

Hundreds of thousands of items only the beginning of recovery efforts for Townsville residents

GIVIT is working with Townsville charities to provide essential items to local residents recovering from the floods and has already distributed more than 153,000 items across the region.

GIVIT Founder and Director Juliette Wright said, as in all disaster recovery operations, the online not-for-profit had activated additional resources to provide the extra support required by GIVIT's charity partners.

"GIVIT is working closely with charities in the region to prioritise the most urgent requests," she said. "Our charity partners assess an individual's need before passing on requests for items to GIVIT. If GIVIT is able to provide the item, we coordinate to buy it locally in accordance with the instructions provided to us by the charity making the request for their client."

Mrs Wright acknowledged that some residents were expressing frustration that their requested items were not being delivered fast enough.

"Agencies are dedicated to working as quickly as possible through the necessary processes to ensure donated funds and items are distributed to those most in need. If a request has been prioritised by a recovery charity then GIVIT expedites the purchase with local suppliers as much as we can," she said.

"This has been an unprecedented weather event and it will take time to meet the enormous need. GIVIT prioritises urgent requests based on the information given to us by our charity partners and at this stage those items include beds, bedding, towels, fridges and washing machines."

Mrs Wright said 100 per cent of funds donated to GIVIT's Queensland Floods Appeal would be used to purchase items needed by flood-affected community members.

"GIVIT is here for the long term – no matter how long it takes Townsville to recover, we will be here," she said.

GIVIT is purchasing from local providers to support the business community as the region recovers. The availability of stock during this period of unprecedented demand has also been an issue.



If you are an individual needing urgent support contact your local charity or go to givit.org.au/community-hub and enter your postcode to locate a charity registered with GIVIT.

If you are a local charity or frontline service wanting to access donated goods and services, please register at givit.org.au/charity-registration.

**For further information or interviews please contact GIVIT's media team
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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, 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 one 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 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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