

## **CHARITIES URGENTLY CALLING FOR MASKS AND HAND SANITISER AS PART OF GIVIT'S COVID-19 VICTORIA APPEAL**

National 'charity-for-charities' **GIVIT** is calling for generous Australians, businesses and organisations to donate the safer and smarter way - online at [GIVIT.org.au](https://www.givit.org.au) - to best support Victorian frontline organisations during COVID-19 outbreaks.

The immediate and urgent need for over 260 GIVIT-registered charities across Victoria are face masks and hand sanitiser, from community groups to homeless shelters and mental health services.

GIVIT has already sourced **30,000 masks** for Victorian charities utilising donated funds, but GIVIT Victorian Manager, Solange Ardiles, said many more are needed to meet the skyrocketing demand.

"Every day dozens of charities are reaching out to us and asking for tens-of-thousands of essential items, especially disposable and reusable masks as well as hand sanitiser," Ms Ardiles said.

"As with the initial outbreak just months ago, we're seeing an unprecedented amount of people in need – including many who may never have found themselves in such a vulnerable position before."

To best help vulnerable Victorians, please donate to [GIVIT's COVID-19 Victoria Appeal](https://www.givit.org.au/need-help/organisations). 100% of donated funds GIVIT receives are used to buy and source urgently needed items for frontline community workers, purchasing from local and Victorian businesses where possible.

Ms Ardiles also urged all Victorian charities, schools, councils and community groups to register for free via [GIVIT.org.au/need-help/organisations](https://www.givit.org.au/need-help/organisations) so they can request items for the communities they're supporting through the Coronavirus crisis and beyond.

Partnering with Bushfire Recovery Victoria in February 2020, GIVIT has spent over \$141,000 of donated funds to coordinate more than 3,500 donated items such as water tanks, generators and clothing for communities from Corryong to Mallacoota, as part of their [Victoria Bushfires Appeal](https://www.givit.org.au/need-help/organisations).

"We know from past disasters that Australians are incredibly generous. It doesn't seem to matter where or what occurs, Aussies always want to help by donating money, goods and services.

"That's why we're encouraging people to pledge funds, or specifically requested items listed on [GIVIT.org.au](https://www.givit.org.au), to allow us to meet the everyday needs of Victorians under renewed restrictions.

"GIVIT's online donation platform and 'online warehouse' is the safest and practical way of donating to those most vulnerable and have been hardest hit by this public health emergency."



The immediate needs for vulnerable Victorians are toiletries and grocery vouchers as well as home-schooling items, heaters and winter clothing. Many are struggling due to the virus' economic effect exacerbating existing hardships and challenges for disadvantaged communities.

Ms Ardiles 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.

Please be aware charities may not be able to receive donated items immediately. The coordinated transfer of items are managed by the requesting charity, in keeping with their protocols and capacity during COVID-19 ongoing restrictions.

As in disasters and emergencies such as the recent bushfires, GIVIT is working with all levels of government and over 3,400 registered charities and community groups nationally to best manage donations and ensure all have access to essential items when they need them.

GIVIT empowers community organisations to request exactly what they require for the people they support. GIVIT then sources and provides free essential items to people in need across Australia by matching donations from corporates and individuals with the needs requested on GIVIT.org.au.

The [GIVIT website](https://givit.org.au) removes the need for councils, charities and not-for-profit groups to physically collect, sort and store donations, significantly reducing the administrative and financial burden as well as saving valuable resources for critical recovery activities.

**GIVIT.org.au** is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports thousands of charities across Australia. The national charity has matched almost 2 million donated items since 2009.

***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 3,400 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.

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