



Community Services 2024-2025 Holiday Season Guide

- **Where to Find a Free Meal this Holiday Season**
- **Services Operating During the Holiday Season**
- **Community Services Closures During the Holiday Season**

This guide is proudly brought to you by VolunteeringACT's Community Info Hub. It provides details of where you can find a free meal over the holiday season, the opening times and contact details of services operating over the holiday season, and the last operating and reopening dates and times for community services and emergency relief providers that are closed over the holiday season within the Canberra Region.

This information guide is an ACT Government funded initiative.



Where to Find a Free Meal 2024 – 2025 Holiday Season

Saturday 21 December 2024

Early Morning Centre	City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 7:30am-8:30am	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee & lunch
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran’s Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Sunday 22 December 2024

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran’s Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Monday 23 December 2024

Early Morning Centre	City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City 7:30am-8:30am (9am-2pm for Community Hub)	Breakfast Community Hub
St Benedict’s Community Centre	21 Brigalow Street (entrance off Anne St), Karabar, Queanbeyan – 10am-1pm	Free food and hot meals
Blue Door Ainslie Village	23 Quick Street, Campbell (in Ainslie Village access via Hayley Street) – 12pm-1:30pm	Lunch

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran’s Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Tuesday 24 December 2024

Early Morning Centre	City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 7:30am-8:30am	Breakfast
St Benedict’s Community Centre	21 Brigalow Street (entrance off Anne St), Karabar, Queanbeyan – 10am-11am	Take away meals only
Blue Door Ainslie Village	23 Quick Street, Campbell (in Ainslie Village access via Hayley Street) – 12pm-1:30pm	Lunch
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran’s Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Wednesday 25 December 2024

St John’s Care	45 Constitution Avenue, Reid – 12pm-1:30pm	Christmas Lunch
UnitingCare Kippax	Kippax Uniting Community Centre, cr. Luke St. & Harding Cres., Holt – 12pm-1:30pm	Christmas Lunch
St Benedict’s Community Centre	21 Brigalow Street (entrance off Anne St), Karabar, Queanbeyan – 3pm-5pm	Dinner
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2

Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm

Thursday 26 December 2024

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1

Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2

Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm

Friday 27 December 2024

Early Morning Centre

City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 7:30am-8:30am

Breakfast

St Benedict's Community Centre

21 Brigalow Street (entrance off Anne St), Karabar, Queanbeyan – 10am-1pm

Lunch (sit down hot meal), free food

Blue Door Ainslie Village

23 Quick Street, Campbell (in Ainslie Village access via Hayley Street) – 12pm-1:30pm

Lunch

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1

Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2

Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm

Saturday 28 December 2024

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1

Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

	Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
	Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	

Sunday 29 December 2024

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
	Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
	Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	

Monday 30 December 2024

Early Morning Centre	City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 7:30am-8:30am	Breakfast
Blue Door Ainslie Village	23 Quick Street, Campbell (in Ainslie Village access via Hayley Street) – 12pm-1:30pm	Lunch
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
	Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
	Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	

Tuesday 31 December 2024

Early Morning Centre	City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 7:30am-8:30am	Breakfast
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St Benedict's Community Centre	21 Brigalow Street (entrance off Anne St), Karabar, Queanbeyan – 10am-1pm	Lunch (sit down hot meal), free food
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Wednesday 1 January 2025

St Benedict's Community Centre	21 Brigalow Street (entrance off Anne St), Karabar, Queanbeyan – 11am-1pm	Lunch (sit down hot meal), free food
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Thursday 2 January 2025

Early Morning Centre	City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 7:30am-8:30am (9am-2pm for Community Hub)	Breakfast Community Hub
Blue Door Ainslie Village	23 Quick Street, Campbell (in Ainslie Village access via Hayley Street) – 12pm-1:30pm	Lunch
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm

