



St Vincent de Paul Society

(TASMANIA) INC

good works

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8th December, 2016

Mr Mike Blake
Review Investigator
Government Flood Review Team
GPO Box 308
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Mr Blake

I am writing to you on behalf of Merleen Cronin, Chief Executive Officer for the St Vincent de Paul Society in Tasmania in response to the review into the 2016 June Floods.

The Society in Tasmania was widely involved, particularly in the North and North West where our own properties were damaged and came under threat.

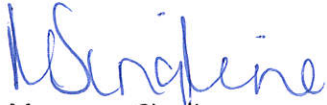
It is through our observation and experiences during this period that we would like to make the following comments in response to your letter.

- There seemed to be conflicting messages being given out in the Launceston area over the pending closure of both the Tamar Street and Charles Street bridges. This mixed messaging impacted the availability of Society members to work at Recovery Centres.
- There is an inconsistency between the allocated services detailed in the TEMP and local government agencies expectations.
- The ability to staff multiple recovery centres and to provide the immediate emergency assistance including bedding requirements at these multiple locations.
- Clearer understanding of requirements from agencies involved.
- The financial implications for our organisation. Including purchasing sleeping bag liners and laundering of bedding in preparation for the possibility of the recovery centre being open for a second night.
- A medical incident impacted everyone staying overnight at the evacuation centre. Our volunteers were faced with sourcing services to comply with the Launceston City Council protocols in relation to the bedding.
- Whilst the space at UTAS was suitable in a lot of areas, providing plenty of toilet facilities and showers, space for pets etc; one major concern was the fact that all attendees were sleeping in the same area, this included single mums with young children to older men. Whilst there was no incident on this occasion the risk factor should be taken into consideration.

- Whilst the SES and other services had collected local residents and transported them to the evacuation centre there was some confusion around how they would be transported back to their residence and who would provide this service.

Once again thank for this opportunity to respond to your letter.

Yours sincerely



Maryanne Singline

Fundraising and Communications Manager

St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania) Inc