

MEDIA RELEASE

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Vinnies bushfire response continues

The St Vincent de Paul Society continues to distribute funds received through the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal, which was established in response to the current, unprecedented bushfire season.

To date a total of \$13.7 million has been raised by generous Australians and from overseas donors and every cent raised is being spent on people affected by the fires.

National President Claire Victory said the Society has dispatched \$3.8 million so far from the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal, mostly as direct cash payments for bushfire-impacted households in NSW, Victoria, SA, Queensland and Canberra/Goulburn.

'In addition, since the fires began in September 2019, large volumes of food, water, clothing, toiletries, bedding, and other essentials have been provided by Vinnies volunteers in their local communities.

'On behalf of the Federal Government, the Society is distributing government Emergency Relief Funds to people in affected communities. In the past fortnight, the Society has distributed over \$1.1 million nationally in monies to approximately 1,040 households.

'Our volunteers continue to provide emotional and psychological support as well as financial and material support in the communities in which they work and live.

'Assessing people and ensuring the right assistance is provided takes time.

'The Society understands the public sentiment for funds to reach people as quickly as possible. As the fires continue an increasing number of people are waiting to receive financial support.

'Our conferences in local communities across Australia are working with local people to bring relief as quickly as possible to as many communities affected by fires as they can.

'We are here for the long term and will offer our support to people and communities as they begin to rebuild their lives.

'The Society extends a heart-felt thanks to the many generous individuals, businesses and community groups who have donated to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal.

For assistance, call Vinnies on 13 18 12. Donations to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal can be made at www.bushfireappeal.com.au.

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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