

## MEDIA RELEASE

19 March 2020

### **Additional drought declared areas qualify for assistance**

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council CEO Toby oConnor today welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to broaden the geographic base for support to farming communities living with the consequences of the drought, which is an ongoing reality for many Australian rural and regional communities.

The Federal Government announced additional funding of \$82.75 million on 20 February this year under the Drought Community Support Initiative Round 2.

Speaking ahead of the release of the extra funds, Mr oConnor said assistance will be available in additional designated Local Government Areas in NSW, SA, Qld, Vic and Tas from mid- to late-March.

'And for the first time, eligible people living in designated Local Government Areas in Western Australia and the Northern Territory will also have access to support under Round 2 of the DCSI.

'The new funding will provide up to \$3,000 in short-term financial assistance to eligible farming households facing hardship due to the drought.

'It will also provide much needed stimulus to local businesses', Mr oConnor said.

'The St Vincent de Paul Society and The Salvation Army will continue to deliver the funding.

Current program guidelines and eligibility criteria are available here:

<https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/drought-community-support-initiative>

The St Vincent de Paul Society will deliver the funding in the Clarence Valley, Junee, and Kempsey in NSW; the Central Desert in the Northern Territory; Bundaberg in Qld; the Barossa in SA; Benalla and Wangaratta in Vic; and the following LGAs in Western Australia: Albany, Bridgetown-Greenbushes; Broomhill-Tambellup, Brucerock, Cranbrook, Denmark, Donnybrook-Balingup, Esperance, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Nannup, Narembeen, Plantagenet and Ravensthorpe.

The Federal Government has listed specific Local Government Areas which are officially drought-declared. A list of those LGAs serviced by the St Vincent de Paul Society are available here. [https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find\\_Help/drought\\_assistance/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/drought_assistance/)

Details about the payment, including how to apply are available [online](#) or by calling 1300 846 643.

*The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 conferences located in individual parishes across the country.*

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