

MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLANDERS: DOING IT FOR OURSELVES

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health welcomes the package of recovery support announced today by the Premier and Prime Minister in response to the summer of disasters.

Jeff Cheverton, CEO of Queensland Alliance for Mental Health said this package recognises the resilience of Queensland communities and the existing recovery activities of so many individuals and community organisations across the state.

“In affected Queensland communities there are already many individuals and groups who have spontaneously offered assistance to people in need. Rather than the heavy hand of bureaucracy, the package of support announced today will sustain and reward these recovery activities,” Mr Cheverton said.

“People are happy to accept support from others in their local community. Local community groups and organisations are offering assistance; they just need additional help to keep up the good work,” he said.

“Queenslanders have demonstrated remarkable resilience and ability to just “get on with it” in the face of disaster and in many communities people are reluctant to turn to strangers for assistance. This funding will ensure local people are informed by other locals, and that the work of community groups will be supported,” Mr Cheverton said.

Included in this package are micro-grants to assist local sporting clubs, arts organisations, and civic groups to hold events to inform their communities and offer opportunities to de-brief with others who have experienced significant crises in the last few months.

Funds are also available to ensure clear messages and health promotion resources will be available to enable these local groups to educate their members on how to maintain their resilience and good mental health.

There are also funds for mutual self-help groups, and assistance specifically targeted at particular cultural groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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