



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Volunteers make Vinnies a trusted charity in tough times**

Kerry Clarke and Leanne Long are two of the salt of the earth Queenslanders who help make Vinnies a trusted charity in times of disasters such as the current bushfires and ongoing drought.

Based in Ipswich, Kerry and Leanne make a fortnightly trip out to the small town of Esk, an hour's drive away to assist people in need like Glynis Limberg.

Glynis turned to Vinnies when the family farm was badly impacted by two bushfires late last year, the worst of which engulfed Glynis' husband Ray's sawmill and woodturning business, leaving it ruins.

As well as the loss of income from the destroyed business and the repairs needed on the property, the family lost 10 of their cattle to the fire, with a horse passing away in the days following the fire from stress.

Though the Limberg home, which Glynis shares with Ray and 11-year-old son Harrison, was spared from the flames, Kerry said the family has a long road ahead of them to get back on their feet.

"They've lost their livelihood and everything on their property, they have to start from scratch. Her husband lost his shed with all of his tools and equipment," she said.

"Their main concern after the fire was fencing so that they could keep their remaining cattle, water for their water tank and feed and water for their cattle."

Thanks to kind donations Kerry and Leanne were able to offer Glynis \$3000 towards the family's costs, help which was followed up with further support to brighten the Limberg's Christmas.

"She was still with us when the \$3000 claim went through and she just burst into tears, she was so grateful," Kerry said.

"We took out lots of food for her and the family and some toys for her son, she put all the stuff we had brought for her son into the one bag and told him it had come from Vinnies because she wanted him to know that people were willing to help.

"Glynis is one of those people you really want to reach out to and help, one of those people who make it all worthwhile."

Kerry and Leanne met with Glynis again recently to see how Vinnies could continue to support the family as they begin the process of rebuilding their lives, Kerry adding that they both enjoy their regular trips out to help the people of Esk.

"We enjoy going out and offering help to people out there, a lot of people just come in for a chat, they don't really want anything but to have a friendly chat," she said.

"I think they are comforted by the fact we come out regularly to see if we can help."

If you've been affected by bushfires or drought and need assistance please call the Vinnies Helpline on 1800 846 643.

If you would like to help Vinnies help more people like Glynis Limberg you can donate to the Always There Vinnies Queensland Disaster Appeal online via [Vinnies.org.au](http://Vinnies.org.au)

**ENDS.**

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