisage we will display the trademark on the following;

Table 6: Use of trademark

<b>Description where trademark used</b>	<b>Logo type</b>
Website	Certified Service
Email signature	Certified Service
LinkedIn	Certified Service
Other marketing materials (newsletters, online communications, social media platforms, printed materials, in-store displays)	Certified Service

# 7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The below activities are evidence of additional activities where Vinnies Victoria contributes to acting sustainably. These are not direct emissions reduction activities associated to emissions sources within our Climate Active services boundary, but instead impact broader society.

## **Democratisation of Energy**

For two decades our Research & Advocacy department has been involved in developing energy concessions and consumer protection frameworks for households. It has monitored the evolution of the energy market, financial impact on families & individuals through a tariff tracking project, our disconnection mapping projects and the relative price index. This helps vulnerable community members both understand and reduce energy usage.

Our work in communities across Victoria demonstrates that energy poverty remains a major issue affecting up to 28% of the population. Every week, SVDP members meet hundreds of individuals and families living in cold, damp and poorly insulated homes, struggling to meet the costs of their utility bills. On the other hand, they are least able to take up the advantages afforded to wealthier households in relation to solar-power subsidies. For these reasons, Vinnies Victoria is passionate about avoiding a consumer marketplace of “haves and have nots” and works tirelessly towards equitable and sustainable energy solutions for everyone.

## **Clothing & Textiles**

Vinnies Victoria already contributes to sustainability through its Vinnies Shops in promoting a circular economy through re-use and recycling of products.

The fashion industry is known as one of the most polluting on the planet, responsible for 10% of the world’s carbon emissions, but Vinnies Victoria and its network of more than 110 shops is proud to be part of the solution. Vinnies Victoria is at the ‘top’ of the circular economy hierarchy because 90% of the products we sell are second hand. Social justice issues around poverty and concern about the impact of overconsumption on the planet have all played to the strengths of Vinnies Shops, resulting in increased sales and shop expansions in recent years.

Vinnies Victoria handles an extraordinary amount of second-hand clothes. Last year, we sold almost 5,140,00 items and garments to nearly 4 million customers. Through our partnerships, we also diverted more than 3,665,000kg of apparel and 10,000 mattresses away from landfill and into reuse abroad. We are passionate about achieving zero-landfill from clothes. We also contribute by steering consumers’ attitudes away from constant seasonal updating with new clothes back to an emphasis on quality, well-made garments that have long and multiple lives. Through our extensive shop upgrades and marketing, we are making second-hand clothes shopping an increasingly attractive retail experience for consumers, intensifying our environmental impact.

Vinnies Victoria Retail General Manager Jeff Antcliff is also a member of the National Executive Committee of the Incorporating Zero Waste Network (NACRO), which works to reduce the carbon footprint of charities and the retail sector – work that feeds into Vinnies Victoria’s constantly developing role as a leading responsible retailer in recycling. Vinnies Victoria recently held a discussion panel in Melbourne’s Sustainable Living Festival entitled Repurpose with Purpose, attracting a highly engaged audience of more than 100. Conducted in conjunction with, RMIT’s renowned School of Fashion and Textiles, Vinnies Victoria is seeking ways that we can work more closely with the fashion industry to find sustainable solutions in the sector.

## Appendix A - Relevance Test

We have used the 'relevance test' in line with Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations s2.3.1 in determining our non-attributable emissions boundary exclusions detailed in section 3 of our PDS. Per s2.3.1 of the Organisation Standard if the emissions source meets 2 of the below 5 criteria then it is considered relevant for the footprint.

