

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 23 March 2020

ONLINE CHARITY GIVIT IS THE SAFE AND SMART WAY TO DONATE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS

National online charity GIVIT, official charity partner in times of disaster for States and local councils, is calling for generous Australians to donate the safer and smarter way - online at [GIVIT.org.au](https://www.givit.org.au) - to best support those in need during the unprecedented Coronavirus crisis.

As in disasters and emergencies such as the recent bushfires, GIVIT is working with all levels of government and over 3,200 registered charities and community groups to best manage donations and ensure people impacted by COVID-19 have access to essential items when they need them.

At this stage, the immediate need for vulnerable Australians are toiletries and grocery vouchers. Many are struggling due to panic buying, on top of the virus' economic effect exacerbating existing hardships and challenges for disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

GIVIT CEO Sarah Tennant said Australians standing together in goodwill, kindness and a united approach to navigate the pandemic will be critical to support affected people and communities.

"With negative economic impacts already being felt across the country, we will see a significant increase in people needing assistance over the coming weeks and months – including many who may never have found themselves in such a vulnerable position before," Ms Tennant said.

"We know from past disasters Australians are incredibly generous. It doesn't seem to matter where or what occurs, people all over Australia want to help by donating money, goods and services.

"However, dropping off unsolicited items to charities, schools and nursing homes is well meaning, but it's not the help that's needed.

"That's why we're encouraging people to pledge now and donate when their item is needed in their local area. GIVIT's online donation platform is a safe and practical way of donating to those most vulnerable and have been hardest hit by this public health emergency."

If you wish to help fellow Australians impacted by the Coronavirus, please donate funds via [GIVIT.org.au](https://www.givit.org.au) to best help those in need - 100% of donated funds to GIVIT's '[COVID-19 Appeal](#)' will be used to purchase vouchers and urgently needed items, from local businesses where possible.

To donate items or services, pledge them online at [givit.org.au](https://www.givit.org.au). Please be aware charities may not be able to receive donated items immediately. The coordinated transfer of items are managed by the requesting charity, in keeping with their internal protocols and available capacity.



Working closely with schools, health programs and charities, GIVIT empowers community organisations to request exactly what they require for the people they support.

GIVIT then sources and provides free essential items to people in need across Australia by matching donations from corporates and individuals with the needs requested on GIVIT.org.au.

The [GIVIT website](#) removes the need for councils and charities to physically collect, sort and store donations, significantly reducing the administrative and financial burden, as well as saving valuable resources for critical recovery activities.

Ms Tennant also urged all Australian charities, schools, councils and community groups to register via [givit.org.au](#) so they can request vital items for the communities they're supporting through the Coronavirus crisis.

Ms Tennant 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.org.au is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports over 3,200 charities across Australia.

***For more information or to arrange an interview please contact
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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 3,200 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.

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