

# Cyclone Gabrielle funding report

## Background

When Cyclone Gabrielle struck New Zealand in February 2023, the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) supported affected clinics both emotionally and financially. We decided early in our response to extend our support to all veterinary clinics in the affected areas, even if their staff were not members of the NZVA.

This report details the income and expenditure generated during the NZVA's response to Cyclone Gabrielle.

## What we did

During the three weeks following the cyclone, the NZVA team called all affected clinics multiple times to check on their wellbeing and offer support. Members of the NZVA team also participated in multiple daily meetings with different groups, including Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), industry and animal welfare emergency management stakeholders.

With no initial funding in place, the NZVA Board rapidly allocated funds from the NZVA reserves to support our efforts. This money helped fund:

- travel, accommodation and food for NZVA staff and Board members visiting affected clinics
- counselling support (both in person and virtually) through our provider Vitae
- debrief sessions with NZVA staff and clinics in the affected areas
- additional communications during the cyclone.

On 20 February 2023, we started a Givealittle page to raise money to support veterinary professionals impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. We were thrilled with the support received from NZVA members and the public. To date, we have raised a total of \$21,355 through this channel. This money was allocated to:

- counselling support through Vitae
- care package hampers for affected clinics
- travel, accommodation, meals and – in some cases – salaries, for short-term relief staff for clinics in affected areas. Many employers covered their staff salaries while they provided relief.

In addition, we received separate donations from Alleva Animal Health and Annexa which went towards:

- counselling support through Vitae

- debrief sessions with NZVA staff and clinics in the affected areas.

We also secured up to \$50,000 from the MPI cyclone relief fund to create trauma and emergency management resources and training. This money covers:

- three webinars run during the initial response phase with First Response Health and Massey University
- the development of additional resources for future emergencies (work on these resources is underway).

The NZVA advocated to MPI on behalf of affected clinics to secure reimbursement for goods and services supplied to the community in the first two weeks of the response. This funding totalled \$100,000.

You can see the flow of money in more detail in the table below.

	Income	Expenditure
<b>Givealittle</b>	\$21,355	
Relief staff and hampers		\$17,100
Vitae counselling (contribution)		\$3,900
<b>Other donations</b>	\$15,000	
Vitae counselling (contribution)		\$5,000
Contracted debrief sessions (contribution)		\$10,000
<b>NZVA reserve funds</b>	\$16,000	
Contracted debrief sessions (contribution)		\$10,000
Visits to affected clinics		\$1,000
Additional communications required during cyclone		\$5,000
<b>MPI cyclone relief fund</b>	Up to \$50,000	
First Response Health and Massey University webinars		\$2,000
Additional resources for future emergencies		TBC

## Next steps

We are in the process of submitting an expression of interest (EOI) to the recently announced additional relief fund of \$34 million, on behalf of clinics in regions likely to be affected by extreme weather events in the future.

The funding can be delivered in full by 31 December 2023. The purpose of the fund is to support activities that have arisen from the impact of the North Island weather events and to:

- deliver time-critical activities to support the health, safety and wellbeing of livestock and people
- deliver support for impacted rural communities.



MPI intends to distribute the funding to industry partners, community groups and Māori entities. The fund is not available as a grant to individual farmers. Insurable costs will not be covered.

We will share more information once a decision has been made about our expression of interest.