Scope 3 Relevance Test	The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions.	The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.	Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.	The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.	The emissions are from outsourced activities previously undertaken within the organisation's boundary, or from outsourced activities typically undertaken within the boundary for comparable organisations.	Justification for exclusion
Volunteer commuting	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	This emission source in respect of Vinnies Victoria's direct emissions is expected to be large. However, Vinnies Victoria have no authority to advise volunteers on how they should get to their shifts and don't believe stakeholders would expect this emission source to be deemed relevant.
Donations received (upstream)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	This emission source in respect of Vinnies Victoria's direct emissions is expected to be large. However, Vinnies have no control over what is donated to their retail stores and should therefore not be responsible for the upstream emissions associated with these donations.
Donations provided/sold (downstream)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	This emission source in respect of Vinnies Victoria's direct emissions is expected to be large. However, Vinnies have no control over what is donated to their retail stores and should therefore not be responsible for the downstream emissions associated with these donations.
Waste – Donated food	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	Vinnies Victoria have the ability to implement recycling & composting initiatives for donated food, however Vinnies Victoria receive food via donations from business partnerships and believe that stakeholders would not expect this emission source to be deemed relevant. In addition, the emission source in respect of Vinnies Victoria's direct emissions is expected to be small.
Waste - Retail Store Skips	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	This emission source in respect of Vinnies Victoria's direct emissions is expected to be large. However, Vinnies Victoria have no control over what is donated to their retail stores and in what condition these donations are received. Vinnies Victoria are required to dispose of large quantities of unsellable donated products. We do not believe our stakeholders will expect we include the waste related emissions in our certification boundary.
Food + Furniture vouchers	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	This emission source in respect of Vinnies Victoria's direct emissions is expected to be large. However, Vinnies Victoria cannot influence what the recipients of these vouchers purchase and therefore stakeholders would not expect the emissions associated with these purchases to be included in the boundary.

