

## **“LOST FOR WORDS” - BUSHFIRE-AFFECTED RESIDENTS MOVE INTO NEW TEMPORARY HOMES IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS**

Residents still waiting to rebuild after the Black Summer Bushfires are moving into modern homes coordinated by [Bushfire Recovery Victoria](#) and furnished with the essentials by online charity [GIVIT](#).

From Upper Murray towns in Victoria’s north-east and across East Gippsland, [Short-term Modular Housing](#) is available for those who lost their primary place of residence in last summer’s bushfires.

A charity partner of Bushfire Recovery Victoria, GIVIT has provided donated household essentials to ensure bushfire-impacted residents and families can immediately feel comfortable and at home.

The furnishings include whitegoods and appliances, furniture, bedding, kitchenware and home essentials such as brooms and dust pans for 27 Modular Houses for far, including six in Mallacoota, 13 in Sarsfield and four in Nariel Valley.

GIVIT Engagement Officer, Lisa Herbert, said new appliances and furniture are just as treasured as new linen that many bushfire-affected residents have gone without since January.

“The Black Summer Bushfires raged almost a year ago and as much as we think many people are back on their feet, many are not,” said Ms Herbert.

“We’ve seen first-hand the many factors impacting recovery. Making a decision on how to move forward can at times be the biggest obstacle, then throw in COVID-19 and you can see why the recovery process has been varying for residents and families.”

Mallacoota resident Geoff Belmore lost properties and several vehicles in the devastating bushfires.

“I can’t believe I have a new bed to sleep in, and so many people and businesses have chipped in to help us! I’m lost for words. I don’t know what to say,” said an emotional Mr Belmore when handed the keys to his new, temporary home.

The finishing touches are also being made on another ten or so Modular Houses, and will be delivered and filled with household essentials for more North East and East Gippsland bushfire-affected residents in the coming weeks.

GIVIT has coordinated the donated household items through its [‘Victorian Bushfires Appeal’](#) from generous people across Australia, as well as Bunnings Australia, IKEA Australia, Dyson and Sealy Australia.

“Local suppliers have also been incredible, they’ve gone the extra mile to deliver items to remote locations and overcome COVID-19 related supply shortages,” said Ms Herbert.

GIVIT has coordinated more than 15,000 items to support bushfire-affected Victorian communities, including winter clothing and tools to grocery vouchers and generators for residents who cannot afford everyday items due to the financial impact of the bushfires and COVID-19.



100% of donated funds GIVIT receives are used to purchase items for people in need. To donate or find more information about GIVIT's Victoria Bushfires Appeal, visit [GIVIT.org.au/victoria-bushfires](https://givit.org.au/victoria-bushfires).

Almost 12 months on from the catastrophic bushfires, GIVIT is prioritising the need to collaborate with bushfire recovery support networks as well as State and Federal governments to help communities repair, recover and prepare for the next bushfire season.

Ms Herbert also urged Victorian charities and community groups to register with GIVIT to access and request items for free to help those in need due to bushfires and the impact of COVID-19.

GIVIT is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports over 3,800 charities across Australia. If you are a local charity or service, please register at [GIVIT.org.au/need-help/organisations](https://givit.org.au/need-help/organisations).

***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 3,800 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.