

To:  
From: David Bell/HeadOffice/DHS  
Date: 12/21/2009 12:41PM  
Subject: VBAF update

Dear all,

Please find this statement from VBAF to help you respond to any concerns raised about where remaining VBAF funds will be directed after 31 December closure. A few people in the community have voiced their concern that the funds will be 'sucked back into Government' or something similar. This is incorrect, as explained below.

*Every cent donated to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund will be used to support individuals and communities directly impacted by the 2009 bushfires.*

*If there is allocated money for individual gifts remaining after the 31 December closure, but not taken up, it will go to where it's most needed. That could be to further gifts to individuals or into community initiatives - the Panel, in consultation with bodies such as the Victorian Bushfire Rebuilding and Reconstruction Authority, will decide where it is needed the most.*

*There have been more than 20,000 payments to individuals during the last nine months and to date in excess of \$230 million spent. The balance of the remaining money has been allocated. Of the \$126 million unspent allocation there is funding for long-term projects such as Psychological Support, Bereaved Children, Scholarships and School Holiday programs where money will be spent when required over a number of years.*

## **David Bell**

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