

hipages launches Community Assistance category to help tradies volunteer with Cyclone Debbie rebuild

Sydney, 6 April 2017. In response to the increasing demand for repairs in the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie, [hipages](#), Australia's number one place to hire a trusted tradie, has today launched a new *Community Assistance* category within the platform, inviting tradies based in Queensland to volunteer to help affected communities.

Not-for-profits and local councils in affected areas, looking for helping hands to clean and rebuild, can post a job to hipages via the app or website and describe what repairs or clean up needs to be done. The platform then connects the ones in need with qualified, professional tradies ready to volunteer.

hipages are also working to provide volunteer tradies to Volunteering Queensland to help with the cyclone clean up.

David Vitek, hipages CEO and co-founder, says: "With the increase in demand in affected areas, Queensland tradies can expect to get very busy over the coming weeks. But the priority is now to facilitate the access to qualified trade professionals who can help with emergency jobs in the most affected areas,"

"We're inviting tradies listed on hipages and willing to volunteer to list their business under the new *Community Assistance* category."

"Tradies are very strong players in our local communities and are always happy to give a helping hand. We've made it easier for those willing to volunteer to find out how they can help not-for-profits and local councils in the affected areas" says Vitek.

Since Cyclone Debbie hit northern Queensland on Tuesday last week, hipages, has experienced a high increase in storm-related jobs posted on the platform.

Between Friday 24, Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 March and Friday 31 March, Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 April, the online platform has experienced the following increase for home repair requests week-on-week:

- Requests for **window repairs** in QLD jobs have increased by 900% week-on-week
- Requests for **roof repairs** in QLD jobs have increased by 187% week-on-week
- Requests for **tree felling** jobs and **arborists** have increased by 130% week-on-week
- Requests for **fencing** jobs in QLD jobs have doubled week-on-week

Tradies willing to volunteer are invited to visit hipag.es/communityassistance to sign up to the *Category Assistance* list. hipages will then connect them with non-for-profits and local councils looking for volunteers.

For more information and interview requests, please contact Guillaume Papillon, PR & Communications manager at guillemepapillon@hipages.com.au, 0405 074 109.