Friday 3 January 2025

Early Morning Centre	City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 7:30am-8:30am (9am-2pm for Community Hub)	Breakfast Community Hub
St Benedict's Community Centre	21 Brigalow Street (entrance off Anne St), Karabar, Queanbeyan – 10am-1pm	Lunch (sit down hot meal), free food
Blue Door Ainslie Village	23 Quick Street, Campbell (in Ainslie Village access via Hayley Street) – 12pm-1:30pm	Lunch
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Saturday 4 January 2025

Early Morning Centre	City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 9am-1pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee & lunch Community Hub
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1	Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm Veteran's Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee
Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2	Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm	Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm

Sunday 5 January 2025

Early Morning Centre

City Uniting Church, 69 Northbourne Ave, City – 9am-1pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee & lunch

Community Hub

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 1

Dickson Place Carpark – 7:00pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Veteran’s Park, cr Bunda and Mort Streets, City – 8:00pm

Vinnies Night Patrol Van 2

Old Queanbeyan Visitor Centre – 7:00pm

Sandwiches, snacks, tea, coffee

Illumincube, Ainslie Avenue – 8:00pm

Services Operating During this Holiday Season

The services listed below will be operating during the holiday season. Operating hours are provided where available.

Crisis Support Telephone Services

LIFELINE Crisis Support: 13 11 14 (24/7 – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Domestic Violence Crisis Support Line: (02) 6280 0900 (24/7)

13 Yarn: Talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter 13 92 76 (24/7)

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636 (24/7)

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 (24/7)

MensLine Australia: 1300 78 99 78 (24/7)

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 822 (24/7)

Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling: 1800 011 046 (24/7)

National Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline: 1800 250 015 (24/7)

ACT Health Services

In an emergency, please call 000.

Accident and Emergency Centres at The Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital will be operating throughout the holiday period.

Canberra Hospital Yamba Dr, Garran ACT 2605, (02) 5124 0000

North Canberra Hospital Mary Potter Cct, Bruce ACT 2617, (02) 6201 6111

ACT Health Walk-in Centres provide free health care for non-life threatening injuries and illnesses to anyone who is over one year of age. The centres are open 7 days a week, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day between 7.30am and 10pm. You don't need to make an appointment, as the name says, just walk on in.

Walk-In Centres are located at:

Belconnen Walk in Centre: 56 Lathlain Street, Belconnen Australian Capital Territory 2617, Tel: (02) 5124 8080

Gungahlin Walk-in Centre: 57 Earnest Cavanagh Street, Gungahlin AustralianCapital Territory 2912, Tel: (02) 5124 8080

Inner North (Dickson) Walk-in Centre: 111 Dickson Place, Dickson Australian Capital Territory 2602, Tel: (02) 5124 8080

Tuggeranong Walk-in Centre: Corner Anketell and Pitman Street, Greenway, Australian Capital Territory 2900, (02) 5124 8080

Weston Creek Walk-in Centre: 24 Parkinson Street, Weston, Australian Capital Territory 2611, Tel: (02) 5124 8080

Crisis Support Services

OneLink 1800 176 468

Provides information and connections for support services in the ACT, including services for families and young people, and services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Changes for Holiday Period: From 23 December 2024 to 1 January 2025 inclusive, OneLink will be operating at reduced capacity. Phone services will be operating as usual, however, building access for face-to-face interaction will be limited. OneLink will have limited capacity to refer to services during this time but will be able to provide information, complete intake assessments and create referral pathways in preparation for business as usual in 2025. OneLink operating hours over the holiday season are:

Monday 23 December 2024: Normal business hours

Tuesday 24 December 2024: Normal phone hours (building accessible until 3pm)

Wednesday 25 December 2024: CLOSED

Thursday 26 December 2024: CLOSED

Friday 27 December 2024: 8am to 6pm (phone service only), (no access to building)

Saturday 28 December 2024: 12.30pm to 5pm (phone service only), (no access to building)

Sunday 29 December 2024: 12.30pm to 5pm (phone service only), (no access to building)

Monday 30 December 2024: 8am to 6pm (phone), (building access 10am-4pm, no Housing ACT staff on site)

Tuesday 31 December 2024 12:30pm to 5pm (phone only), (building access 10am-4pm, no Housing ACT staff on site)

Wednesday 1 January 2025: CLOSED

Thursday 2 January 2025: Normal business resumes.

