

RISING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RATES OVERWHELMING FRONTLINE ORGANISATIONS

Online charity GIVIT has launched a national appeal to assist frontline organisations supporting the millions of Australians impacted by domestic and family violence. Recent research shows the issue has become more prevalent since the onset of COVID-19, both in Australia and overseas.

More than 60% of requests, or 80,000 items currently listed, on GIVIT are for hardships directly linked to domestic and family violence. These items range from maternity items for young mums to booster seats for unemployed single fathers, and household furniture for those fleeing situations with no possessions but the clothes they were wearing.

[Recent research](#) from the Australian Institute of Criminology indicates households isolating as part of COVID-19 restrictions have resulted in a significantly increased rate of Domestic and Family Violence. Almost 1 in 6 women have experienced violence at home, and two-thirds of those have experienced domestic violence for the first time while isolating due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#) reports a woman is killed almost every week, and a man every month, by their partner.

GIVIT CEO Sarah Tennant said shelters, helplines and counselling services are being inundated. Such as phone 'help-lines' and face-to-face counselling services have turned people away due to overwhelming demand and COVID-19 restrictions.

"Apart from supporting those affected by natural disasters, the majority of donations through GIVIT go towards helping people in need due to domestic and family violence," said Ms Tennant.

"Frontline services supporting those impacted by domestic and family violence are experiencing unprecedented demand. Brave people need giving hearts, and this appeal gives allows all Australians to make real and positive differences to the lives of those experiencing, escaping and being impacted by violence at home.

"Domestic and family violence doesn't discriminate. It affects all genders, sexual orientations, races, religions and social classes."

The items requested by support organisations working with people impacted by domestic and family violence can be many and varied. Red Rose Foundation's Betty Taylor said "victims of domestic violence are often isolated from friends and family and support services, which is why mobiles are one of the first things taken or broken by perpetrators. Donations of smartphones, SIM cards and money to purchase phone credit means victims of domestic violence can contact family, friends and legal and social support services safely, which literally saves lives."

Donors can pledge items, services and funds online to [GIVIT's Domestic Violence Appeal](#). 100% of donated funds GIVIT receives for the appeal are used to buy and source items for frontline domestic and violence charities, purchasing from local businesses where possible.



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

Ms Tennant 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.

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 over 3,700 charities across Australia. The national charity has coordinated over two 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 3,700 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. The Domestic and Family Violence Appeal is possible due to generous support from the Queensland Government.

www.aihw.gov.au/reports/domestic-violence/family-domestic-sexual-violence-australia-2019
<https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/sb/sb28>