



St Vincent de Paul Society

QUEENSLAND

good works

25th May 2011

Statement from the State President of St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland, Brian Moore

“The St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland welcomes the Premier’s announcement of a \$10 million allocation from the Disaster Relief Fund to continue to respond to the needs of those directly impacted by this last summer’s natural disasters.

The Society has been serving Queenslanders in need for over 117 years, including responding to needs created by natural disasters.

We have already provided assistance to over 4950 of the most vulnerable disaster affected households throughout Queensland, but there is still much work to be done.

The Society has exhausted the \$4.5million raised by its own appeal and this allocation from the Premier’s Appeal fund will mean that our strong volunteer network of over 8000 people across the State can continue this important work. All the funds provided go directly to people in need, with no administrative costs taken out.

We acknowledge that all levels of government have done a great job to date, and all members of the community have a part to play in responding to and recovering from natural disasters. These funds that were generously donated from all over Australia will be a boost to the work that we are already doing.

The funding will be used to make flexible payments to households (individuals or families), who are directly impacted by the floods and cyclones and who have limited capacity to recover.

It is anticipated that the funds would enable the Society to provide food, third party payments such as electricity bills and rent, purchase of household goods, such as fridges, furnishings and school necessities, and may be available to assist with the purchase of second hand vehicles so people can get to work.

The funding will be available for households for domestic purposes only, and will not be available to businesses.

No means test would be applied, however demonstrated significant hardship as a result of natural disaster will need to be clearly evident on a case by case basis.

We understand that recovery from a disaster of this magnitude will take time and compassion. The Society is committed to working with the State government and other community groups to do all we can to get Queensland lives back on track.

The St Vincent de Paul Society will be there for the *long term* to help people in need in whatever way we can.”

Anybody requiring disaster relief from St Vincent de Paul can call 1300 NEED HELP (1300 633 343).

People looking to volunteer to assist can visit vinnies.org.au or call 3010 1000.