



**IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG HOT SUMMER.**

**OUR DROUGHT STRICKEN FARMERS OF THE DOWNS AND WEST REGION NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP GOING, OUR COMMUNITIES NEED THEM.**

Downs & West Community Support is a ministry of Sisters of Charity Community Care Limited.

Its aim is to raise the awareness of the effects of sustained drought conditions impacting families living on the land and in small rural towns. We seek practical support and concrete action from those who are in a position to share resources and collaborate to reach more people in need.

While our pastoral and emotional support is ongoing, your generous assistance will help purchase essential provisions and organise gatherings for farming families in rural and remote communities.

Please **DONATE** to this very worthy cause by going online to [www.downsandwestcommunitysupport.org/donate](http://www.downsandwestcommunitysupport.org/donate) (for credit card or direct deposit donations) or send a cheque to **PO Box 6613 Mitchelton QLD 4053**

**Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.**



**Downs & West  
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**GENEROSITY – RESPECT – AWARENESS – COMPASSION – ENCOURAGEMENT**

# Queenslanders fighting for their family farmers



**Helping hands:** Many hands were needed to recover from the floods.

QUEENSLAND'S food basket is dry. The Downs and West regions were declared drought stricken and forecasts suggest a long hot summer ahead.

But some are fighting to keep Queensland farmers afloat.

Downs and West Community Support, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Community Care Ltd, stands ready, again, to face the challenges.

DWCS goes beyond tea or coffee; it acquires fencing and gates for stock, replacement water tanks, tractor tyres and other practical goods.

Crucially it offers pastoral care and emotional support to families – families who farm the food on Queensland's tables – at a time when there's pressure to sell intergenerational family farms just to survive.

"Thank you (DWCS) for your kindness to me and my family during this tough time, mentally, physically, financially and emotionally," Megan, a drought stricken family farmer, said.

"Although the work is constant, the crops are slow, cattle prices are down, this is my home, this is my life."

At Christmas, DWCS with the help of Brisbane schools including Marist College Ashgrove, St Vincent de Paul Conferences and other organisations such as St Vincent's Care Services provided hampers, gifts and back-to-school needs.

"I cried as we opened the box of groceries and saw the toys for my children," a Lockyer Valley

farmer said.

"Thank you for the loving wishes and prayers at this terrible time in our lives.

"Your support of us will never be forgotten."

DWCS has seen out some of Queensland's worst natural events – the 2008 dust storms, the 2010 locust swarms and the 2011 floods.

But it was the hot summer of 2007, when the heavens had not opened in 16 years, that Sister of Charity Christine Henry thought about her childhood playground in the Darling Downs and her summer memories.

What she saw was a dry and barren land.

She formed Downs and West Drought Appeal to combat the drought, which later became DWCS.

The ministry continues to support the Downs and West regions as well as the Burnett region, which is also drought affected.

"To keep hope alive and to ease the daily stresses of farming in drought conditions, DWCS looks to its donors, past and present and to future contributors for continued funding and support," a DWCS spokesperson said.

"Thanks to the Sisters of Charity who meet the administrative costs each year all donations go directly to assisting those who need it most."

To donate to DWCS Long Hot Summer Appeal please go to the website [www.downsandwestcommunitysupport.org/donate/](http://www.downsandwestcommunitysupport.org/donate/)