



## **Media Statement**

23 January 2020

### **Vinnies confirms every cent will go to bushfire victims**

The St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) would like to assure the community that every dollar raised for the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal will be used to support the people impacted by the fires.

Vinnies will not, and has never kept funds from disaster appeals for any other work or cause.

In South Australia, generous donors have contributed just over \$1.3 million to the Vinnies SA Bushfire Appeal to date.

Working closely with the State Recovery Office, Vinnies SA is also assisting with material donations as requested, and acting as a link between donors of products and services and people who require this type of assistance.

From this week, Vinnies SA has been given access to the Bushfire Recovery Centre in Lobethal in order to meet with those affected, and to begin processing applications for financial support. We are also playing a role in the recovery efforts at Kangaroo Island. The first payments will be made in the week commencing 27 January 2020.

As many more applications for assistance are anticipated, the distribution of funds will occur in multiple rounds to ensure it occurs equitably, and so that people who have been unable to apply in the first instance will not be disadvantaged.

Along with the distribution of funds raised via the Vinnies SA Bushfire Appeal, the organisation has been contracted by the Federal Government to distribute Emergency Relief Funding to households living or working in the fire-affected regions, who are suffering financial hardship as a result of the fires. Funding to eligible applicants will also commence next week.

Nationally, the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal has raised \$12.5 million to support people impacted by bushfires in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, SA and the ACT. Vinnies has distributed more than \$2.4 million nationally with a further \$250,000 already processed for distribution in the coming days – totaling \$2.65 million. In addition, significant amounts of material goods including food, water, clothing and bedding have been disbursed.

Vinnies is committed to standing by our communities, helping them to get through today, tomorrow and into the future. We are so grateful to our volunteers and to the many thousands of compassionate people who have donated to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal.

People seeking assistance can contact Vinnies on 13 18 12 and choose option 2.

**- ENDS -**

For more information please contact Jo Dinnison, Vinnies SA Communications Officer on (08) 8112 8730 or 0419 940 721, or email [jdinnison@svdpsa.org.au](mailto:jdinnison@svdpsa.org.au)