

Monday, January 20, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DO NOT FORGET THE DROUGHT

CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes CEO, Anne-Marie-Mioche is appealing to government and other support agencies to remember those still impacted by drought.

“The bushfires have been disastrous and as a nation we held our breath at the threat and tragedy but we must not forget about the long slow burn of devastation still being caused by the drought which has crippled much of eastern Australia,” Ms Mioche said.

“December had the lowest rainfall on record for Australia and we still have people in our diocese – which covers 52 per cent of NSW - who missed out on rain this week, continuing to severely limit water resources, soil moisture and any hope of a crop or livelihood for 2020.”

“The impacts on our rural and remote communities is dire, we need help,” Ms Mioche pleaded.

It is wonderful to see a positive and fast response by the Australian Government committing \$76 million to mental health and trauma informed care for bushfire affected areas, however only \$6.3million has been committed over two years for mental health and counselling in drought affected areas.

“We are trying our very best to help meet the increasing needs for our communities. We support families, parents and children, relationships, financial counselling, domestic violence, homelessness, youth as well as our indigenous communities - all areas of need escalating as the tyranny of drought cripples our rural and remote communities,” Ms Mioche said.

As we enter our fourth year of drought, for some areas, rural economies are continuing to decline, basic resources are almost non existent and the social impacts are heartbreaking.

Ends.....

CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes provides social services, caring for the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

For more information or to arrange media interviews contact: Kathy Garland on 0455 262 468.

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging



- **Mental Health**
- **Parent Child Services**
- **Family Relationship Services**
- **Financial Counselling & Capability**
- **Accommodation & Housing Support**

Supporting individuals, families and communities in western NSW