

21 June, 2021

**Re: GIVIT's follow up from its appearance at the National Emergency Declaration Act 2020 Hearing Thursday, 10 June 2021**

In responding to the Committee further, while it could provide the governance for GIVIT to operate at a national level, GIVIT does not have specific comments in regards to the changes to the National Emergency Declaration Act 2020. However, more broadly I would like to highlight parts of my opening address and specifically the need, as supported by the recent Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, for a more coordinated approach to relief and recovery for events of national significance.

In my statement I stressed that we strongly believe that there is a need for a national approach to donation management: a transparent, coordinated model to manage the influx of public and corporate donations and ensure that people in need get what they need when they need it most. We believe this is critical to successful community-led recovery, and we believe that the Act provides the governance for this.

During the events following the Black Summer Bushfires, we found messaging in regard to donation management lacked consistency across states. We observed instances of people trying to donate either within their state or across borders and being confused by differing messaging. We would like to see the federal government having more of a national coordination approach in order to make sure that donation management does not become a problem on the ground.

Critical to the success of such an approach, the solution needs to be known and promoted prior to disaster events to ensure integration into local, state and federal disaster response recovery plans. This enhances confidence and awareness, enabling donors to have trust in the online service, and to inspire Australians to change the way they donate items and services following disaster events.

This implementation needs to include pre identified strategies, governance structures and the means of activation at a national level. We believe there is opportunity for this Act to be strengthened to allow for this level of pre-planning and subsequent implementation.

Such an implementation would also significantly reduce delays in activation of donation management initiatives, eliminate disparate approaches across jurisdictions and ensure a level of equity for Australians impacted. Currently a river that divides local or state jurisdictions can flood and people on opposite banks, impacted by the same river level, are subject to very different assistance mechanisms.

A nationally consistent approach would facilitate the collection and sharing of data across state jurisdictions. Through our everyday operations and requests, GIVIT is able to build a community profile of vulnerability. GIVIT's platform is able to capture and report on the location of both the genuine needs and the donation offers to a local council area, and the trends of what is requested can help inform governments as to the progress of communities in their recovery journey. The GIVIT platform can be used as a case coordination tool by local charities to reduce duplication and ensure that people do not slip through the cracks.



This nationally consistent approach to donation management would greatly improve GIVIT's ability to coordinate donations nationally; it would support community-led recovery by ensuring that donations address the genuine need of impacted communities and are not just what donors think communities need. By having a platform in place that can be activated on a national basis when needed, such as the GIVIT platform, people are given a readily identifiable and viable alternative, and it is an alternative that is an effective and proven working solution to donation management.

As requested by Senator Carr, please find attached a copy of our proposal prepared for the Australian Government to fund GIVIT's National Donation Management Service submitted to the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, Drought, and Emergency Management on 3 September 2020. Please note that this document is commercial in confidence and is provided for the purpose of this Committee hearing only.

Warm regards,

Sarah Tennant

GIVIT CEO