

vecci business relief fund

Donation Fact Sheet

The Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) is Victoria's most influential employer group, servicing over 15,000 Victorian businesses per annum.

Bushfire Relief Assistance 2009

We made the decision to establish the VBRF to provide short term emergency financial support for businesses adversely impacted by natural disasters. At this time, our Fund will provide support to those businesses who are reliant on local trade and are suffering substantial or complete loss of trade (although their operations may not have been physically damaged or destroyed) as a result of the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria.

The capital basis for the Fund will be donations received from business organisations, governments and the public in addition to the income derived from investment of the funds received. The Fund will not have charitable tax status.

The funds will be held on our behalf by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (LMCF) and distributed to businesses via The Salvation Army. Managed by the LMCF in perpetuity, the VBRF is protected within the structure of the Foundation and is governed by an Act of the Victorian Parliament.

We will ask Applicants to the Fund to complete an application form together with a statutory declaration attesting to the validity of their application. Applications will be assessed against the Application Criteria by a panel comprising of nominated representatives and representatives of The Salvation Army.

Successful applicants will be eligible for an initial grant of up to \$5,000 with the potential for consideration for a supplementary grant up to \$20,000.

We are pleased to advise that the Victorian Government is contributing \$500,000 to the Fund on the basis that this be matched by business contributions.

We are therefore appealing to all businesses to make a donation to the VBRF. It is only with collective support that we can ensure bushfire affected Victorian businesses can continue trading and maintain their important role as employers and investors in their local community.

We believe that a vibrant local economy is pivotal to rebuilding and sustaining local communities.

If you would like to donate, please complete the Donation Form found at www.vecci.org.au

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