### Figure 2: Operations Sub-service



Figure 4: Soup Van Sub-service

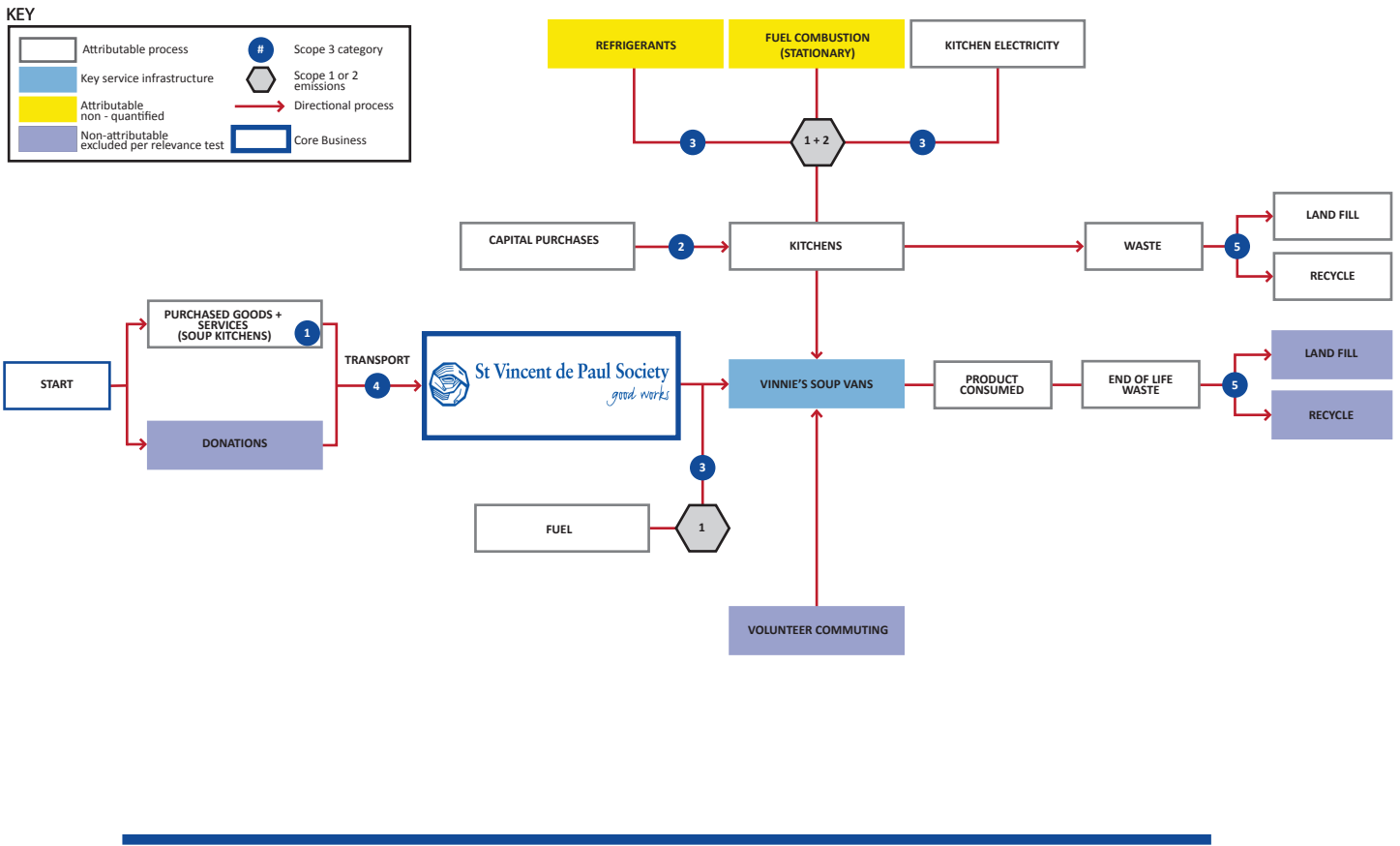


Figure 5: Education + Tutoring Sub-services

