

MEDIA RELEASE

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Recovery continues for flood impacted communities one year on from disaster

In the twelve months since devastating floods swept through parts of South East Queensland, and later into Northern New South Wales, not-for-profit donation platform [GIVIT](https://givit.org.au) has spent more than \$11 million and provided almost 800,000 essential items for impacted communities.

GIVIT is still working with more than 300 organisations, including local councils, outreach teams, charities and community groups to manage offers of donated goods, services, volunteering and funds in response to catastrophic flooding across parts of both states.

GIVIT CEO Sarah Tennant said that there are still many people displaced or living in temporary accommodation one year on from this disaster.

“This is a long term recovery for so many people and we know that we will be working with some of these communities for several years,” said Sarah.

“We have seen an enormous amount of generosity from people across the country who want to help those impacted by this disaster. 100% of publicly donated money received by GIVIT is used to purchase essential items and services for affected communities and where possible we buy locally to support the economic recovery of the region.”

In Queensland, GIVIT provided donations to Nambour Community Centre to assist people impacted by floods in the region. Many people who were already suffering from financial hardship were forced into temporary or unstable accommodation. GIVIT was able to provide the Nambour Community Centre with a defibrillator and a new freezer to store meals for vulnerable community members.

GIVIT has also been providing assistance to people in the Laidley area who have been suffering from hardship. One farming couple with three children under the age of eight were affected by bushfires and drought, followed by severe flooding in both 2021 and 2022 which destroyed their crops and cut them off from town. GIVIT was able to provide them with grocery vouchers to ease the financial stress on the family and help them to get back on their feet.

In Northern New South Wales GIVIT provided 40 Christmas trees and decorations to brighten Christmas for local families in the Lismore area who had lost everything in the floods. Similarly, a family that were trapped at a Lismore property and had to be rescued by boat from the roof during the floods lost all of their possessions. GIVIT has provided them with new white goods to assist them as they move into a new home in Coraki.

“There are several phases in the recovery of a community after a natural disaster,” said Sarah Tennant.

“Early in a disaster the needs of communities are urgent as people may have escaped damaged or unsafe properties and are staying in an evacuation centre or with friends. This is when emergency items like grocery and fuel vouchers, blankets and bottled water are needed.”

“As people begin to move back into damaged homes needs evolve and that’s when we see requests for things like generators, cleaning materials and building tools. Later in the recovery furniture, kitchen items and white goods are required.”

GIVIT

“Coordinated donations are critical in a disaster. Unrequested donations can do more harm than good and we often see unsolicited donations hampering services on the ground and really impacting recovery efforts.”

“Our message is clear, if you want to help someone that is suffering during a natural disaster please make sure you go through official donation channels.”

“You want to make sure your donation gets through to someone that really needs it.”

Go to [GIVIT.org.au](https://givit.org.au) to find out more.

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For more information please contact E: kate.fisher@givit.org.au M: 0444 503 759

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 4,500 support organisations, we ensure people get what they need when they need it most – whether recovering from an emergency 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 unrequested donations, saving valuable resources. 100% of donated money received by GIVIT to support people in need are used to purchase essential items and services. We buy locally, wherever possible, to support local businesses and the economic recovery of affected communities. GIVIT's operational costs are covered by government contracts and corporate partners.