



SchoolAid

EMPOWERING YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS



SchoolAid Bush Fire Appeal

Wednesday 29th January 2020

After a Summer of repeated and graphic images of suffering and loss there are real concerns for parents and educators about the impact on the mental health of young people, be they in or away from the fire grounds. SchoolAid was founded 20 years ago specifically to provide an outlet for young people to respond to such events to help them process and gain perspective on the world and their place in it.

SchoolAid has extended its Bush Fire Appeal into Term 1 and hopes to support people and communities affected by the ongoing and devastating bushfires raging across the country.

SchoolAid Founder & CEO, Sean Gordon OAM, said: “We want to provide an outlet for our young people to take positive and tangible action towards helping people and communities recover from these devastating events. If each of the 10 000 schools raised \$100 we would celebrate a \$1 million aid fund on behalf of Australian youth.”

Getting involved in a campaign gives teachers, parents and young people a positive outlet and focus to counter the distressing images of burnt homes and animals on the news.”

Donations can be made at <https://www.schoolaid.org.au> OR CommBank BSB 064 000 Ac No: 1115 1683 Ref Bushfires 20. Post cheques to PO Box 11, Clontarf Beach, QLD, 4029

SchoolAid will direct the funds raised through non-government agencies and principals' associations to make sure they go to support those in most need of assistance. In the last 20 years SchoolAid has contributed to projects associated with schools or education and projects that support environmental or wildlife rehabilitation.

SchoolAid’s Bush Fire Appeal has the support of the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA), the Australian Secondary Principals Association (ASPA), the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA), the Australian Government Primary Principals Association (AGPPA), and the Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association (ACPPA).

ASPA President, Andrew Pierpoint, offered, “strong support for the secondary schools to get behind this Appeal for the dual outcomes of fire victims support and, as an important educational experience for students, as they process the scenes that are undoubtedly seared into their minds”.



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APPA President Malcolm Elliott said: “Primary school students are incredibly engaged in helping others and keen to make a difference – I’d encourage all schools to get behind the SchoolAid campaign and use it as a positive outlet for students who want to help but don’t know how.”

IPSHA president Grant Bock said: “Independent schools have a long track record of philanthropy and I would encourage all IPSHA schools and students to participate.”

Ian Anderson, AGPPA President shared: “In the weeks ahead when the news cameras have left these communities the recovery effort will still be underway and it will be important to be present in any ongoing ways possible”.

Brad Gaynor, ACPA President said: “As schools resume we urge our communities to get behind this campaign to make a positive difference for our youth and for the fire victims.”

ENDS

See Founder’s interview on Sky News: https://www.skynews.com.au/details/_6121790860001

SchoolAid’s purpose is to empower young philanthropists by providing in-school support and a crowdfunding platform to enable young people to raise money for charitable causes.

Since SchoolAid’s establishment in 1999, over 6 500 schools have participated in more than 75 campaigns, raising some \$5.5 million for charitable causes, both internationally and in Australia.

SchoolAid Trust is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). SchoolAid’s patron is His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of Australia.

SchoolAid exists to combat a known loss of hope and optimism in our young people which results in anxiety, depression and the increasing incidence of youth suicide. We do this by building awareness and opportunities for young people to engage in and benefit from the experience of giving to others.

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