



15 April 2009

Mr Tom Devine
General Manager
ASSA ABLOY Australia
235 Huntingdale Road
Oakleigh VIC 3166

Dear Mr Devine

A sincere thank you from Red Cross

On behalf of Red Cross and those affected by the recent devastating Victorian bushfires, thank you sincerely for your generous donation in support of the 2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

The 2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund was established on 8 February 2009 as a partnership between Red Cross and the Victorian and Australian Governments. Red Cross will not deduct any funds whatsoever from the Appeal to cover Appeal or administration costs, and every cent received by Red Cross is being transferred on a daily basis to a Trust Account set up by the Victorian Government.

Red Cross is actively participating in the independent advisory panel, chaired by The Hon. John Landy AC, which was established by the Victorian Premier to recommend the criteria for the distribution of Appeal funds. The Victorian Government is distributing the funds through the Department of Human Services.

As well as managing the Appeal, Red Cross is continuing to provide personal support throughout the Whittlesea Shire to people directly affected by the fires. In association with the Department of Human Services, planning has also commenced for the introduction of a targeted outreach program. This will involve Red Cross volunteers visiting the homes of people in affected areas who have not yet accessed services to check on their wellbeing and to provide information and assistance.

Another vital part of our work in emergencies is that of reconnecting people with family, friends and communities, through the National Registration and Enquiry System. Red Cross operates this system in close association with the Police and on behalf of the responsible emergency management agencies in each State and Territory. In the aftermath of the main bushfire outbreak in Victoria, Red Cross registered well over 22,000 people. These registration details were used to provide information in response to more than 21,000 enquiries that came into our National Enquiry Centre from people concerned about friends, family and loved ones.

Following the overwhelming and unprecedented support received, it has now been decided – in association with the Victorian Government – that the Appeal will officially close on 17 April 2009.

Please again accept my sincere thanks on behalf of Red Cross for your support and leadership in response to this terrible tragedy.

Yours sincerely

ROBERT TICKNER
Chief Executive Officer

Please note a receipt for your donation will be sent separately by our Finance Department in accordance with the remittance details provided.