



# Media Release

6 April 2017

## Salvation Army: Support Communities Ravaged By Cyclone Debbie

The Salvation Army is urging the Australian public to support its disaster appeal for those affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie and its devastating aftermath.

Major Neil Dickson, The Salvation Army's Communications and Fundraising Director in Queensland, says the public's support is needed now more than ever as demand for Salvation Army services hits critical levels.

"The cyclone and subsequent floods have devastated communities across Queensland and New South Wales, with many residents displaced and their properties severely damaged or destroyed. These communities require major support to rebuild during this challenging time," Major Dickson said.

"The Salvation Army will do all it can to help these communities get back on their feet. We are committed to helping those affected now and for the long haul, but we can only do this with the generous support of the public."

Major Dickson says The Salvation Army is at the frontline of the recovery effort in both states.

"Our response teams were active in Bowen, Proserpine, Airlie Beach, Mackay, Logan, Byron Shire, Ballina, Tweed Heads and Lismore – feeding residents and providing meals for emergency services personnel responding to the disaster. Additionally, we are providing EFTPOS cards and vouchers to address residents' immediate needs.

"In addition to the immediate response, The Salvation Army has personnel at recovery sites providing emotional support, food assistance and material aid so that communities can cope, rebuild and recover in the months ahead."

The Salvation Army would like to say a big thank-you to Woolworths, our national partner in times of natural disasters. Through our S.T.A.N.D. (Support Through Australian Natural Disasters) partnership, Woolworths has provided much-needed funds to support our recovery efforts. We would also like to thank BHP Billiton for their significant contribution to the appeal.

Donate to The Salvation Army's recovery efforts by calling 13 SALVOS (13 72 58) or online at [salvos.org.au](http://salvos.org.au). You can also make a donation at any local Woolworths checkout or Westpac branch. Or simply Text "HELP" to 1999 2769 to donate \$5 per sms\*

**ENDS**

**For more information or media comment please contact:**

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