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ANZ donates \$250,000 to assist Solomon Islands relief effort

ANZ today announced a donation of SBD\$250,000 to support the disaster relief effort in the Solomon Islands following the earthquake and tsunami on Monday.

ANZ General Manager Solomon Islands, Mr Tait Jenkin, said: "This is an extremely difficult time for our community. Many of our staff have been personally impacted by Monday's events and ANZ is committed to providing support to them and the wider community as people seek to rebuild their lives.

"I must pay tribute to our staff for their commitment, as they have worked hard in very difficult circumstances to restore normal banking services and now they are looking at what other support they can provide the community."

ANZ has partnered with "Save The Children", which will enable ANZ to direct its support where it is needed most.

ANZ's partnership with Save The Children also includes:

- Logistical support, including assistance with transport and computer equipment. Save The Children is currently using ANZ's Gizo branch as its operational headquarters and communications base; and
- Volunteer support from local staff.

Earlier this week ANZ announced an assistance package for customers impacted by the earthquake or subsequent tsunami. The assistance package includes:

- Fee free 'reconstruction' loans for customers whose homes or businesses were damaged
- A moratorium on loan repayments for existing customers and business loans for anyone impacted by Monday's events; and
- Working capital finance for replacement of stock damaged by the tidal wave.

In Australia, ANZ has launched a national appeal for victims of the Solomon Islands tsunami via its national branch network. Customers are encouraged to donate to the appeal at their local branch. All funds raised will go to Save The Children to assist their relief work in the Solomon Islands.

Save the Children will channel funding in the short term towards providing water purification, specialist medical personnel and personal items such as toiletries and medical supplies in the Solomon Islands. In the longer term, Save the Children will address issues of reconstruction and focus on child protection.

ANZ has six branches throughout the Solomon Islands. Two of the branches are located in the affected areas – one in Gizo, the hardest hit location in the Solomon Islands, the other at Noro. ANZ employs more than 80 staff in the Solomon Islands.

For further information:

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