

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**Vinnies will always be here in times of disaster**

Just call our Helpline – we are ready to help you. That’s the message of Vinnies volunteer members who stand ready to help their fellow Queenslanders so badly affected by recent bushfires and ongoing drought.

“Queenslanders are kind and caring and our donors have given generously so we can help their neighbours and friends,” said Vinnies Queensland CEO Kevin Mercer.

“We have funds available, and we’re distributing funds to Queenslanders every week and processing claims every day.

“If you’ve been impacted by the bushfires, or even know someone who has, we’re here to help.

“Our members live in your communities, they are locals helping locals, they know what you’ve been through. They won’t judge, there’s absolutely no shame in asking for help to rebuild in times like these.

“We are here to help now, and we will be here to help in the months and years to come as people rebuild their lives.”

Nationally, Vinnies has distributed more than \$2.65 million to families and individuals who’ve been badly impacted by bushfires alone, with funds used for everything from paying bills, fuel, helping to repair fences, keep cattle fed and more.

Mr Mercer said he wanted Queenslanders to know getting help is a relatively simple process.

“Just call our Vinnies Helpline on 1800 846 643 and they will connect you with our members in your local area who will visit with you. Our forms are simple, and the process is quick,” he said.

“We are already helping right across Queensland with emergency housing costs, food, fuel and transport costs, medical expenses, bedding, and more. If you’re struggling call us and we will be there.

“We are here to help rebuild broken lives, people who have lost everything. When the fires stop smouldering, the ashes are cleared, and the drought ridden land stays barren we will be there in the toughest of times.”

Vinnies Queensland distributed \$5.3 million in disaster assistance the last financial year including helping families devastated by drought, bushfire and the North Queensland Floods.

**ENDS.**

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