

Queenslanders called to help donate over 9,500 gifts for foster children this Christmas

Generous Queenslanders are being called upon to donate toys to gift thousands of extra presents to fill the stockings and stack under the trees of over 9,500 children living in care this Christmas.

National online charity GIVIT is again supporting the Queensland Government, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, for the '2019 Kids in Care Christmas Appeal'.

Last year, GIVIT sourced and distributed 9,000 gifts for children in care in Queensland. For this coming Christmas season, GIVIT is aiming to collect and gift items for over 9,500 presents to children from Mount Isa to Toowoomba, and everywhere in between.

GIVIT's CEO Sarah Tennant said the 2019 Appeal is a chance for big-hearted Queenslanders to spread Christmas cheer to children living in care, from newborns to 17-year-olds, across the state.

"It's always tough not being with your own family at Christmas, and kids in foster care find themselves in this situation for a variety of unfortunate reasons," said Ms Tennant.

"For as little as a \$20 donation you can make a child feel special and knowing they're being thought of this Christmas. I urge anyone who is able to give to consider dropping an extra toy or a gift card into your trolley when you're shopping for your own family.

"You can also visit our website and make a cash donation which allows GIVIT to buy toys and Christmas gifts locally, supporting local businesses."

To donate to the state-wide 2019 Appeal, simply purchase a new, unwrapped gift, a gift card or make a tax-deductible cash donation at [GIVIT.org.au/kidsincare](https://givit.org.au/kidsincare). Gifts can be delivered to child safety service centres across the state until December 6 2019.

A gift valued at \$20 or more is encouraged, and suggestions include toys, gift cards, sporting equipment, board games, books or clothes for babies to teenagers.

Visit givit.org.au/kidsincare for more information.

[GIVIT's online platform](https://givit.org.au) removes the need for government, councils and charities to physically collect, sort and store donations, greatly reducing the administrative and financial burden as well as saving valuable resources for critical recovery activities.

GIVIT is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports over 2,700 charities across Australia. 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 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, 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 1.4 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 most recently ensured that 91,000 items made their way to people in need after Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and CEO 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. 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.



