

Fact Sheet

Assistance for volunteers affected by 2013/4 bushfires



VFBV is actively supporting volunteers experiencing difficulty after the 2013/14 bushfires. In response to enquiries about assistance for volunteers affected by these fires, we have compiled information about the support currently available from the State Government and other agencies.

State Government grants

The Government announced on 10 February that emergency financial assistance is available for eligible residents in bushfire-affected areas in outer Melbourne, Central, Northern and North-East Victoria, and Gippsland. The Personal Hardship Assistance Program offers:

- Emergency relief assistance - up to \$500 per adult and \$250 per child to a maximum of \$1,250 per household for emergency accommodation, food, clothing, or personal items, and personal and financial counselling; and
- Emergency re-establishment assistance - up to \$31,050 per household for clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding and replacing some contents. It is also available to eligible Victorians in extreme hardship whose homes have become uninhabitable.

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

Website: Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria - 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

Southern Grampians Council: (03) 5573 0444

Northern Grampians Council: (03) 5358 8700

Latrobe Council: 1300 367 700

East Gippsland: 1300 555 886

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

Victorian Government Business and Agricultural Support

DEPI

Call 136 186 - DEPI 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.depi.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.depi.vic.gov.au

LOW INTEREST LOANS

The State Government has announced concessional loans for small businesses and primary producers affected by the January 2014 Grampians bushfires. Loans of up to \$200,000 are available for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit bodies, in the local government areas of: Ararat, Horsham, Northern Grampians and Southern Grampians.

Website: www.ruralfinance.com.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

Website: <http://blazeaid.com.au>

Victorian Farmers Federation

VFF has an agistment register for farmers affected by the Grampians fires. Contact VFF to offer or seek agistment.

Contact: 1300 88 28 33

Websites: www.vff.org.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

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

CFA Website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

If you have any questions with regards to this fact Sheet, please contact VFBV Executive Officer, Adam Barnett on (03) 9886 1141 or a.barnett@vfbv.com.au