

## **HUNDREDS OF NEW DONATED MATTRESSES FOR BUSHFIRE-AFFECTED LOCALS**

South-east NSW residents affected by last year's Black Summer Bushfires are sleeping comfortably, thanks to more than 250 donated Sealy Australia mattresses through national online charity [GIVIT](https://www.givit.org.au).

Single, Queen and King-sized mattresses have been delivered to locals in need over the last 12 months, from Narooma to Cooma and as far south as Kiah, who are still recovering a year after devastating bushfires.

Bushfire Customer Care Specialist for Service NSW, Deena Waterson, said GIVIT is the perfect way for individuals and companies to have a direct positive influence on the life of someone in need.

"Many people's finances are still extremely stretched, and their item losses are substantial. GIVIT has been unbelievably responsive to our requests for a range of items, coordinating water tanks, gas fridges, replacement tools, generators and furniture, to name just a few," said Ms Waterson.

"The benefit of GIVIT has been twofold for the people we're helping: People who've experienced losses in bushfires receive a replacement item – something tangible, which helps them see and believe in progress. It also reminds them that complete strangers care about their situation.

"Many people in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions, still attempting to understand their own losses, were feeling forgotten and invisible. But these acts of generosity speak volumes to them."

Sealy Australia Managing Director, Simon Dyer said their team wanted to do something practical and meaningful for those who needed it most after the unprecedented bushfires.

"Our Sealy family wanted to help those impacted by devastating bushfires the best way we know – with a safe and great bed to sleep and recover," said Mr Dyer.

"We knew a lot of very deserving people had nowhere to put a bed. GIVIT allowed us to manage our donations so new beds could be delivered once residents were ready to receive essential household items.

"What's really important to us here at Sealy is at the end of the process. We know the people who have lost so much have received a new bed and know someone cares about what they have gone through and wants to help."

GIVIT has coordinated more than 160,000 items to support NSW communities still rebuilding, from gas ovens and converted shipping containers for families camping on their properties, hardware equipment, as well as Snake Bite First Aid Kits for those towns' hours away from medical assistance.

GIVIT Regional Manager, Caroline Odgers says the charity's key focus is to continue coordinating the generosity of donors to ensure no resident or bushfire-affected community is forgotten.

"From Kiah to Conjola, Broulee to Batlow and the dozens of incredible bushfire-hit communities across New South Wales, generous donations allow GIVIT to provide exactly what's needed by stoic locals doing it tough," said Ms Odgers.



To donate or more information about GIVIT's NSW Bushfires Appeal, visit [GIVIT.org.au/nsw-bushfires](https://givit.org.au/nsw-bushfires). 100% of donated funds GIVIT receives are used to purchase items for people in need.

***For more information or to arrange an interview please contact  
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#### **About GIVIT**

GIVIT is the smart way to give. Through [GIVIT.org.au](https://givit.org.au), we channel generosity where it is needed to support vulnerable people and communities in Australia.

Working with more than 3,800 support organisations, we ensure people get what they need when they need it most – whether recovering from a disaster event, or experiencing hardship due to circumstances such as drought, domestic and family violence, homelessness, disability, and mental health.

GIVIT captures all offers of goods and services online, removing the need for charities and services to sort, store and dispose of unsolicited donations, saving valuable resources. 100% of donated funds received by GIVIT to support people in need are used to purchase essential items. We buy locally, wherever possible, to support local businesses. GIVIT's operational costs are covered by government contracts and our amazing corporate partners.