

27th February 2004

Media Release

City of Perth

\$100,000 for bushfire victims, but more money needed

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund has pledged grants of \$100,000 to communities devastated by fires in the south-west of this State last December.

People in the Cranbrook/Plantagenet region will receive \$50,000 as will those in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

However, more money is still needed to alleviate hardship caused by the devastating fires and the public is being asked again to donate to the Appeal. Not including the funds raised by the communities local to the devastated areas, the public has generously donated \$24,000.

Lord Mayor Dr Peter Natrass said 71 people had been badly affected by the December fires in the Cranbrook/Plantagenet area and a further 67 in Bridgetown.

Two lives were tragically lost whilst some people suffered the destruction of their homes and belongings. Widespread damage to properties, including fences and farm buildings as well as stock and crop losses, was experienced.

Dr Natrass said people usually had little money to spare during the Christmas/New Year period, but it was important that they realise it is not too late to make a donation.

"It is easy for tragedies such as the fires to slip from our minds when they are no longer in the news - but for the victims the hardship can endure for a long time.

"Donations to the Appeal are tax-deductible and will benefit fellow West Australians who are struggling through no fault of their own."

Donations can be made at:

- All BankWest branches;
- City of Perth – Council House, 27 St Georges Terrace, Perth;
- Post to Cranbrook/Plantagenet/Bridgetown Fires Appeal, c/o City of Perth, GPO Box C120, Perth 6839, or
- On-line credit card donations can be made by accessing the Fund's website www.appealswa.org.au

Money from the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Appeal helps to alleviate financial hardship and distress. With the absorption of all administrative costs by the City of Perth, the total of all donated funds is passed directly to affected individuals.

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