



Media Release

24 August 2020

Vinnies SA finalises distribution of bushfire relief funds

Louise Miller Frost, CEO of Vinnies SA, has announced that more than \$2 million raised via the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal has been distributed directly to people impacted by the bushfires that decimated parts of South Australia last summer.

The \$2.05 million comprises money donated to the appeal, plus accrued interest. The entire amount was passed on to bushfire victims, with nil administration fees being applied.

The last of the funds were paid to beneficiaries on 30 June 2020.

“It would have been sooner, had we not continued to receive generous donations to the appeal right up until the middle of June,” said Ms Miller Frost.

“It was a wonderful problem to have.”

More than 620 households benefited from the generosity of the South Australian community, who were extraordinary in their response to the fires.

“We had everything from children conducting bake sales and selling lemonade, to large corporates making quite substantial donations. It was a humbling experience, and Vinnies was very proud to facilitate the distribution of funds to people really in need.”

Judith Davis, a long time Vinnies volunteer and former banker, was appointed to oversee the processing of applications and distribution of funds to more than 600 households.

“Many people had lost absolutely everything – house, cars, animals - and of course some even lost loved ones. Those we saw had been through such a traumatic experience, and the financial assistance we were able to offer through the generosity of the South Australian community had an immediate impact, giving them just a bit of breathing space while they worked out what was next,” said Ms Davis.

“I’m still in touch with many of those we assisted, and like the green shoots that are making their way through the scorched earth, people are getting on with their lives - there is a lot of hope.”

A report detailing how the funds were raised and how they were distributed is now available on the Vinnies website at www.vinnies.org.au/BushfireReportSA

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For more information or an interview opportunity please contact Jo Dinnison, Communications Officer on (08) 8112 8730/0419 940 721 or email jdinnison@svdpsa.org.au