

# Fact Sheet

## Assistance for volunteers affected by 2015/16 bushfires



VFBV is actively supporting volunteers experiencing difficulty after the 2015/16 bushfires. This Fact Sheet contains information about the support currently available from the State Government and other agencies.

### State Government grants

The Government has announced that emergency financial assistance is available for eligible residents in bushfire-affected areas in Macedon Ranges, Mitchell, Murrindindi, Moorabool, City of Ballarat, Indigo, Wodonga, Surf Coast and Colac Otway Shires. The Personal Hardship Assistance Program offers:

- Emergency Relief Assistance, which provides payments of up to \$520 per adult and \$260 per child (up to a maximum of \$1,300 per household) is available to help meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing and personal items.
- Emergency Re-establishment Payments which are available to eligible households, provide up to \$32,500 per household for clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding (a principal place of residence), and replacing some damaged contents.

**Contact:** Local councils or the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line  
1300 799 232

**Website:** Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria - [www.recovery.vic.gov.au](http://www.recovery.vic.gov.au)

### Local Councils and other Government support services

**Lifeline:** 13 11 14

**Beyondblue:** 1300 224 636

**Nurse-On-Call:** 1300 60 60 24

**Rural Finance:** 1800 260 425

**Macedon Ranges Shire:** (03) 5422 0333

**Mitchell Shire:** (03) 5734 6200

**Murrindindi Shire:** (03) 5772 0333

**Moorabool Shire:** 0400 886 453

**City of Ballarat:** 0447 109 877

**Indigo Shire:** 1300 365 003 or (03) 5728 8000

**City of Wodonga:** (02) 6022 9300

**Surf Coast Shire:** 1300 610 600

**Colac Otway Shire:** (03) 5232 9400

#### **CENTRELINK:**

Call 180 22 66 - The Disaster Recovery Payment is available to eligible people affected by an Australian Government declared natural disaster. Centrelink also allows people in affected areas to lodge forms over the phone.

#### **VICTORIA LEGAL AID**

Call 1800 113 432 or go to the Disaster Legal Help website [www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au](http://www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au)

## Victorian Government Business and Agricultural Support

### DELWP

Call 136 186 - DELWP provides animal welfare & agricultural advice, assesses losses, refers landholders to stress management and financial counselling, provides advice on stock, and assists with applications for assistance.

**Website:** [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

### FENCES, CONTROL LINES AND WATER

Call 136 186 - In some circumstances, the Victorian Government assists landholders with some losses after damage by bushfire. This includes fences, fire control lines and essential water.

**Website:** [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

## Non-Government support services

### BlazeAid

BlazeAid is a volunteer organisation working with rural families to rebuild fences.

**Contact:** Kevin Butler on 0418 530 471 or at [blazeaid@gmail.com](mailto:blazeaid@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.blazeaid.com.au](http://www.blazeaid.com.au)

## CFA Assistance

**Peer Support:** Contact your local CFA HQ and ask for the Peer Coordinator

**Chaplaincy:** Call 1800 337 068 or through the CFA Regional office

Chaplains provide pastoral care within their CFA District. Pastoral care includes spiritual, physical, psychological and emotional care and wellbeing support which is not limited to a faith.

**Member Assistance Program:** Psychologists/counsellors, call 1300 795 711

**CFA Website:** [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

## VFBV

If you have any questions with regards to this fact Sheet, please contact the VFBV Office (03) 9886 1141 or your local VFBV Support Officer.