Catholic Education Rockhampton launches appeal for schools affected by cyclone.

The Catholic Education Office in Rockhampton has launched a Catholic Schools Cyclone Appeal as recovery efforts continue in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Marcia which crossed the coast just north of Yeppoon on Friday (20 February) leaving a trail of destruction in Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Gracemere and surrounding districts.

Catholic schools and colleges affected by the event included Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and St Benedict’s Catholic Primary School in Yeppoon; Emmaus College, St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School, St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School (Park Avenue), and St Mary’s Catholic Primary School in North Rockhampton; The Cathedral College, St Peter’s Catholic Primary School and St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School (Wandal) in Rockhampton and St Paul’s Catholic Primary School in Gracemere. A number of Catholic schools and their communities as far south as Biloela and Monto were also impacted by Cyclone Marcia.

Diocesan Director of Catholic Education, Leesa Jeffcoat said that she was very grateful to emergency services, military personnel, various local Councils and community organisations, school staff and students for the initial recovery phase.

“While the recovery efforts are under way, there are many staff and families of our Catholic schools who face extreme hardship and financial pressure as a result of the cyclone,” Miss Jeffcoat said. “Countless homes were unroofed and some suffered severe damage during the cyclone. The emotional impacts of the natural disaster are also being experienced by many in our Catholic schools.”

The Catholic Primary School Cyclone Appeal will support members of the Catholic school communities impacted by Cyclone Marcia and its associated flooding.

Donations can be made to Westpac account BSB: 034-210 Account No. 240235 - clearly marking the deposit “Catholic Schools Cyclone Appeal”. Details can be emailed to the Catholic Education Office: DCEO_Finance@rok.catholic.edu.au

The Catholic Education Office would appreciate information on the donations so it can convey its appreciation for your generosity. All funds will go directly to members of the school and its communities that were most impacted. “We thank you most sincerely in anticipation of your generous response,” Miss Jeffcoat said.