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General

ASU members play critical role in flood relief

12 January 2011

The devastating floods that are currently ravaging Queensland and northern New South Wales are being tackled by dedicated ASU members working in the energy and water industries, in community services and local government. They form a critical part of the huge effort underway to assist those Australian communities currently facing extreme hardship. The ASU thanks all relief workers and is encouraging donations to the flood appeal. Our thoughts are with all those affected.

The ASU sends its condolences to all families affected by loss of life as a result of the floods and we wish everyone the very best as recovery efforts already underway begin the enormous task of dealing with property and infrastructure damage.

Our members in utilities, in local government and in social and community services work every day serving Australian communities and in times of crisis, their skills and training are crucial in responding quickly and effectively.

Utilities workers have been involved with operating water and energy infrastructure to mitigate damage and ensure the quickest possible return to services after flood waters recede. Workers in local government have been using council equipment to help protect private and public property wherever possible.

Community services workers have been staffing relief centres to ensure those who have been evacuated from their homes are cared for. When people return to their homes, these workers will be providing counselling and other support services to assist people to get their lives in order again.

We encourage our members and supporters across the country to consider donating to flood relief - please see below for details on how to donate.

UPDATE: The ASU has contributed \$10,000 to the flood relief appeal.

More information about the floods

You can find further information at the state government websites dedicated to flood information:

Queensland: <http://www.qld.gov.au/floods/>

New South Wales: <http://www.nsw.gov.au/floods>

All major media outlets are providing up to date news.

How to donate to flood relief

The Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has opened a flood relief fund. You can find all the details here: <http://www.qld.gov.au/floods/donate.html> including a secure online payment form and details about other contribution methods.

Donations can also be made in person at the following:

- Commonwealth Bank
- NAB
- Westpac
- ANZ
- BOQ
- Suncorp
- St George Bank
- Bank SA (Bank of South Australia)
- Australian Central Credit Union
- Savings & Loans Credit Union
- Bank West
- Australian Central Credit Union
- Savings & Loans Credit Union
- Coles supermarkets

UPDATE - further appeals open

Other aid and charity organisations have opened up appeals as follows:

- [Salvation Army](#)
- [St Vincent De Paul](#)
- [Red Cross Australia](#) (select "Disaster relief and recovery" appeal)

ASU Branches in Brisbane evacuated

Both ASU Branches in Brisbane, the Central & Southern Qld C&A Branch and the Qld Services Branch, have been evacuated until further notice. If you need to urgently contact them in the interim:

Qld Services - Kath Nelson 0401 106 669
C&SQ C&A - <http://www.qld.asu.net.au/1644.html>

ASU national contacts

ASU Assistant National Secretaries Greg McLean and Linda White are managing the ASU's response to the floods:

Greg McLean - gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au
Linda White - lwhite@asu.asn.au

UPDATE - messages of support from overseas

Public Services International (PSI) of which the ASU is an affiliate

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Public Services International sends this message of solidarity, sympathy and support to members of PSI affiliated unions, your families, neighbours and co-workers who are suffering so terribly in the unprecedented flooding that Australia is experiencing on both sides of the country. We understand that wildfires are also being battled in Western Australia. We salute you - the public sector workers - who are struggling bravely to

cope with the challenges brought on by these mounting disasters, and share with you in grief for losses you or your families, have suffered.

We know that many thousands of state public sector workers are currently working in emergency mode - 24 hours a day - saving lives, helping the countless people immediately affected, and protecting the public infrastructure.

We understand that the flood crisis has intensified, that there have been tragic deaths, that many people are missing, and thousands of people are stranded and cut off from their homes and workplaces. An enormous personal cost will be borne by the people who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, homes or workplaces. While the public cost of rebuilding infrastructure such as roads, bridges, hospitals, water services, power generation and railways will amount to billions of dollars, the personal costs can never be fully accounted for.

Whenever flood, fire, earthquakes or other natural catastrophes strike around the world, public sector workers like you are first to help on the frontline, though often suffering the same losses as the general public. On behalf of PSI members worldwide, I extend heartfelt thanks, admiration and acknowledgement for your courageous and tireless efforts. We wish you much strength and fortitude in the face of these challenges.

