



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY Inc.

### MEDIA RELEASE

12th January 2011

The President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), Dr Danny Lamm, has called on Jewish Australians to give generously to assist victims of the recent floods in Queensland. "At least ten people are known to have died in the floods and 90 people are currently reported as missing. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families", Dr Lamm said. "The priority right now must be to find and rescue those who are missing."

Queensland has been severely hit by the worst flooding in decades due to incessant rains since late November and at least 400,000 people are said to have been affected. "The devastation and losses caused by the flood are estimated thus far at about \$5 billion" Dr Lamm said. "Some people in the Jewish community in Queensland have also been hit hard with property losses and interruptions to normal life."

"At this stage a dozen Jewish homes in Brisbane are being flooded and the main synagogue in the Brisbane CBD is under threat as water levels continue to rise", the President of the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, Jason Steinberg, told the ECAJ Committee of Management. "A complete recovery by Queensland is several years away at least".

Dr Lamm has appealed to the Jewish community "to dig deep and support the recognised aid organisations such as the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal, Queensland Jewish Community Services, the Jewish Help in Need Society - Ari Heber (Mobile 0423 194 737) - and the B'nai B'rith Foundation".

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