

MEDIA RELEASE

8 January 2020

Vinnies is part of the toolbox in fire response

National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society Claire Victory said today that the needs of people affected by the bushfire crisis are front of mind for the many volunteers and staff at Vinnies engaged in recovery efforts.

Ms Victory said the Society is responding in all affected states and territories through local Vinnies conferences in many communities in affected areas.

'The Society is responding through its network of local conferences and support services as the crisis develops.

'We understand there are many, many organisations engaged in the immediate emergency response.

'The Society is doing what it can, working with these organisations to meet the needs in local communities.

'Once the smoke has literally settled, and the extent of the devastation dawns on individuals, families and whole communities, the Society will be there to help with the recovery process as people begin to rebuild their lives.

'We are present, at the service of those communities, providing personal and practical support and referral to professional services.

'Vinnies is part of an integrated, whole-of-community response the government can call upon now, and in the weeks and months ahead.

'We are working with other lead agencies to accompany people whose lives have been devastated by the fires.

'Right now, cash is needed. People can donate by visiting the Vinnies [website](#) or through our shops.

'Cash is the most useful contribution at this point in time.

'We do not have the capacity to sort and store additional furniture, clothing or other items in the affected areas right now, and we want to be able to support those people needing our help in the best way that meets their individual needs.

'We will be part of a major, targeted fundraising effort on the January long weekend and will provide further details closer to the date,' Ms Victory said.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 conferences located in individual parishes across the country.