



LORD MAYOR'S
DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

Enquiries to: Robert Mianich
(9461 3261)
Our Ref: P1005842-14

1 November 2013

Mrs J. Dawkins
Mayor
Town of Cottesloe
P O Box 606
COTTESLOE WA 6911

Dear Jo,

As Chair of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund and given that summer is fast approaching, plus the recent fires in New South Wales causing such devastation, I felt it timely to write to remind your Council of the importance of fire breaks and fire control in general.

The past winter has brought good rainfalls to many areas in the State while other areas have suffered from a distinct lack of rain. This is one of the harsh realities of living in Western Australia and irrespective of the situation your local government is in, the clearance of vegetation and rubbish around the exterior of a property cannot be enough encouraged. Rural and outback Shires annually enforce ratepayers to prepare their properties against fire and bushfire but even in the metropolitan area where bushfires do occur, it is timely for Councils to remind residents to undertake actions to minimise damage to their properties. The devastating impact a bushfire has on a community has a lasting affect and can take years to recover from.

We hope you are not affected however I would like to remind your Council the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund can offer financial support for all Western Australians who experience personal hardship and distress arising from a confirmed natural disaster occurring in our State. The Fund is designated by the State Government as the official body through which all State Emergency appeals are conducted.

Our efforts are made possible with the support of a great Board of Management (nine), comprising two of the City of Perth's senior management team and seven volunteer members whose expertise has been honed over many years in various public service roles.

I'd like to share with you some important details about the Fund:

- The Fund was established in 1961 and since 1996 the Fund has disbursed over \$11.7 million to over 1300 applicants, which is significant in anyone's language.
- The Fund is devoted to assisting all Western Australians regardless of their geographical location within our State.
- It is a registered charitable body that has ATO approval for tax deductibility of donations.
- All associated operational costs and administration of the Fund are donated by the City of Perth. This means that every cent collected can be and is disbursed to those who need it most – our fellow Western Australians who have suffered from events outside personal control.
- That often the Fund assists quietly without raising funds through a public appeal. This typically happens when a disaster affects such a small number of people that a public call for donations would attract little response. In such instances the Fund draws on its invested reserve funds.
- The Fund holds a Charitable Collection Licence, renewable every three years, and it observes all required guidelines there under.

Having mentioned the Fund's reserves, I'd like to explain how they operate. Over the years as surplus monies became available, the Fund's Board adopted a prudent financial investment strategy resulting in the establishment of a base which can be accessed without the need to approach the public. Whilst this practice has worked well to date, these funds cannot be expected to grow without regular injections of fresh donations. With this in mind, I encourage your Council to consider making a donation toward the Fund. I'd like to think of this as Western Australians supporting Western Australians.

Essentially this Fund is your Fund; it doesn't belong to the City of Perth and is not limited to helping people only in the metropolitan area. I am delighted to report that the City of Perth staff, who as I've previously mentioned administer the Fund, are totally dedicated and committed to the ethos of the Fund.

I'm immensely proud to be associated with this fund and I hope that you can encourage your Council to continue supporting our efforts.

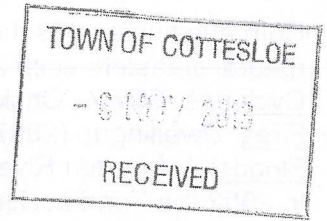
Please encourage your community to remain safe this summer and support us with financial donations if you are able to.

Yours sincerely,



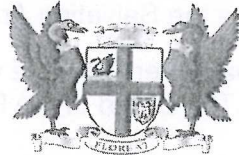
Lisa-M. Scaffidi
The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor

"The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund is for ALL Western Australians."



***"Our sincere thanks and gratitude for your support in this time of crisis."
Margaret River family***

proudly supported by



CITY of PERTH

for all Western Australians



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The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund was established in 1961 to provide relief of personal hardship and distress for Western Australians arising from natural disasters occurring within Western Australia. The perpetual fund is a registered charitable body and holds approval from the Australian Taxation Office for tax deductibility of contributions.

Communities across the state have been assisted by the Fund when they faced adversity resulting from natural disasters such as floods, bushfires and cyclones. Recent relief appeals include:

Cyclones: Olivia - Onslow (1996), Vance - Exmouth (1999), Steve - Carnarvon (2000).

Fires: Dwellingup (2007), Toodyay (2009), Perth Hills (2011), Margaret River (2011).

Floods: Ashburton River (1997), Esperance (1999), Moora (1999), Gascoyne & Mid West (2010).

In 2002 the Fund assisted WA victims of the Bali bombings through publicly raised donations.

Since 1996, the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund has disbursed in excess of \$11.7 million to over 1300 applicants.

The Fund provides funds for the alleviation and relief of distress, suffering and personal hardships, brought about by any disaster or emergency within Western Australian which has either been declared by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) or for which the Board considers warrants assistance.

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund offers financial assistance in the event of a natural disaster occurring within Western Australia. All monetary donations to the Fund are greatly appreciated and can be made at the City of Perth, Council House or by direct deposit. Alternatively, cheques can be drawn in favour of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund and mailed to the City of Perth. Donations of goods, clothing and foodstuffs are *not* taken or administered through the Fund. Instead, these donations can be distributed by charitable organisations such as the Salvation Army.

All donations are fully accounted for. The Board members are volunteers and administrative support is provided free of charge by the City of Perth. The Board of the Fund comprises:

Chairman	The Lord Mayor, Lisa-M. Scaffidi	
Honorary Secretary	Gary Stevenson, PSM	
Honorary Treasurer	Robert Mianich	
Board Members	Rob Gillam	Jennifer Smith
	Noelene Jennings	Ian Taylor
	Troy Pickard	Michael Wallwork, PSM
	Rob Rowell	

appeals coordination and aid distribution

Upon the formal announcement of an Appeal, the Board of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund liaises directly with the local government of the affected district or districts. The affected local government is required to form a Local Recovery Committee to work with the Board to establish criteria for the assessment of claims.

The Local Recovery Committee - drawn from representatives of local and state governments, the immediate community and lead combat authorities - works with its community and acts as a communication channel to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Board. The Local Recovery Committee follows Board guidelines, receives and assesses claims and makes recommendations to the Board on the disbursement of funds. Based on these recommendations, the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Board makes the final decision regarding the disbursement of the funds.

For general information on dealing with natural disaster situations, more information about the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund or assistance with applications for disaster relief, please visit www.appealswa.org.au, email LMDRF@cityofperth.wa.gov.au or telephone the Honorary Treasurer, Robert Mianich, on 9461 3261 or 0438 881 309.