



MEDIA RELEASE – VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES
10 February 2009

The President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, today expressed the shock, sadness and distress of the Australian Jewish Community, at the tragic loss of life, loss of property and suffering that has been inflicted on so many by the ongoing bushfires in Victoria.

Together with other Australians, the Australian Jewish community has rapidly mobilised to provide both practical and spiritual help for the victims of the bushfires that have struck Victorians with such devastating effects.

Executive Council of Australian Jewry president Robert Goot stated today:

“It is impossible to comprehend the magnitude of the disaster that has struck Victorian families, so quickly and with such a brutal impact. Our thoughts are with all those who have suffered losses in this tragedy.

“The courage and fortitude shown by all fire fighters, emergency services workers and ordinary people alike is extraordinary and must be recognised.

“Yet this is not a time for reflection. Rather it is a time to provide practical and spiritual solace and this is what we are requesting of the Australian Jewish community.

There are numerous Jewish organisations in Victoria taking their own initiatives to ensure aid relief reaches those who need it and for that we commend them. However the ECAJ’s Victorian affiliate, the JCCV is largely working with Jewish Aid Australia and Magen David Adom.

Magen David Adom is assisting with material aid, including clothing, shoes, toys and linen. However I understand that what is most useful now is donations of money. The JCCV is collaborating with Jewish Aid Australia in this regard. The most effective way of providing such donations is online at: <http://www.jewishaid.org.au/donate-2.html>.

The ECAJ urges all within the Jewish community to dig deep to support our fellow Australians and to join in prayer so that those suffering in this terrible disaster will soon find relief, and that the courageous fire-fighters, emergency service workers and other volunteers will find the strength to continue until it is over.”

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