



# MEDIA RELEASE

*11 November, 2019*

## **Vinnies bushfire appeal launched to help victims of catastrophic fires**

Vinnies Queensland has launched the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal to raise funds to help victims of the unprecedented bushfire emergency, in partnership with NRMA and Nine Network's Nine Cares who are providing community service announcements.

With thousands of Australians impacted by the catastrophic bushfires, Vinnies State President Dennis Innes has declared a public disaster appeal and said financial donations were the best way to provide immediate help.

"Vinnies is ready to assist families and individuals whose homes and businesses have been destroyed by this ongoing terrible disaster, but we need the public's help," he said.

"We are hearing from people who have seen their homes, sheds and livelihoods lost, who have been sleeping in evacuation centres, fearful of what they might return home to.

"This disaster is far from over and the worst may be yet to come with summer ahead, but Vinnies will be there to assist in any way we can.

"Our volunteers have been on the ground providing mattresses to sleep on, personal hygiene items and moral support to those who have been forced to flee their homes."

Mr Innes said with fire having potentially damaged infrastructure, the best way for people to help is through making a monetary donation.

"Every dollar donated goes directly to those struggling through this terrible ongoing disaster, financial donations are the easiest way to make sure we can quickly provide assistance to people in need," he said.

"We're asking the public to help us support our fellow Queenslanders and our neighbours in NSW who are going through what could only be described as the toughest of times."

Mr Innes said Vinnies is a permanent local presence in all of the affected communities.

"When the fires are extinguished, the recovery process begins and we will be here to help people restart their lives," he said.

"Vinnies Queensland was formed in 1894 after a great flood inundated Brisbane, 125 years later we are still here helping Queenslanders who experience natural disasters."

To make a donation visit [Vinnies.org.au](http://Vinnies.org.au) press the donate button and choose Vinnies Disaster Appeal or call 13 18 12.

For assistance call the Vinnies Helpline on 1800 846 643.

**ENDS.**

Media contact: Vinnies Queensland Communications Officer Joshua Paterson.  
Phone: 0408 675 567 | Email: [joshua.paterson@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:joshua.paterson@svdpqld.org.au)