



MEDIA RELEASE

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Fires prompt disaster appeal and emergency response – Vinnies Qld

Vinnies has today launched a disaster appeal to help victims of the bushfires currently devastating communities across Queensland – and urged people to dig deep to help.

“We need the public to give what they can – these people are going through what can only be described as the toughest of times,” said Vinnies State President Dennis Innes.

“Every dollar given to Vinnies for this disaster appeal will go directly to people affected by these terrible events, with many of the fires caused by a drought affecting half of the state.”

Mr Innes said public donations help feed, clothe and provide immediate financial support for those who have been evacuated and displaced, as well as helping those who will be starting again after their homes and businesses are razed.

“Our volunteers and members are on the ground now helping people who have lost everything, as our emergency services battle more than 70 fires burning across the state,” he said.

“They are all local community members themselves, understand the needs of those affected, and often they face threats to their own homes and livelihoods while helping others.”

Mr Innes said Vinnies has a strong track record of responding to Queenslanders impacted by disasters.

“This is because Vinnies is the trusted charity people turn to during disasters. Vinnies will always be there for whatever Queensland faces, fire, flood or drought, and we always will be,” he said.

“We helped thousands of people and distributed more than \$5 million over the past financial year with these heart-felt donations given to victims of the current drought, the North Queensland floods, and the bushfires in central Queensland last year,” he said.

“Another \$31 million was given during the Brisbane floods and Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

“Vinnies was formed in Queensland 125 years ago to respond to the needs of people affected by the great Brisbane floods of 1893, we were there then, and we are here now.

“We are hearing that this is the worst start to the fire season on record. The forces hitting the state this week really are the perfect storm. We see the flames and smoke but it’s the long-term drought facing the state that’s led to these bushfires.”

People in need of assistance can call Vinnies Helpline on 1800 846 643. To make a donation go to vinnies.org.au/donate, choose Queensland, and click on Vinnies Disaster Appeal – QLD.

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Media contact: Vinnies Queensland Communications Officer Joshua Paterson.

Phone: 0408 675 567 | Email: joshua.paterson@svdpqld.org.au