

MEDIA RELEASE

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Federal Government drought money available now

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council CEO Toby oConnor encourages farming communities living with the consequences of the drought to apply for up to \$3,000 in Federal Government funding.

Mr oConnor said the additional funding of \$82.75 million has been available since late March under the *Drought Community Support Initiative* Round 2, but many eligible people are unaware that help is at hand.

The extra funding is available in additional Local Government Areas in NSW, SA, Qld, Vic, Tas, WA and NT.

The St Vincent de Paul Society will deliver the additional 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.

The following LGAs in Western Australia also qualify: Albany, Bridgetown-Greenbushes; Broomhill-Tambellup, Brucerock, Cranbrook, Denmark, Donnybrook-Balingup, Esperance, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Nannup, Narembeen, Plantagenet and Ravensthorpe.

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

'There could be a number of reasons why people are not accessing the funding.

'Farmers tend to put others before themselves, they might have been distracted by the pandemic, or they might have simply forgotten about the program because it's rained in some areas.

'Paddocks might be green, but it takes a long time for crop and stock revenue to reach depleted bank accounts,' he said.

'Financial support is available now and Vinnies is processing applications,' Mr oConnor said.

'Your main source of income must come from agriculture or related activities and you must be over the age of 18 to apply. It's a simple process.'

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>

Details about the payment, including how to apply are available [online](#) or by calling St Vincent de Paul's drought helpline on 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.