



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release

8 December 2005

EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR NEWCASTLE

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today announced over \$100,000 in Commonwealth grants to Newcastle under the *National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund* and the *Local Grants Scheme*.

"These grants recognise the need to be prepared for emergencies at the local level, and to build the self-reliance and support our communities need to respond," Ms Grierson said.

The Newcastle and Central NSW Division of the Salvation Army was successful in obtaining a grant of \$7,944, which will be used for training equipment and recruitment.

"The Salvation Army is just one of the great volunteer community groups which have served Newcastle well over the years. I congratulate them on receiving this funding, and know it will further build on our City's deserved reputation for volunteer work."

Newcastle City Council, in partnership with Lake Macquarie City Council, received a grant of \$100,000 to undertake an emergency risk management study, which will evaluate our preparedness for the emergency situations we may face in the future.

"Newcastle has a very active and very effective emergency response network which coordinates services as diverse as health, police, fire, port authorities and the RSPCA. Evaluating the preparedness of our systems will help to maintain the strength and capacity of our response network, highlight emerging risks, and ensure any gaps are addressed as soon as possible."

"I welcome this funding, and look forward to the completion of both projects to strengthen our local government and community responses to emergencies."

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