

SHELTERBOX TENT CITY SET UP IN ITALIAN VILLAGE

A *tent city* to house more than 300 homeless people has been put up in the village of Assergi, close to the epicentre of the earthquake in central Italy. "The village is in the



mountains where the temperature falls below zero at night," said ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) volunteer John Diksa. "We have set up two camps with 20 tents in each so that the community remains close together." ShelterBox is working with the local disaster relief co-ordinator to identify other nearby villages that need emergency shelter. "We are assessing those villages in need of our help, and will be getting aid to them as quickly as we can."

As at today, 250 ShelterBoxes are on the ground in Italy. ShelterBox has a four-person volunteer SRT there, including Nicola Jones who is on her first deployment. Nicola and fellow SRT volunteer Andrew Biss drove through the night into Italy with the first consignment of aid. They were met by John Diksa who was in the disaster area just 6 hours after the earthquake struck. **Australian** SRT members are on standby to travel to Italy if required to assist with the deployments.



SRT volunteer Nicola Jones



ABOUT SHELTERBOX



Each ShelterBox contains up to two 10-person dome tents, thermal blankets, water purification tablets, a multi-fuel stove, tools and other essential equipment. An initiative of Rotarian Tom Henderson, a former Royal Navy search and rescue diver, ShelterBox started in 2000 as a project of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, Cornwall and is supported by Rotary clubs worldwide. ShelterBox, the largest Rotary Club project in the world has raised over \$50 million and sheltered over 800,000 people in 58 countries.

SHELTERBOX AUSTRALIA

ShelterBox Australia, a project of the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills (Melbourne) since 2003 is the authorised Australian affiliate of the ShelterBox Trust. With a small office in Doveton (near Dandenong Vic), ShelterBox Australia now has representatives in each of Rotary International's 23 Districts in Australia. Since 2003, donations to ShelterBox Australia have topped \$6 million.

The cost of a ShelterBox is **\$1,200** – a small price to provide humanitarian aid in the form of shelter, warmth, dignity ... and perhaps survival, for up to ten people. Donations can be sent to ShelterBox Australia, PO Box 790 Endeavour Hills Vic. 3802 or by accessing the donation section at www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au

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ShelterBox Australia is a project of the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills

