

15 January 2020

The Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal

The Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal has gained significant support and momentum as a unified, inclusive voice of solidarity, standing with all Victorians impacted by the devastating bushfires across our state and nation.

Jewish Australians have a proud history of offering support and services to those in crisis and the recent catastrophic bushfires have affected families and individuals across generations, homes, workplaces, farms, livestock and natural habitat.

The Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal managed by the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV), and led by the Appeal Organising Committee, David Smorgon OAM, Ruth Alter, Ian Davis and Fiona Geminder, has maximised its reach by uniting with key Jewish communal organisations so as to ensure the biggest donor impact to assist fellow Victorians in need..

Social media has been central to the success of the Charidy campaign and accurate updates of donor progress and community involvement have been regularly available online. The assistance of the Appeal Operational Committee, as well as Australian Jewish Funders, LaunchPad, Kreative Solutions and the proactive support of Charidy have all contributed to a successful campaign.

“This campaign is a consolidated, unified, Jewish Victorian response to the catastrophic bushfires which have left a devastating trail of physical and emotional damage across our state,” stated Judy Fetter, Executive Director JCCV.

Guided by the Jewish values of *Tzedakah* and *Tikun Olam*, the committee have established a specifically Victorian focussed communal appeal to show that the Jewish community stands shoulder to shoulder with our fellow Victorians, helping them rebuild their homes, lives and livelihoods devastated by the bushfires.

The devastation for many rural Victorian families can not be underestimated and the ramifications from the bushfires are predicted to last for years. This community appeal has been extended to ensure all Victorian Jewish families have the opportunity to contribute to the recovery phase.

Jennifer Huppert, President JCCV said, “The Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal is a tangible way for individuals and organisations to offer valuable support for those impacted by these unprecedented fires and ensure our Victorian Jewish voice is strong and empathetic across our state.”

An allocations committee will ensure all funds raised through the Victorian Jewish Bushfire Relief Appeal will be distributed to approved organisations to directly assist with the recovery process.

Media contacts

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