

**YOUR GENEROSITY  
IN ACTION**



# DISASTER ASSISTANCE UPDATE

## MAY 2026



**To everyone who donated to St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland's (Vinnies Queensland) Disaster Appeals - thank you.**

Because of your generosity, Vinnies Members, Volunteers and Employees have provided emergency relief and recovery support to people affected by floods, cyclones and severe weather across Queensland.

### YOUR IMPACT



**\$760,412**  
distributed to disaster-affected households and communities (2023–2026).



**\$187,044**  
remaining to support ongoing recovery and rebuilding needs.



**Queensland Disaster Events**  
in Far North, North & Western and South East Queensland regions, including Burnett and Bundaberg.

# THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Australia is a country of weather extremes, and Queenslanders know that only too well. Last year, at the beginning of April, I was at home in Brisbane with my family, waiting for the arrival of Cyclone Alfred.

The arrival of a cyclone in South East Queensland's major population centres was a frightening prospect, with the potential for widespread destruction and disruption. Fortunately, Cyclone Alfred caused less damage than expected, but our Vinnies Queensland Conference Members were still called to respond, including providing emergency food to many families impacted by electricity outages.

That desire to help in times of disaster is what our Members, Volunteers and Employees do best. It is in our mission to be a "... caring Catholic charity offering a hand up to people in need."

When disaster strikes, Queenslanders can rely on Vinnies to be there for them.

In the past year, the University of Queensland examined how Vinnies supports people recovering after disasters. *The Support that Lasts* report reflects what our Members see every day: recovery can take months or years, and people often need support at different points in that journey.



Scan to view the  
**Support that Lasts Report**

I am very proud of the work we do to help Queenslanders recover from disasters. It is often a long process of walking alongside disaster-affected families as they make difficult decisions about how they and their families can best recover.

Sometimes recovery can take years. Not because Vinnies Queensland can't help, but because people are not always ready to accept our help. At other times, people slip through the cracks. In all these cases, St Vincent de Paul is there to help.

On behalf of the Disaster Assistance Committee, thank you for standing with people across Queensland during some of their hardest moments.

Yours sincerely,

**Matt Nunan**  
Committee Chair, Brisbane



**"When disaster strikes,  
Queenslanders can  
rely on Vinnies to  
be there for them."**

## A HELPING HAND WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

### Disaster Assistance Funding Summary (2023–2026 year-to-date)

Disaster	Distributed	Remaining
2026 NW QLD & Bundaberg floods	\$20,482	\$79,518
2025 Cyclone Alfred	\$16,716	\$27,499
2025 Townsville and NQ floods	\$267,144	\$68,706
2023 Cyclone Jasper and FNQ floods	\$456,070	\$118,338
<b>Total, 2023 – Apr 2026 (YTD)</b>	<b>\$760,412</b>	<b>\$187,044</b>



## YOUR IMPACT IN ACTION



**Emergency essentials** when households lose power or access to supplies



**Replacement appliances** like fridges, freezers and washing machines after flood damage



**Furniture and bedding** so families could return to safe, usable homes



**Generators and water pumps** in remote and isolated areas



**Mould removal and cleaning** support as homes dried out



**Structural assistance** grants to help people repair and rebuild over the longer term

## WHERE WE RESPONDED

### January – March 2026 | North & Western QLD and Bundaberg & Burnett floods

Thanks to your support, local Vinnies Queensland member teams have been responding to requests for help, starting with food and essential items, before replacing damaged household goods as needs become clearer.

In the Gulf Savannah region, flooding impacted towns and stations along the Gilbert, Etheridge and Copperfield Rivers. Vinnies Queensland has continued outreach to identify people who need support, including replacing fridges and freezers damaged by floodwater.

In Bundaberg and the Burnett region, Vinnies has begun assisting households to replace damaged electrical items, furniture and bedding. Several single-parent families without insurance have been supported with food, replacement fridges and washing machines.

### April 2025 | Cyclone Alfred (South East Queensland)

Many requests for assistance related to the widespread loss of electricity across South East Queensland. With your help, Vinnies Queensland provided emergency food support and backed up local conferences in Redcliffe, Redlands and the Lockyer Valley. Structural damage was limited; however recovery support remains available where needed.

### March 2025 | Townsville and North Queensland floods

After months of heavy rain, floods impacted Townsville and Ingham. Thanks to your generosity, local Vinnies Queensland Members were able to respond quickly and support families with urgent needs as they faced the shock of flooding, in some cases for a second time since 2019.

Support included replacing damaged fridges and providing supermarket vouchers so families could restock food once power returned.

As recovery progressed, assistance expanded to structural rebuilding grants. One project will help a multi-generation family return safely to their home near Cardwell.

### December 2023 | Cyclone Jasper and Far North Queensland floods

Cyclone Jasper brought extraordinary rainfall across the Daintree and Mossman regions. Flooding impacted communities from the Daintree and Cape York (including Wujal Wujal) through to areas around Cairns and Mareeba.

Working alongside the Queensland Government and other agencies, Vinnies Queensland assisted people to recover and rebuild, especially those living in remote and isolated areas.

Your donations helped ensure families could live safely with electricity and water. In some remote locations, that meant replacement diesel generators and pumps; in more populated areas, it often meant replacing essential household items like fridges and washing machines. As homes dried out, some households also needed support to remove mould.

More than two years on, requests for assistance have slowed as many repairs have been completed. Some support remains available for households still recovering.

### Ongoing recovery support (events before 2023)

Vinnies Queensland continues to assist people recovering from the 2022 Brisbane and South East Queensland floods, as well as bushfires that impacted the Western Darling Downs near Tara, Wieambilla, Chinchilla and Pittsworth.

For the 2022 Brisbane flood event, \$3.4m in overall assistance has been distributed across Brisbane and South East Queensland since 2022, with significant support provided in the Goodna area.



**“In 2025 and 2026, our Members supported over 445 Queensland families with disaster assistance.”**



## **COMMUNITY SUCCESS STORY: CHARLES' NEW LEASE ON LIFE**



**Thanks to the generosity of donors to Vinnies Queensland, Charles' is now enjoying the comfort, safety and security of what feels like a whole new home.**

Through Vinnies Queensland's Disaster Grant, vital works were completed at Charles' property, including rear weather protection and internal repairs. These upgrades have already proven their worth, keeping him safe through the winds and rain of Cyclone Alfred.

After previously having his home raised above flood hazard level, this latest support has brought renewed comfort and peace of mind. In Charles' words: *"I feel like I have a whole new house."*

When first connected with support 18 months ago, Charles was facing significant challenges. Today, he is filled with gratitude, positivity and hope.

This is the impact of donor generosity – helping people rebuild not only their homes, but their confidence and future.

*\*Not real name*

## **WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU**

**Thanks to your generous donation, Vinnies Queensland could respond, providing immediate essentials and longer-term recovery support so people can return to safe, stable homes.**

We prioritise urgent safety and essential living needs first, followed by recovery and rebuilding support, especially for people who are uninsured, underinsured, or ineligible for other assistance.

Your compassion is helping vulnerable families put their lives back together.

*Sincerely,*

**The Disaster Assistance Committee:** Matt Nunan (*Chair, Brisbane*), John Hollamby (*Brisbane*), Veronica Innes (*Cairns*), Mark O'Brien (*Toowoomba*), Laurie Griffin (*Rockhampton*), Peter Dougherty (*Gladstone*)

**For more information about your gift, please contact the Fundraising team on:**

**Phone:** 07 3010 1000

**Email:** [qld.donations@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:qld.donations@svdpqld.org.au)

