

Three months on: GIVIT still supporting flood-affected Queensland communities

Three months on, GIVIT is continuing to provide vital support to Queensland individuals and families affected by the devastating monsoonal trough.

GIVIT launched its Queensland Floods Appeal on February 1 and since then has distributed more than 207,000 urgently requested items across the state's north and western rural communities. More than 183,000 essential items have been provided in Townsville alone in the past three months.

GIVIT Founder and Director Juliette Wright said the generous response from individuals and corporates from Queensland and across Australia had been extraordinary. "This unprecedented monsoonal flooding event has really touched hearts," she said.

"Major corporate donors, small businesses, community groups, school kids, families and individuals have all donated generously to provide GIVIT with \$3.7 million."

Mrs Wright said 100 per cent of funds received by GIVIT for the Queensland Floods Appeal was being used to purchase the vital items locally. She said GIVIT had spent more than \$3.2 million of donated funds on recovery efforts.

Local businesses have been supported as GIVIT has spent donated funds in the regions most impacted.

The Queensland Government provided GIVIT with additional purchasing officers to cope with the unprecedented demand to get vital items quickly to where they were needed.

"GIVIT has worked quickly and effectively with supporting charities and community services on the ground to process requests and get donated funds and items to where they were needed most," Mrs Wright said.

"We prioritised urgent requests based on the information given to us by our charity partners and during these early months those items have included the basics for re-establishing a home, such as groceries, beds, bedding, towels, fridges and washing machines.



“With the majority of donated funds now spent, GIVIT’s focus will now be on supporting requests from services working on case management with affected residents and helping the most vulnerable residents to make their homes liveable.

“Be assured that GIVIT is still taking cash donations and 100 per cent of funds received from your donation are used to support requests by recovery agencies that are assessing genuine need in the affected communities.”

Flood-affected residents of Townsville have been overwhelmed by the generosity of GIVIT donors. One resident who received a new washing machine wrote: “Thank you so much for my awesome washing machine. It purrs and is so quiet. I am so grateful as I have never had anyone be so kind.”

Another recipient who didn’t have anywhere dry to sleep after the floods wrote: “I cannot express how overwhelmed and grateful I am. I bawled over the poor delivery man. I am sleeping in a bed tonight thanks to the wonderful donor, whoever that gorgeous soul is.”

To check what is still required in recovering communities, go to givit.org.au
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.

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 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 has already distributed more than 207,000 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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