

Announcement from St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

14 May 2024

With deep sadness the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW would like to announce the passing of NSW State President, Mr Paul Burton. Mr Burton passed away on Sunday 12 May, surrounded by his loved ones.

As a member for over 40 years, Mr Burton has dedicated much of his life to the good works of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Crediting his grandfather's legacy as a Vincentian for inspiration to join the Society, he did so in the 1980s while living in southwestern Sydney. Collaborating with another Vincentian, Eddie Solarz, the two men established the momentum for the founding of the conference of St Thomas More at Ruse in Campbelltown.

Prior to his role of State President, Mr Burton served as the President of the St Patrick's West Tamworth Conference and held leadership roles as Centres President, Regional President, and President of Armidale Diocesan Central Council.

In his term as State President, Mr Burton served with humility, respect and a true sense of Vincentian spirit. He never forgot the vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged. He was selfless in his service of others, often putting the people the Society assists before his own wellbeing.

Mr Burton's legacy includes more involvement by the Spirituality Committee in the work of the Society and the application of increased momentum with the Society's Reconciliation Action Plan and Diversity and Inclusion initiatives.

It was important to Mr Burton to be conscious of the diligence and consistent commitment displayed every day by members, volunteers and staff as they perform their roles in assisting those they seek to serve. His belief was that a culture of gratitude and appreciation should be constantly evident as part of the Vincentian culture.

In his professional career, Mr Burton specialised in road, rail, sea, and air logistics, providing transport, warehousing and distribution services to the food, agricultural and pharmaceutical sectors.

Mr Burton will be greatly missed by everyone across the Society, leaving behind a wonderful legacy of prayerfulness, healing, kindness, compassion, and companionship. The Society hold Mr Burton's wife, Jennifer, and his four children – Alicia, Joanne, Rachael and Sean and extended family in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.