MORE than 180 Catholic secondary students from 16 schools in Brisbane archdiocese converged on Clairvaux MacKillop College, Upper Mt Gravatt, for the St Vincent De Paul Society Social Justice Day.

This year's theme "Be Brave" encouraged students to build upon last year's focus of advocacy, helping young people stand up for what they believe in.

The socially-minded students were joined by representatives from Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission, Edmund Rice Camps, Project Hatch, Vocation Brisbane and The Trading Circle who all contributed to the experience.

The participants immersed themselves in workshops, discussions and activities, covering topics such as homelessness, the death penalty, and caring for the underprivileged and voiceless in society.

These group sessions aimed to raise awareness among the students of social inadequacies in the hope that, through addressing issues together, they are driven to make their own change.

Students had the opportunity to talk with potential role models Lucas Patchett, from Orange Sky Laundry; Kate Wragge, of ACU Indigenous Education; and Saba Abrahams, of Mu'ooz Eritrean Restaurant and Catering, each of whom outlined their own work in the community.

A spokesperson for the St Vincent de Paul Society said they were ecstatic at the outcome of the day, citing the passion and motivation of the young people involved as inspiring for them to continue to spread their message of equality.

- Isaac Murphy