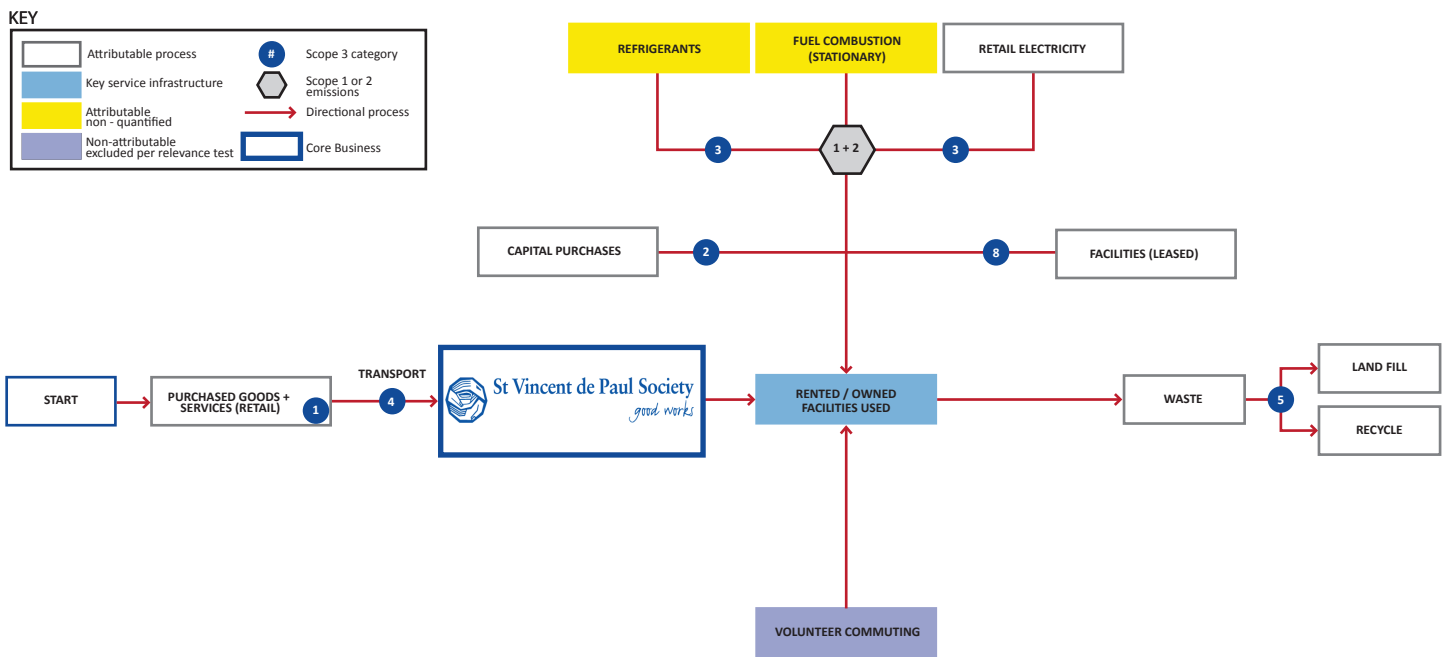




Figure 6: Overseas Support (including asylum-seekers and refugee assistance) Sub-service

