



MEDIA RELEASE

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VINNIES QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRE APPEAL TO GIVE A HELPING HAND

St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland has today launched the Vinnies Queensland Bushfire Appeal to help victims of the current spate of devastating bushfires in Central Queensland and other regions.

With as many as 138 blazes threatening life and property on Wednesday, Vinnies State President Dennis Innes has declared a public disaster appeal and said financial donations were the best way to make sure the charity can give a helping hand to those affected.

“Vinnies is hearing from desperate families and individuals who are turning to us for help as their homes and their livelihoods have been damaged or in many cases destroyed by these terrible bushfires,” he said.

“We are hearing that the current bushfires may not be the only ones firefighters may face, with the potential for new fires devastating even more families. This may not be a short-term disaster recovery and Vinnies are prepared to maintain support throughout this disaster.”

“Every dollar donated goes directly to those impacted by the bushfires. There are people who have lost almost everything. Natural disasters don’t discriminate.

“We’re asking the public to get behind this appeal and donate what they can to help Vinnies support bushfire affected communities in Central Queensland and other regions.

“They’re needing everything, help with food and water, clothing, bills, and a roof over their head as they start the process of recovering their lives.

“There’s also the enormous mental health burden of living through and having to start again after this disaster, and Vinnies will be there as communities rally alongside each other.”

Mr Innes said Vinnies is a permanent local presence throughout regional Queensland providing a hand up to victims who had lost everything.

“We are committed to assisting in the long-term recovery of people affected by the bushfires,” he added.

“We are on the ground and know our communities, just as we supported communities suffering from the drought we will be there to support people through this disaster, and we will be there when the fires have long been extinguished and bushfire season has ended.”

The appeal was kicked off with a \$25,000 donation from the office of the Premier of Queensland Anastacia Palaszczuk.

To make a donation, visit <http://bit.ly/DonateBushfireAppeal> or call 13 18 12.

For assistance call the Vinnies Helpline on 1800 846 643.

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