

Media release



Wednesday 26 February 2020

KIDS HELPLINE BOOSTS BUSHFIRE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

Kids Helpline, a service of **yourtown** has announced additional funding of \$500,000 to boost bushfire response measures to support children who may be struggling with mental health issues in the wake of the bushfires.

The funding, through the Australian Government, enables Kids Helpline to direct counsellor resources to respond to contacts from children and young people in bushfire affected regions over the next 12 months.

“Utilising postcode and telephone exchange regions, Kids Helpline has prioritised all contacts from those regions and communities impacted by the bushfires on both WebChat and telephone support channels. As the unfolding natural disaster moves from immediate support to the lasting impact of the bushfire crisis, it is important that children and young people have access to supports as and when they need it,” said Tracy Adams, Chief Executive Officer of **yourtown**.

“From our previous experience working with young people following major traumatic events, we do not underestimate the psychological support required for the emotional wellbeing of children and young people which may extend far beyond the immediacy of the tragedy,” said Ms Adams.

yourtown's Kids Helpline counselling service operates 24 hours, 7 days a week, to support children and young people aged 5 to 25 to deal with processing their emotions through counselling support and resources to help deal with the trauma associated with the enormity of this bushfire season.

We encourage young people, aged 5 to 25 to call Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800, email or reach out to us via WebChat anytime for someone to listen to them about the feelings that they are having.

Facebook: @kidshelpline, Insta @kidshelplineau, Twitter @KidsHelplineAU www.kidshelpline.com.au

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yourtown Corporate Communications & Media Advisor: Maree Reason-Cain Phone 0423 843 786 OR mreason-cain@yourtown.com.au