



MEDIA RELEASE

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Vinnies Stanthorpe offering a hand of hope in an unprecedented disaster

The ongoing drought devastating Queensland is the worst situation Stanthorpe local Carmel Mahoney has seen in her 30 years as a Vincentian (Volunteer member) with Vinnies.

Carmel said with the help of other organisations the local Conference (group of members), has been doing what they can to provide relief, and importantly hope to families and individuals in the region.

“I recently gave a woman some food and fuel vouchers and she was just over the moon. It made all the difference to her. It may have saved her,” she said.

“We’ve helped to supply water to about 80 properties but it’s so dry – there’s no work because there’s no produce because there’s no water.

“Instead of hampers this Christmas we’re giving IGA vouchers because there’s so much need that our little (six person) conference would never get all the hampers out. We’re too old to lug them all.”

Carmel said the Stanthorpe and wider community had come together to help the people of the Southern Downs keep battling on as the rain continues to stay away and bushfires threaten.

“We’ve been so beautifully supported by parishes from all over the state. Brisbane and Toowoomba have joined in to help us and St Joseph’s School in Stanthorpe gave us \$2200 from their Christmas concert,” she said.

“All those kids worked so hard to support the community even when some of their own families are doing it hard.”

Carmel said with dams dry and a local economy which has all but ground to halt, its never been more important for people to continue to support Vinnies and visit the Southern Downs region if they can.

“The generosity of people has been so beautiful but next year is when things are going to get really tough because there’s just no water, no income.

“People are losing hope and yet they all want to help each other,” she said.

“It’s a beautiful thing to see even with all the hardship and the heartbreak.

“People really don’t like asking for help because they’d rather give, but a lot of them won’t be having any Christmas without the support that’s coming in from all over.”

Vinnies has distributed more than \$76,000 to people impacted by drought and bushfires since October and donations to help people like Carmel continue delivering hope can be made to the

Always There – Vinnies QLD Disaster Appeal via: [https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-
qld/vinnies-disaster-appeal-qld](https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-
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