

OFFICIAL DONATION CHANNEL OPEN – SEVERE STORMS: GIVIT coordinating donations and offers of assistance to help people affected by destructive storms

To help people affected by the recent severe storms donate funds, goods, time and services online at [GIVIT.org.au](https://givit.org.au).

GIVIT is working in partnership with the Queensland Government to manage donated funds and all offers of goods and services following destructive storms in south-east Queensland.

Hundreds of homes are uninhabitable and many more have severe damage, including loss of food, essential household items, furniture, clothes, school and work uniforms and equipment.

With the Springfield, Springfield Lakes, Rosewood, Willowbank and Thagoona areas currently worst hit, GIVIT is working with the Ipswich City Council and services on the ground as they assess need and advise GIVIT what critical and immediate support is required.

GIVIT will also provide longer recovery support as people re-establish homes and help these communities recover.

Ipswich City Council Mayor, Teresa Harding said, “Insurance only covers so much, and for those not insured the road ahead will be tough. As a result, council has initiated a Hail Relief Campaign to raise funds and receive donated goods to support residents to get back on their feet.”

GIVIT’s QLD Manager, Jo Beadle, says many residents are no longer safe in their own homes and need donations of essential and everyday items such as toiletries, clothes and food vouchers.

“We work directly with councils, outreach teams, local charities and community groups who tell us exactly what’s needed, and then through our online warehouse we provide affected people with exactly what they need, when they need it most,” Ms Beadle said.

“We really ask that people don’t take donated goods into these areas. We want to make sure frontline services aren’t inundated by donations they don’t need, or donations they might need but at a later time, by encouraging people to pledge their donations through our easy-to-use website, [GIVIT.org.au](https://givit.org.au).”

Ms Beadle also stressed donated items need to be of high quality - “Goods you would proudly give to a family member or friend” - to best assist and respect the dignity of recipients.

GIVIT is working closely with Ipswich City Council, UnitingCare Lifeline and Springfield YMCA Community Centre teams who are on the ground providing emergency assistance.



People who need assistance in affected suburbs can phone the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349. They can also download and use the Self-recovery app or visit www.communityrecovery.qld.gov.au

To donate or more information about GIVIT's 'Severe Storms Appeal', visit GIVIT.org.au/severe-storms. 100% of donated funds GIVIT receives are used to purchase items for people in need.

To help stimulate local economies affected by a disaster, wherever possible, GIVIT purchases items from local providers to support the business community as it also recovers.

GIVIT captures and coordinates all offers of goods, funds, volunteering and services online, removing the administrative and financial burden on councils and charities to collect, sort, store and dispose of donations they don't need.

GIVIT makes sure 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.

Ms Beadle encouraged all charities, councils and community groups to register for free via GIVIT.org.au to access thousands of wonderful donations offered by generous individuals and corporates for the people and communities they're supporting.

GIVIT.org.au is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports over 3,700 charities across Australia. The national charity has matched more than two million donated items since 2009.

**For more information or to arrange an interview please contact
E: media@givit.org.au M: 0444 503 759**

About GIVIT

GIVIT is the smart way to give. Through givit.org.au, we channel generosity where it is needed to support vulnerable people and communities in Australia.

Working with more than 3,700 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.