



Memorandum

To:	All SLSNSW clubs and Branches
From:	SLSNSW
Date:	18 November 2019
Pages:	3
Subject:	Disaster Assistance – NSW November Bushfires

In response to the recent and ongoing bushfires in NSW, assistance has been activated.

Below are the details of the current grants and other forms of assistance that individual members may wish to consider if they have been affected by the recent and ongoing disasters.

1. Centrelink Disaster Recovery Allowance and Disaster Recovery Payment
2. Disaster Relief Grants (Administered by the NSW State Government via the Office of Emergency Management)

Eligibility criteria apply to these grants.

This information is current as of 11AM, 18 November 2019. Please check latest information using the links provided below; as the fires are ongoing, emergency activations may change.

CENTRELINK CRISIS AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

Disaster Recovery Allowance

Disaster Recovery Allowance is a short term payment to help you if a declared disaster directly affects your income. You can get it for a maximum of 13 weeks. It's payable from the date you lose income as a direct result of the NSW Bushfires 2019.

To get Disaster Recovery Allowance you must:

- be 16 years or older at the time of the fire and not a dependent child
- be an Australian resident or hold an eligible visa
- get an income by working in an affected Local Government Area or live in an affected Local Government Area
- lose income as a direct result of the NSW Bushfires 2019
- show you will earn less than the relevant income threshold amount in the fortnight following the loss of income.

You have until **14 May 2020** to make a claim for the following Local Government Areas:

- Armidale
- Ballina
- Bellingen
- Blue Mountains
- Byron
- Cessnock
- Clarence Valley
- Coffs Harbour
- Glen Innes Severn
- Gwydir
- Hawkesbury
- Inverell
- Kempsey
- Ku-ring-gai
- Kyogle
- Lake Macquarie
- Lismore
- Lithgow
- Mid Coast
- Nambucca
- Narrabri
- Oberon
- Penrith
- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Richmond Valley
- Singleton
- Sutherland
- Tamworth
- Tenterfield
- Tweed
- Uralla
- Walcha

For more information on eligibility, visit the Department of Human Services website at <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/nsw-bushfires-september-2019-disaster-recovery-allowance> or contact the Australian Government Information Hotline on 180 22 66 for claims for assistance.



Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment provides one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the fires.

The rate of this Payment is \$1,000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child. Claims for this payment can be lodged with the Department of Human Services for a period up to six months.

To get the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment you must:

- be an Australian resident or hold an eligible visa
- be 16 years or older at the time of the fire or getting a social security payment
- have not already received an Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment for NSW Bushfires 2019

You also need to have been adversely affected by the fire. For example: you have been seriously injured; your principle place of residence has been destroyed or must be demolished; your principle place of residence has been declared structurally unsound; you're the principal carer of a dependent child who has experienced any of the above; etc. For the full list please visit <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/nsw-bushfires-september-2019-australian-government-disaster-recovery-payment>.

You have until **14 May 2020** to make a claim for the following Local Government Areas:

- Armidale
- Cessnock
- Clarence Valley
- Glen Innes-Severn
- Hawkesbury
- Kempsey
- Lismore
- Mid Coast
- Nambucca
- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Richmond Valley
- Tenterfield
- Walcha

For more information on eligibility, visit the Department of Human Services website at <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/nsw-bushfires-september-2019-australian-government-disaster-recovery-payment> or contact the Australian Government Information Hotline on 180 22 66 for claims for assistance.

CENTRELINK CRISIS AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

Persons not eligible for Disaster Recovery Allowance and/or Disaster Recovery Payment, but affected by extreme circumstances may be eligible for support payments from Centrelink. For more information, please visit <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/crisis-and-special-help>.

DISASTER RELIEF GRANTS

You might be eligible for a Disaster Relief Grant if your home or essential contents have been damaged by a natural disaster. To find out more information and/or apply visit <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/factsheets/Factsheet%20Disaster%20relief%20Grant.pdf> or call Disaster Welfare Services: 1800 018 444 (as at 18/11/19, this service can be called 7 days a week between 8.30am-4.30pm)

OTHER ASSISTANCE

Those affected by extreme circumstances may be eligible for the following:

- **Housing assistance from NSW Department of Communities and Justice:** social housing providers can provide support and assistance to people who are affected as a direct result of natural disasters. This assistance may include temporary accommodation and emergency temporary accommodation. Call
 - Link2Home - 1800 152 152 - for temporary accommodation. This information and referral service is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - DCJ Housing Contact Centre - 1800 422 322. This contact centre is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



- **Assistance from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO):** the ATO can assist persons affected by natural disasters through helping reconstruct records and/or assist with taxation lodgments. For more information visit <https://www.ato.gov.au/tax-professionals/your-practice/tax-and-bas-agents/natural-disasters>
- **Replacement of personal documents:** Service NSW can help replace many of your personal documents free of charge if they were damaged or destroyed. This includes birth certificates, marriage certificates, licences and number plates. For assistance please visit your nearest NSW Service centre, or call 13 77 88.
- **Australian Red Cross Register Find Reunite** - this service registers, finds and reunites family, friends and loved ones after an emergency. <https://register.redcross.org.au/>

Further information is also available at <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/for-the-community/disaster-assistance/disaster-assistance-for-individuals.aspx>

Kind regards

Surf Life Saving New South Wales