We urge other PSI affiliates to contribute at this stage to the flood relief effort in the state of Queensland through the Queensland Premier's Flood Relief Appeal by visiting the website at www.qld.gov.au/floods/donate.html.

In solidarity,

Peter Waldorff
General Secretary

Full letter can be downloaded below

Carola Fischbach-Pyttel, Secretary of the European Public Sector Union (EPSU)

It is now for 2 weeks that we are witnessing the absolutely frightening news in the media about the inundations affecting the inhabitants of major parts of Australia. Members of your union and their families will be confronted with the consequences of this disaster as well, professionally or otherwise.

Please receive our heartfelt expression of solidarity in these difficult times.

Paula Scholes - President of the NZ Public Service Association (PSA)

Having recently experienced the Canterbury earthquake I am personally very aware of all the incredible and essential work that those working in all areas of the wider public sector do at these very difficult times. Often in very challenging circumstance and despite having concerns for their own families and properties. The earthquake also made me aware how fortunate we are to live in countries that do have excellent public sector infrastructure.

Please let your members know that we in New Zealand are thinking of them and that our recent experience shows that those effected by this disaster will definitely appreciate all their efforts.

Brenda Pilot National General Secretary NZ PSA

We have read and watched with great concern as the crisis in Queensland has escalated to a major disaster. We know your members and workers in other unions will be affected by this, both as citizens and as part of emergency and relief services. We have greatly appreciated the support of our Aussie brothers and sisters in recent emergencies here in New Zealand, and want to convey to you our sympathy and support at this tough time. It has been terrible to learn of the loss of so many lives.

Our thoughts are with you and other Australians at this tough time.

Lakshmi Vaidhiyanathan, ASIA Pacific Secretary of the PSI, in Singapore.

We are very sad to see the devastation of Queensland towns by the torrential rain and flooding. It is a test for the efficiency of the public services and is a time for the Public servants to support the community when they are devastated. Kindly accept our support and convey our concern to the all colleagues who are involved in the massive rescue work.

Please do not hesitate to call on us for any other co-operation

Jawaharlal Bhan - India - PSI Secretary

On seeing the Television news about disastrous floods in New South Wales and Queensland in Australia it is really heart breaking .The news said that hundreds of thousands of people have lost their belongings and many have lost their lives. All the essential services and necessities have been wiped out and people are in great sufferings. The infrastructure of many public sector offices have been destroyed and the national government has to rebuild the same with lots of funds.

I also watched a wild forest fire in Perth which is beyond control, this also is a serious problem for the population of Australia.

Please accept my sympathies and I convey through you condolences to the families and kins of the people who lost their lives in these natural calamities. I also send my appreciation for those public service workers who are safeguarding the others who need help at this time and also salvaging many marooned people. People of Australia are very brave and committed in saving the peoples' lives and rescuing others who are taped in the floods. May God give them courage.

I also send sympathies from the PSI affiliated Unions in India to the brothers and sisters who have suffered during these calamities. They stand by their side in this crises.

Hafizul Hossain - Secretary NCC, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Expressing our deep concern & sorrow for the flood effected people of Australia. Getting information about the loss of lives & properties in your country through BBC, CNN & other local TV channels. Let the effected people be capable & brave to overcome the crisis.

Flood is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. We experience the impact of flood more or less almost in every year.

In Bangladesh we are experiencing severe cold this year. The temperature is around 4µ C. For last 4/5 days there is no sun light. In northern area of our country some people died due to excessive cold.

APFUTU Pakistan, www.apfutu.org

Dear Friends in Australia, We would like on my behalf of the federation to present our profound consolation for all the innocent lives who are dead because of the devastating floods that have struck in Australia. These innocent people who have died really represent a real loss for all humanity. We send our consolation to their families and we hope quick recovery for the injured and sick ones.

Media

[Indonesia Donates \\$1 Million for Australia Flood Relief](#), The Jakarta Globe, Nurfika Osman & AP, 12 January 2011

Related Documents:

[Letter of support from PSI \(PDF\)](#)

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