

Question on Notice
No. 95
Asked on 17 February 2011

MR HOBBS asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Disaster Relief Appeal for flood-affected communities launched on 4 March 2010 to help those affected in the state's southwest with a particular focus on Murweh, Maranoa and Balonne Shires—

Will the Premier advise (a) the total amount of funds raised by this appeal and how many grants have been paid and how many refused (at time of receipt), (b) the monetary amount of each grant, (c) whether or not these funds have accrued interest and if so, how it has been acquitted and (d) whether or not any claims are still outstanding (all reported separately)?

ANSWER [Premier and Minister for Reconstruction (MS BLIGH)]:

On 8 March 2010, the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal was launched to provide relief for victims affected by the 2010 South West Queensland Floods. The scope of this Appeal was subsequently expanded by the Trustees of the Appeal, on 22 March 2010, to include assistance for people affected by Tropical Cyclone Ului in North Queensland.

The Australian Red Cross (Queensland) was appointed by the Trustees to distribute the funds raised by the Appeal.

The total Appeal balance was \$1,387,764.97 and this included \$13,995.96 of interest earned from the commencement of the Appeal. The total of \$1,387,764.97 was transferred to the Red Cross on 7 July 2010 for disbursement and all funds received in response to the Appeal were disbursed to eligible applicants.

Funding allocations to successful applicants ranged from \$500 to a maximum of \$7,000.

All assessments were based on criteria established by the Red Cross Distribution Committee prior to calling for applications, including evidence by applicants of hardship, degree of damage to dwelling or contents, and capacity of applicants to recover. All applicants were made aware of these criteria prior to making their application for assistance.

A total of 900 applications were received, of which 557 were provided relief. An appeals mechanism was put in place by the Red Cross and 11 applicants appealed against not receiving an allocation. After further consideration, and upon receiving additional information, the Red Cross Distribution Committee allocated funds to 10 appellants.

All funds were disbursed to assist those in most need and no claims for funds are outstanding.