Mental Health Support Services

Safe Haven Belconnen **0421 154 147**

Safe Haven is located at 56 Lathlain St, Belconnen ACT, open Tuesday-Saturday 3.00pm-10.00pm

Safe Haven in Belconnen is a free service for people in crisis to chat with a peer mentor about how they, or someone they love, are feeling and be supported to access other services as needed.

This welcoming space is open over the Christmas and New Year period and the caring, peer workers on staff are available to help with:

- safety planning
- sensory modulation activities
- information and support for self-referral to other community services

Canberra Medicare Mental Health (formerly Head to Health) **1800 595 212**

Canberra Medicare Mental Health provides free mental health care to persons 18-years and over. Canberra Medicare Mental Health accepts walk-ins.

Location: Shop G7, 14 Childers Street, Canberra City, ACT 2601

Holiday season operating hours:

Monday 23 December 2024 8:30am to 5pm

Tuesday 24 December 2024 8:30am to 5pm

25 to 29 December 2024 inclusive – CLOSED

Monday 30 December 2024 8:30am to 5pm

Tuesday 31 December 2024 8:30am to 5pm

Wednesday 1 January 2025 CLOSED

Thursday 2 January 2025 8:30am to 7pm

Friday 3 January 2025 8:30am to 4:30pm

GROW Peer to Peer Support Groups (<https://grow.org.au/find-a-group/>)

Monday 1:30pm – 3:30pm

St Monica's Catholic Church, 18 Deffell Street, Evatt, ACT 2517

Tuesday 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Saint Benedict's Community Centre, 21 Brigalow Street, (entrance off Anne Street) Queanbeyan, NSW 2620

Wednesday 10:00am – 12:00pm

Jerrabomberra Community Centre (Banksia Room), 25/31 Jerrabomberra Parkway, Jerrabomberra, NSW 2619

Thursday 10am – 12:00pm

Collins Wing, St Benedicts Church, 10 Tallara Parkway, Narrabundah, ACT 2604

Thursday 6pm – 8pm

Uniting Church, 108 The Valley Avenue, Gungahlin, ACT 2912

Drug and Alcohol Support Services

Alcoholics Anonymous (02) 6287 3020

For full list of meetings see: <https://www.aacanberra.org/meetings-list>

Directions Health Services (02) 6132 4800

Directions Health Office, L6 Cosmopolitan Centre, above Access Canberra:

Wednesday 25 December 2024: Closed

Thursday 26 December 2024: Closed

Friday 27 December 2024: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Monday 30 December 2024: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Tuesday 31 December 2023: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Providing fitpacks and, phone & walk-in support on 27-31 December 2024, limited GP & nurse support available on 31 December 2024 by appointment only.

Wednesday 1 January 2025: Closed

Thursday 2 January 2025: Normal service hours resumed.

Needle & Syringe Program – Woden

Fitpacks will be available from the Directions Health Office located in Woden as per the hours listed above.

Needle & Syringe Program – Civic (02) 6143 5800

Wednesday 25 December 2024: Closed

Thursday 26 December 2024: Closed

Friday 27 December 2024: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Monday 30 December 2024: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Tuesday 31 December 2023: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Wednesday 1 January 2025: Closed

Thursday 2 January 2025: Normal service hours resumed.

CanTEST Ground Floor, City Community Health Centre, 1 Moore St, Civic 1300CANTEST

Wednesday 25 December 2024: Closed

Thursday 26 December 2024: Closed

Friday 27 December 2024: 5:00pm – 9:00pm

Monday 30 December 2024: Closed

Tuesday 31 December 2023: Closed

Wednesday 1 January 2025: Closed

Thursday 2 January 2025: Normal service hours resumed.

Narcotics Anonymous (1300 652 820)

For full list of meetings see: <https://www.na.org.au/multi/canberra-and-surrounds-meetings/>

Other Services

The Little Pantry – Woden Community Services (02) 6282 2644

Monday 23 December 2024 9am to 5pm

Tuesday 24 December 2024 9am to 3pm

Closed Wednesday 25 December 2024 to Wednesday 1 January 2025 inclusive.

