
DATE Wednesday 25 February 2009

**BEGA VALLEY HOSPITALS JOIN
NATIONAL VICTORIA BUSHFIRE FUND RAISING EFFORT**

Hospitals and community health services in the Bega Valley are accepting donations to help the victims of the Victorian bush fires.

Tins to take monetary donations are at the reception areas of the Bega and Pambula District Hospitals as well as at the Community Health Centres in Bega, Pambula and Eden.

Greater Southern Area Health Service General Manager Eastern Sector, Ken Barnett, said the Health Service joins the local communities and the nation in disbelief at the magnitude of the fires.

“Everyone is feeling overwhelming concern for those who have been affected by this tragedy,” Mr Barnett said.

“The people in Victoria have lost family and friends, their homes, their clothes, their cars, their livestock and their pets. Their lives will be affected for a long, long time to come.

“The communities in the Bega Valley know only too well the dangers of bush fires with firefighters continuing to contain the bushfire at Jingera Rock, which started on 24 January during a lightning storm and has burnt about 2400ha of bushland in remote and rugged terrain.

“The Health Service is joining in the fund raising effort for Victorian victims and the hospitals and community health centres will make accessible locations for donations,” Mr Barnett said.

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