
DATE: February 11, 2009

Kildonan's Bushfire Response

All at Kildonan UnitingCare are deeply saddened by the tragedy being witnessed across Victoria due to the unprecedented bushfires. Tremendous community spirit and generosity, along with acts of bravery and heroism are being uncovered constantly, and our prayers are with those who have witnessed the horror and pain of death, injury, loss of homes and cherished items.

To respond to the calls from the community seeking assistance, Kildonan have been working with local agencies, Victoria Police, the City of Whittlesea, the Premiers Office, the State Emergency Service, the Uniting Church and UnitingCare networks, and our corporate partners about how Kildonan can assist in this sad and extensive tragedy.

In the short term, immediate support is available to families in the form of financial support for school books and uniforms and vouchers for groceries and mobile phone recharge cards.

Kildonan's financial counselling team are available to provide support and assist with putting affordable arrangements in place via phone or office appointments. Longer term assistance with financial counselling, ensuring people get assistance to their entitlements and developing strategies for financial stability will be our key role.

Child, youth and family services are also available to provide counselling, practical advice and support via phone or office appointments.

Kildonan can also offer community meeting space and offices at our site in Epping for community agencies and groups.

Much of our work will be done over long periods of time in the aftermath of this horrendous tragedy, in the days, weeks and months ahead when lives, families and communities are being rebuilt.

Contact Kildonan UnitingCare on 1800 002 992 for further details.

About Kildonan UnitingCare

Kildonan's vision is of thriving and inclusive communities based on respect, justice and compassion for all people. Operating from 5 sites, Kildonan delivers services in a region spanning the municipalities of Whittlesea, Darebin, Moreland and Yarra and has approximately 80 staff and over 80 volunteers. Kildonan provides vital support and assistance to over 5000 children, young people and families each year. In addition, we also provide over 7000 meals annually, and distribute over 2000 gifts each Christmas.

For further details contact Paula Gething, Marketing & Development Manager on 0414 507 127 or email pgething@kildonan.org.au.