Thursday 2 January 2025 9am to 5pm

Friday 3 January 2025 9am to 5pm

Community Service Closures During the Holiday Season

The following services will be closed over the holiday season as specified below:

Canberra-wide

Care Financial Counselling Service 1800 007 007

Last business day: Tuesday 24 December 2024 (12pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025 (9am)

Marymead CatholicCare: Braddon (02) 6163 7600, Red Hill (02) 6295 4300, O'Connor (02) 6163 7647

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

OzHarvest:

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

City/North Canberra

Belconnen Youth Centre (02) 6264 0200

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (4pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

Canberra City Care – Charnwood (02) 6196 8632

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (12pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025 (9am)

Capital Region Community Services – Belconnen (02) 6264 0200

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (4pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

Communities at Work– Gungahlin (02) 6293 6500

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (11am) | **Re-Opens:** 6 January 2025 (12:30pm)

Community Info Hub - City (02) 6248 7988

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (4pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025 (10am)
(Phone number will be monitored over the closure period between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.)

Early Morning Centre – Community Hub (02) 6247 5041

Last business day: 23 December 2024 | **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

HandUp Food Care – Charnwood (02) 6196 8630

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (12pm) **Re-Open:** 2 January 2025

A limited self-service option – fruit, veg, & bread will be available on a bench at the front of the centre on non-public holidays at around midday during shut down period.

The Junction – City (02) 6232 2423

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Open:** 6 January 2025

Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service (MARSS) – City (02) 6248 8577

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

Multicultural Hub Canberra - City (02) 6100 4611

Last business day: 20 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 6 January 2025

The Mustard Seed Uniting Food Pantry – Gungahlin (02) 6242 5001

Last business day: 19 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 6 February 2025

Northside Community Service - Dickson (02) 6171 8000

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

St John's Care - Reid (02) 6248 7771

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (2pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

(9:30am) NOTE: Will be running annual community lunch on 25 December 2024.
See part 1 of this guide.

Vinnies Roadhouse - City (02) 6234 7600

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 4 January 2025

VolunteeringACT - City (02) 6251 4060

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

Youth with A Mission: The Pantry - Watson (02) 6241 5500

Last business day: 19 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 16 January 2025

UnitingCare Kippax (02) 6254 1733

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (12pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

South Canberra, Woden and Tuggeranong

Arawang Emergency Relief Hub – Arawang 0491 605 086

Last business day: 23 December 2024 (12:30pm) **Re-Opens:** 6 January 2025
(9:30am)

Capital Healing Rooms – Wanniasa (02) 6162 1977

Last business day: 13 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 3 February 2025

Communities at Work – Tuggeranong (02) 6293 6500

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (11am) **Re-Opens:** 6 January 2025
(12:30pm)

Community Services #1 (inc. Food Pantry) – Narrabundah (02) 6126 4700

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

Gordon Community Centre (02) 6284 7003

Last business day: 18 December 2024 (3pm) **Re-Opens:** 14 January 2025 (10am)

Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre – Conder (02) 6185 2090

Last business day: 24 December 2024 **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025

Food pantry will reopen on 2 January 2025 with limited stock until 6 January 2025.

The Little Pantry (Westfield Woden) (02) 6282 2644

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (3pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025 (9am)

Woden Community Service (Callam Offices) (02) 6282 2644

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (3pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025 (9am)

Woden Youth Centre (02) 6282 3037

Last business day: 24 December 2024 (3pm) **Re-Opens:** 2 January 2025 (9am)



Contact us today to

- Find out more about these and other community services in the Canberra region.
- Add or update your services in our info guides.



Email

info@volunteeringact.org.au



Phone Number

02 6248 7988



Website

www.volunteeringact.org.au



Opening hours

Monday to Friday
10am - 4pm



Location

Ground floor, Griffin Centre, Genge Street, Canberra City, ACT 2601



This info guide is an ACT Government funded initiative.