

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Tuesday 21 January, 2020**

## **NSW GOVERNMENT BUSHFIRE DONATIONS PARTNER GIVIT CALLING FOR CHARITIES TO REGISTER FOR VITAL GOODS**

Charities, service providers and groups assisting bushfire-impacted communities are encouraged to register with national not-for-profit **GIVIT**, official bushfire donation management partner of the NSW Government, to gain coordinated access to donations of cash, items and services.

GIVIT Representatives will soon visit NSW Local Council Areas to meet with bushfire relief and recovery stakeholders to understand the varied needs of each community, and offer a range of assistance for impacted residents and businesses.

GIVIT CEO Sarah Tennant said the online charity is delighted to be working with the NSW Government and Councils to ensure donations reach where they're needed, when they're needed.

"GIVIT's online donation management platform is a practical and efficient way of donating directly to communities devastated by these terrifying bushfires," Ms Tennant said.

"GIVIT coordinates donations by working with charities, recovery agencies and community organisations on-the-ground to provide exactly what's needed by the people they support."

Donated funds to GIVIT's Bushfires Appeal will be used to meet the specific needs, with a focus on purchasing items and services locally to also provide an economic benefit to local businesses.

"The needs of each community and household will be different, from grocery vouchers and replacing everyday items to fencing and hardware equipment. So, please go to our website to see what is needed or to pledge your donation online," Ms Tennant said.

Ms Tennant urged all charities and community groups assisting bushfire-affected communities to register with GIVIT in order to request the items needed for recovery.

GIVIT is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports over 3,000 charities across Australia. If you are a local charity or community organisation wanting to access donated goods and services, please register at [www.givit.org.au/charity-registration](http://www.givit.org.au/charity-registration).

The [GIVIT website](http://www.givit.org.au) removes the need for councils and charities to physically collect, sort and store donations, significantly reducing the administrative and financial burden, as well as saving valuable resources for critical recovery activities.

"Some frontline and community services have been inundated by donations that they don't need, or might need but at a later time, so we encouraging people to pledge now and donate when their item or service is needed in ravaged communities," Ms Tennant said.



Ms Tennant also stressed donated items need to be of high quality - “Goods you would proudly give to a family member or friend”- to best assist and respect the dignity of recipients.

In partnership with NSW and QLD Governments, GIVIT manages donations of goods and services for communities affected by the current bushfires.

GIVIT has been the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf since 2013, and has already distributed more than 14,000 items during current QLD bushfire season and over 225,000 items after the 2019 Queensland flooding.

GIVIT helped distribute more than 17,000 items to people in need after the 2018 Queensland bushfires and after 2017’s Tropical Cyclone Debbie coordinated the donation of 92,000 items.

Since 2018, GIVIT has also partnered with the NSW Government to provide a Drought Relief Program, distributing over 100,000 donated items to drought-affected households from Tenterfield to Deniliquin.

To donate cash, items or services to support communities impacted by bushfire visit [www.GIVIT.org.au/disasters](http://www.GIVIT.org.au/disasters).

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

GIVIT is a national online not-for-profit connecting those who need with those willing to give. Through its website [givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au), trusted Australian charities are supported as they request essential, quality items on behalf of their clients. GIVIT matches their needs with public and corporate generosity, facilitating quality goods to reach our most vulnerable, impoverished and marginalised individuals in a safe, easy and timely manner. Since establishment in 2009, more than 1.5 million items have been donated via GIVIT to assist Australians in need. In 2011 GIVIT established its disaster recovery service following the Queensland floods and managed the donation of more than 18,000 items.

Since then, GIVIT has become the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf and has already distributed more than 227,000 items after 2019 Queensland flooding and 14,563 items so far for Queensland Fires. GIVIT distributed more than 17,600 items to people in need after the 2018 Queensland fires and after 2017’s Tropical Cyclone Debbie, coordinated the donation of 92,000 items. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and Director Juliette Wright receiving Australia’s Local Hero Award by the National Australia Day Council and inducted into the Australian Businesswomen's Network Hall of Fame. In 2019, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). GIVIT also received a National Resilient Australia Award by Australia’s Attorney-General for its disaster recovery service and The Australian National Innovation Challenge Award.

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