

Even Top End residents need gift of warmth this winter

GIVIT has launched its National Indigenous Support Program to help improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The not for profit is collaborating with Government and existing support services to address the social inequalities among Australia's First People by empowering charities in the Top End to request exactly what their impoverished clients need.

As part of its Indigenous Support Program GIVIT has launched its Winter Warmth Appeal to include the Northern Territory.

GIVIT's Northern Territory Coordinator Tali Dunnage-Burke said there was perception that the Territory wasn't affected by cold weather. "The looming winter months can be perilous for the Northern Territory community who struggle without the means to keep warm," she said.

"The Territory has two distinctive climates, tropical and desert, overnight temperatures can plummet to zero degrees. Even the Top End gets cool with heavy dew overnight. To help vulnerable Territorians survive this winter GIVIT is seeking funds and donations of warm clothing and blankets for its Winter Warmer Appeal at givit.org.au."

GIVIT's winter appeal will match the Territory's most vulnerable with big-hearted donors across Australia.

On any night around Australia, 116,000 people are homeless. Census data reports that NT has the highest rate of homelessness in the country with 599.4 people homeless per 10,000 of the population compared with 46.1 homeless per 10,000 of the population nationally.

GIVIT supports more than 2,600 charities around the country and 28 in the NT. It is encouraging charities in the Territory to register for its free service to access the items they need for the impoverished people they support. Items currently requested on givit.org.au by NT charities include blankets, towels, bedding and toiletries.

"The provision of basic items within impoverished communities can have a profound effect on health, education and employment outcomes," Ms Dunnage-Burke said.

"All Australians, no matter what their background or where they come from, deserve to live with dignity, comfort and respect. The dry season in the Territory is particularly harsh for anyone living without a roof over their head.

“Practical help to survive winter will give someone living in poverty the chance to survive. Your good quality, used jacket will have a second chance to warm the heart of someone in need.”

Winter also brings hardships to new arrivals to the Territory who are not equipped for the colder than expected temperatures in some areas. Many do not have the financial resources to buy warm winter clothing, shoes and blankets.

Inexpensive items such as socks are in high demand by NT charities and can make a huge difference to the dignity and comfort of a homeless person trying to survive winter.

If you have good quality pre-loved items to give please list them in GIVIT’s clever “virtual warehouse”. Take a photo of your item/items, add some basic information and your contact details. Only charities registered with GIVIT are able to see your item and when they have a client who needs your item they will contact you to organise collection or delivery. However, GIVIT donors and recipients never meet – privacy is vital.

To donate funds to the GIVIT Winter Appeal please go to givit.org.au/donate-funds and click on Winter Warmer 2019 from the drop-down list. One hundred per cent of funds received by GIVIT will be used to purchase essential items for an impoverished Australian.

To donate your quality pre-loved goods go to givit.org.au/give-items

** Poverty figure from Australian Council of Social Service statistics from 2018*

** Homeless figure from Australian Census 2016*

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact media@givit.org.au or call 0444 503 759

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 212,000 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.