

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DELIVERS \$275,000 BOOST TO GIVIT'S ONLINE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PORTAL

The Federal Government has announced funding of \$275,000 to enhance and significantly increase the capacity of GIVIT's Online Disaster Management Service.

The grant, provided through the Australian Government's 2018-19 Disaster Resilience Package, will significantly improve the automation and usability of GIVIT's world-class donation management portal.

GIVIT's portal supports councils, charities and recovery agencies during and following emergencies and natural disasters, ensuring those in need receive what they need when they need it most.

The online charity has rapidly become a critical component of emergency management in Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia; and in New South Wales through its drought relief program. The increased capacity of GIVIT's service is essential.

Minister for Emergency Management and North Queensland Recovery Senator Linda Reynolds will announce the grant for GIVIT's new website today.

"Australians respond quickly and generously when disasters occur, but often such generosity attracts significant volumes of donations, which can be impractical or exceed community needs," Senator Reynolds said.

"Connecting the generosity of Australians with charities and matching donated items directly with those in need saves valuable time and volunteer services. This funding means GIVIT will now have the additional capacity to ensure donated funds are being effectively distributed to where they are needed most.

"The Morrison Government is proud to support this initiative and is committed to making sure disaster-affected communities feel supported and confident as they recover and rebuild."

GIVIT's Founder and Director Juliette Wright said she was incredibly grateful for the support of the Federal Government.

"GIVIT has recorded exponential growth. We recently marked our 10th anniversary and have coordinated the delivery of 1,200,000 donations around Australia," Mrs Wright said.

GIVIT

“During the most recent cyclones, fires and floods we witnessed the enormous generosity of Australians. With the help of the Federal Government GIVIT will now have the capacity to activate across simultaneous disasters nationally, ensuring donated funds are being effectively distributed to where they are needed most.”

In seven weeks GIVIT has managed corporate and individual donations of \$3.5 million and has provided more than 195,000 essential items, such as water, groceries, beds and whitegoods to local residents recovering from flooding across Queensland.

With the portal’s improved technology, GIVIT can provide seamless electronic integration with key service providers to swiftly deliver services and build community resilience.

GIVIT’s service supports local economic recovery by purchasing from local retailers and providing generous but busy Australians the ability to efficiently and effectively purchase items directly for vulnerable members of their community.

GIVIT uses 100 per cent of funds received by generous donors to purchase essential items required to support people in need.

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact media@givit.org.au or call 0444 503 759

About GIVIT’s Disaster Recovery Program

GIVIT manages donated funds and offers of goods and services following a disaster or emergency. GIVIT supports councils, local charities and community groups to ensure people in need obtain the essential items they require to help them recover from an event. GIVIT assistance is intended for people most in need, including those persons who will find it difficult to recover without assistance. GIVIT assists in building community resilience by allowing charities and community service organisations to request for their residents, exactly what is required to rebuild their lives – from water to generators, beds to washing machines. The virtual warehouse captures all pledges of assistance, significantly reducing the administrative and financial burden for councils and charities, saving valuable resources for critical recovery activities. GIVIT’s policy is to discourage unsolicited donations of goods (clothing, furniture etc) and to instead always encourage donors to meet specific needs. However, despite consistent public messaging, history shows there is always an outpouring of unsolicited assistance following emergency events. GIVIT’s online virtual warehouse provides a cost effective and efficient way of capturing these well-meaning physical donations. It provides the public with one referral point to pledge their donations on-line, thus removing the need for local authorities to sort, store and dispose of unwanted items.

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, 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 1,200,000 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 is currently distributing tens of thousands of items after 2019 Queensland flooding. GIVIT distributed more than 16,000 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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