

MEDIA RELEASE

Federal Government drought grants still available

16 September 2020

The Federal Government still has cash grants to give to cash-strapped farmers, farm workers and others who are living with drought or the impact of the worst drought in living memory.

Farming communities in almost every state and territory have been affected. But we know not everyone has had a chance to apply for this one-off payment.

The Federal Government has asked the National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society and The Salvation Army to distribute small cash grants (\$3,000) directly into people's bank accounts to help soften the blow.

People who have received the grant have used the money for food, petrol, school expenses and other bills. Even a small grant makes a big difference to people's peace of mind as they begin the long road to recovery.

Paddocks might be greening up and dams full, but it takes months, if not years, for cash from crops and replenished livestock to find its way to depleted bank accounts.

In the great Aussie tradition, many people doing it tough in regional and rural areas think there are people worse off than they are and that the money should go to those folk.

But we are encouraging people who have lived with the effects of drought for years to apply for this cash assistance.

And we have made the application process as simple as we can to make it easier. Check [here](#) that your Local Government Area has been drought-declared by the Federal Government. If your LGA is being serviced by Vinnies, call our hotline: 1300 846 643. You will need to show a couple of key identification documents, but not your tax return or financial statements.

The Federal Government's grant is available until December this year.

In addition to ensuring the sorely needed cash is paid to bank accounts, workers on our Vinnies drought hotline are listening to people's stories. Stories of isolation, of heartbreak and loss, of survival and resilience and its possible they can put people in touch with relevant local services.

If you're someone who doesn't usually ask for help, this grant is for you too.

If you or someone you know has been affected by the drought but has not yet received a payment under the Drought Community Services Initiative Round 2 (since November last year), visit our [website](#) for more information.

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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