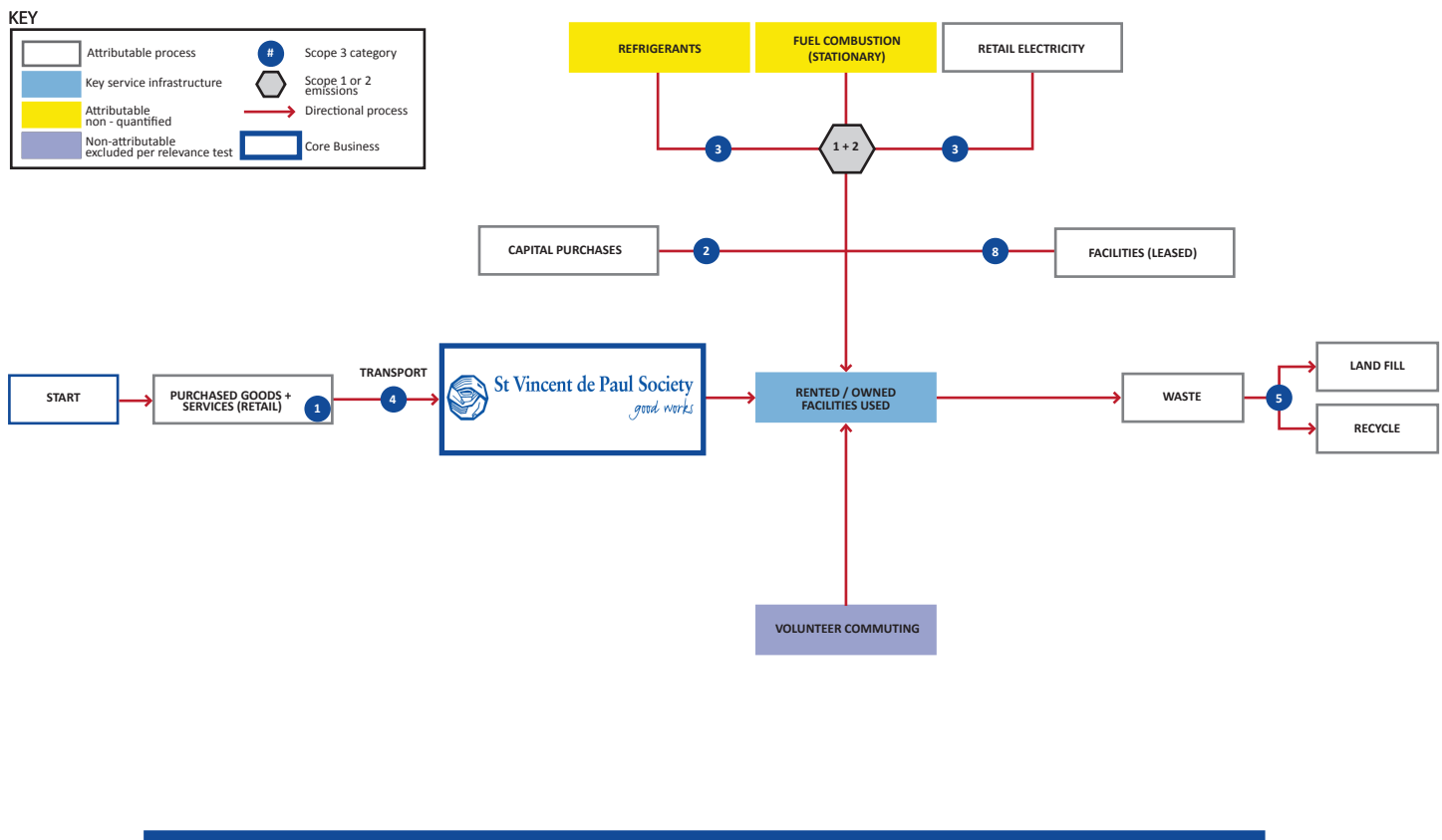


Figure 7: Temporary Accommodation and Holiday Homes Sub-service

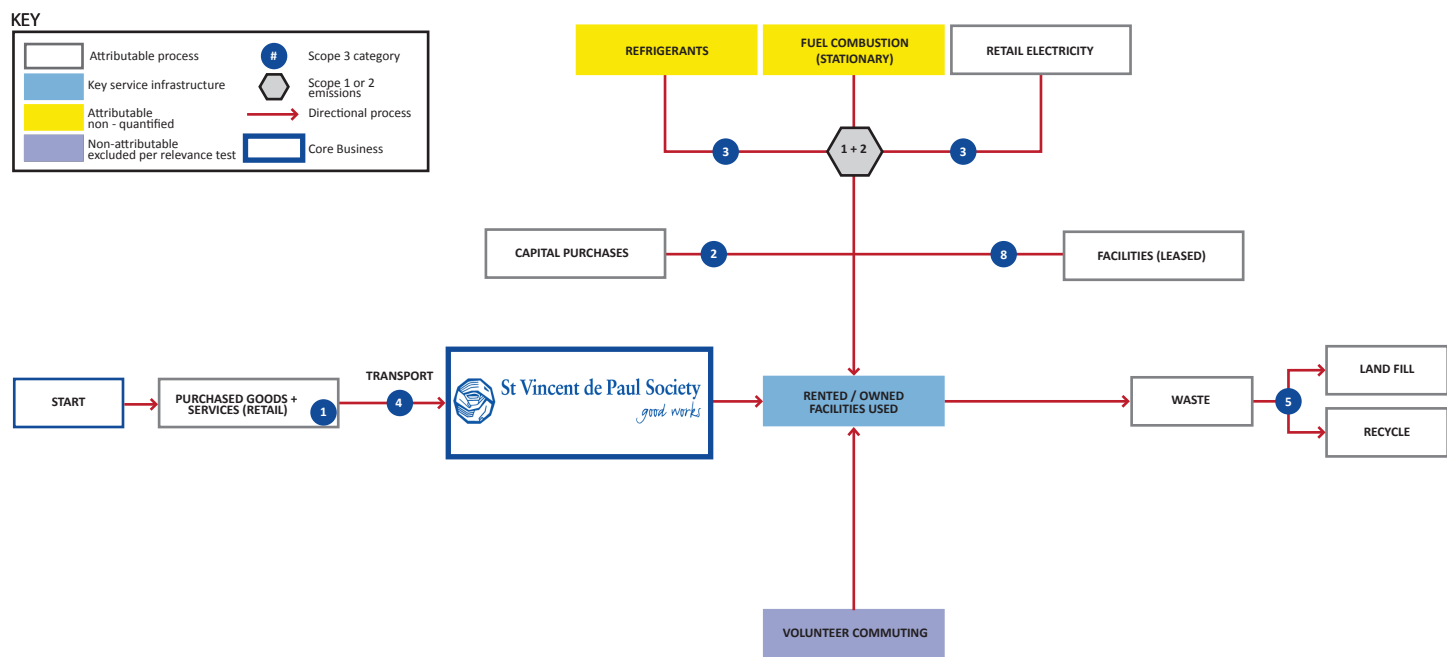


Figure 8: Community Support Sub-service

