

# Guidelines on donated goods after a disaster

In April 2012, the 'national guidelines for managing donated goods' were launched by the State and Commonwealth Governments. The national guidelines promote better planning and coordination of community responses after a disaster. They intend to better direct public and corporate generosity in the most helpful way for everyone. The media is critical to supporting effective recovery efforts.

Disasters usually result in a significant amount of goods being donated. The goods are often unsuitable and are expensive to sort, store, distribute and dispose of. Donated goods also disadvantage local businesses as they reduce the need to purchase locally.

**“I did feel overwhelmed by the amount people were giving us (and often strongly did not want) but felt we should always accept and be grateful because we were grateful for their generosity and caring, if not the goods.”**

Eyre Peninsula bushfire survivor

**Donations of money** are much more useful than goods, they provide choice and independence to affected communities. Not for Profit organisations often establish disaster relief funds to manage donations of money after a disaster.

After large scale disasters, the South Australian Government may establish the State Emergency Relief Fund (SERF). The affected community receives 100 per cent of the money donated to this fund.

## What to do

- encourage people to **donate money**
- continue to encourage the community to be generous
- encourage people to raise money for those affected by the disaster – goods can be turned into money through garage sales or street markets
- work in partnership with the recovery effort
- remember that recovery takes a long time
- behave in a manner consistent with the national guidelines.

## What NOT to do

- Don't donate or encourage donation of goods unless explicitly requested by the recovery authority.
- Don't organise any appeals for donated goods – what will you do with the goods if no one wants to take them?
- Don't publicise any unauthorised efforts to collect and donate goods.

To get a complete copy of the national guidelines, visit [www.dcsi.sa.gov.au](http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au) and click on 'disaster recovery'.

For more information contact the State Recovery Office on (08) 8415 4302 or [staterecoveryoffice@dcsl.sa.gov.au](mailto:staterecoveryoffice@dcsl.sa.gov.au).

