

**Media Release**  
**January 10, 2019**

## **Help Aussie rural kids living in the drought get back to school**

Rural families caught in the prolonged drought are facing the extra financial stress of getting their children ready for the new school year.

With much of NSW still in severe drought, national online charity GIVIT today launched its Back to School appeal that will allow donors across Australia to provide the vital educational equipment rural kids need to get back to school.

Families who are struggling to make ends are now faced with purchasing uniforms, stationery items and expensive electronic devices such as laptops and iPads.

One hundred per cent of funds donated to the appeal will go to help prepare a child for the new school year.

GIVIT's NSW drought manager Scott Barrett said GIVIT's Back to School appeal would help ensure kids across rural NSW were able to return to their classrooms feeling confident and ready to learn.

"Education helps put a child on a path to a better life. Providing the necessary needs for a child to start school is a stepping stone to a brighter future," Mr Barrett said.

"Heading off to school hungry, wearing worn-out shoes and an ill-fitting uniform or missing vital education tools such as exercise books not only prohibits learning but also can leave a child feeling isolated and a target for ridicule and bullying.

"Through this campaign, we'd like to see kids ready for school in 2019; ready to learn and not fall behind as a result of their financial situation caused by this drought."

Last year GIVIT provided Aussie students returning to school with hundreds of essential items, including uniforms, bags, stationery items, iPads and tablets.

We work with more than 2,450 charities nation-wide, including St Vincent de Paul Society, CWA, Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air.

GIVIT has a commitment to buying locally wherever possible to support local businesses as well as the individuals in need.

GIVIT is an official charity partner of the NSW Government to coordinate donations to drought-affected areas of the state. As part of this support GIVIT helped the Pooncarie Public School prepare to welcome back students in 2019. Residents of the tiny town in NSW's Lower Darling River region

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[givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au)

fought hard to reopen the school after its closure in 2012. GIVIT donors provided uniforms, musical and sporting equipment to restock the school ready for its first day of the 2019 year.

GIVIT was also able to provide dozens of uniform items to Allison House in Broken Hill. The boarding house accommodates students from remote properties who attend high schools in the town. Many of the students only had one set of uniforms that needed to be laundered every night.

Help a child get back to school in 2019 with the gift of a stationery pack, a uniform, a bag, a pair of school shoes or by contributing towards the cost of mandatory iPads and laptops.

To protect the dignity and privacy of the child in need, donors giving a gift through [givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au) and the recipients always remain anonymous. One hundred per cent of money raised goes directly to the person requesting assistance.

**To get involved:**

1: Go to [givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au) and the Back to School page and click “donate here”

2: Choose an item request that touches your heart from the list and click “GIVIT” to offer your donation

3: Once approved, contact details between you and the charity are exchanged automatically

4: Arrange delivery of the item with the charity user behind the request

Alternatively if you can donate funds to help us purchase school supplies or uniforms please visit [givit.org.au/donate-funds](http://givit.org.au/donate-funds) and select “Back to School” from the dropdown list.

**For more information or to arrange an interview, or for pictures, contact [media@givit.org.au](mailto: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](http://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 933,000 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 most recently ensured that 91,860 items made their way to people in need after Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and CEO 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. 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.