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To Whom it May Concern

Drought Angels has been established since January 2014. We are Auspiced by the Chinchilla Family Support Centre, and are currently in the process of registering as our own charity.

- We have been helping farmers and rural communities for 2 1/2 years. After hearing about farming families not being able to put food on their own tables it broke our hearts. So Drought Angels was formed.
- At this stage we rely solely on public donations and fundraising.
- We work closely with Drought Co-ordinators in communities to help families in need. We also help those who contact us directly. We help those who are the property owners as well as workers who have lost jobs due to drought. ie shearers, farm hands etc.
- Supplying pre-paid visa's and vouchers we have found works well as it supports the local businesses in the communities that are also badly affected by the drought.
- We put store credits at local stockfeed suppliers for farmers so they can go and obtain the feed that they need for their stock.
- Approximately every 3 months we will co-ordinate a drought run to a community where we assist approximately 30 farming families at a time. We provide hay, stockfeed, dog food, groceries, pre-paid visas, local store vouchers. During the day we put on a BBQ lunch and in the evening we provide dinner and entertainment to give the families a day off the farm and forget about the drought for a while. These runs cost approximately \$70, 000 at a minimum. The more money we have the more we can provide these families.
- On Special runs eg.Mothers Day we take hairdressers and massage therapists to treat the people on the day as these are luxuries that are the first to go for these people. However we maintain support to the local businesses by still providing vouchers from their stores. This way businesses don't suffer.
- Erb Bros Transport have been with us since we started providing trucks for our runs for no charge as well as carrying any freight we need across the country for no charge. We now have another 3 local transport companies that have come on board with us and they cart hay and stockfeed on our drought runs for just the cost of the fuel. These drivers donate their trucks and time so we are very lucky.



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- Assisting Rural communities with projects that helps the whole community is another way we assist.
  - We provided Ilfracombe with IBC pods for each house when the town was about to run out of water.
  - Winton started a motorcross club and had to build a new track – Drought Angels donated \$5000 to assist with this.
  - We provided the Longreach Show Society with Hay for their sheep pavillion and \$2000 towards free entry to the show.
  - Supported Ilfracombe and Yaraka with christmas presents for each child at their community christmas events last year.
  - Gave and delivered gifts and food to the CWA Meandarra for their Mothers Day Pampering event to support the cause Tie Up the Black Dog.
- We believe that by helping the greater community with a project provides a mental boost to many and not just a few. These communities have been crippled by this drought so it is important to help keep their morale boosted as a whole.
- We have just recently donated \$10,000 to a group in Tasmania who are assisting farmers affected with loss of stock and Hay supplies from floods. These funds have gone towards hay stocks, stockfeed and fencing materials that were lost in the floods.
- Started by a Massage volunteer, we supported to fundraise \$10,000 for a new wood stove/heater for a farmer in SW Winton. We found out he had had no form of heating in his home for 3 years as his old wood heater rusted out. He also told us that next time he reaches for the rope he will reach for the phone instead.
- We have 10 permanent volunteers who work with us on our Run Days and fundraising events. Our Truck drivers and partners also assist with work loads on Angel days as it is such a large day. All of our volunteers travel to these events at their own expense. Drought Angels covers their food for the weekend and if camping is not available we organise accomodation.
- It is an expectation of Drought Angels that all staff and volunteers maintain a high level of confidentiality and privacy to protect our farmers dignity and identity. Many of these people are ashamed and embarrassed to ask and accept help. Our goal on the day is to not only give a helping hand but to offer warm smiles and mateship. So they cant go home knowing they are not alone and arent forgotten.
- Our runs especially the last one to SW Winton at times takes a toll on our team. The stories we hear and the gratitude we receive for something so little is heartbreaking. However it drives all of us to bring Hope into every run. We are very lucky with the volunteers we have. They are always prepared to help and offer assistance whenever it is needed. They all like to joke that their bags are permently packed awaiting the phone call to head off.

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