

Relief

You may be able to get financial assistance but you may need to apply by certain deadlines. Check each payment for more details.

Personal/Health

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Compassion and Bereavement Payment

Support to those families that have lost loved ones in the bushfires. Provides help to meet any immediate needs, including funeral and travel related costs. Apply by 31 December 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/compassion-and-bereavement-payment

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Severe Injury Payment

For people who have been hospitalised and required surgery or further hospital treatment. Apply by 31 December 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/severe-injury-payment

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Winter Needs Payment

You can get this payment if your home was damaged or destroyed in the bushfires. If you got a Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Rebuilding and Recovery grant and Household Repairs grant, you will automatically get this payment. Payments will also be made to people who got the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements through Rural Finance Victoria. Apply by 31 December 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/winter-needs-payment

Centrelink – Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment

For people who have been adversely affected as a direct result of the bushfires. Apply by 11 August 2009.

www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/emergency/vic_claiming.htm

Centrelink – Special payment to assist with Funeral/Memorial related costs

For funeral/memorial and any related costs. Apply by 28 February 2010.

www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/emergency/vic_claiming.htm

Property

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Damaged Homes Payment

For assistance with repair of bushfire damage to homes, outbuildings or other structures to your principal place of residence. Apply by 31 December 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/damaged-homes-payment

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Destroyed Homes Payment

Assists the owner/occupier whose residence has been destroyed as a result of the bushfires. The residence must have been the principal place of residence at the time of the bushfires. Apply by 31 December 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/destroyed-homes-payment

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Household Repairs Payment

Short-term help for minor repairs to property, for example, meeting costs associated with repairing fire, water or smoke damage, or other repairs. Apply by 30 June 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/household-repairs-payment

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Initial Home Dislocation Payment

For people who have lost their principal place of residence or are otherwise unable to return to their home. Apply by 31 December 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/initial-home-dislocation-payment

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Rural Properties Recovery Payment

For individual rural landowners in the bushfire affected areas who have suffered hardship and who have an increased need due to the damage or destruction of rural and farming property infrastructure. Apply by 31 December 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/rural-properties-recovery-payment

Rural Finance – Rural Properties Recovery Assistance

Payment to assist individual rural landowners in the bushfire affected areas who have suffered hardship and who have an increased need due to the damage or destruction of rural and farming property infrastructure. Applications must be made within 6 months of the impact of the fire. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.ruralfinance.com.au

(Click on 'Government schemes > Bushfire assistance 2009 > Special Circumstances Bushfire Relief Grant')

Fencing

Victorian Farmers Federation

The Victorian Farmers Federation has a register of volunteers helping with fencing activities and donations of fencing materials. Call 1300 882 833 for more information.

Renting

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Tenant Contents Payment

Assistance to tenants whose primary place of residence was destroyed as a result of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires. Apply by 31 December 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/tenant-contents-payment

Also see 'Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Initial Home Dislocation Payment' and 'Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund - Household Repairs Payment' in the previous 'Property' section.

Employment and small business

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Exceptional Hardship Support Payment

Financial support to individuals and small business facing immediate hardship, distress or misfortune as a result of their contribution to the bushfire effort. Apply by 30 June 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/exceptional-hardship-payment

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Tools of Trade Payment

To assist people who have lost equipment vital to their trade and employment (including safety equipment) and are an employee working for a registered business. Apply by 30 June 2009. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/tools-of-trade-payment

Centrelink – Income Recovery Subsidy and Newstart Allowance

Immediate financial assistance is available to employees, small business owners and farmers who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires. Apply by 11 August 2009.

www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/emergency/vic_claiming.htm

Rural Finance – Primary Producers/Small business/ Not-for-profit organisations, Clean-up and restoration and Bushfire Assistance Loan

Assistance in the form of grants and/or concessional loans. Applications must be made within 6 months of the impact of the fire. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.ruralfinance.com.au

(Click on 'Government schemes > Bushfire assistance 2009 > Primary producers', 'Small businesses' or 'Not-for-profit organisations')

Rural Finance – Special Circumstances Bushfire Relief Grant

A one-off grant of \$5,000 is available to small businesses and farmers that have otherwise missed out on a business recovery grant on the basis of the requirement to earn 51 per cent of their income from that business. Applications must be made within 6 months of the impact of the fire. Late applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

www.ruralfinance.com.au

(Click on 'Government schemes > Bushfire assistance 2009 > Special Circumstances Bushfire Relief Grant')

Also see 'Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Rural Properties Recovery Payment' in the previous 'Property' section.

Debt

See 'Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Winter Needs Payment' in the previous 'Personal/Health' section and 'Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – Exceptional Hardship Payment' in the previous 'Small business and employment' section.

Other help

Department of Human Services

The department has a good knowledge of who might be providing other relevant goods, services and information including:

- computer equipment
- furniture and white goods
- loan cars
- tax help
- travel
- accommodation
- and any other help to do with your situation.

Contact the department's Victorian Bushfire Case Management Registration Service on 1800 050 400 or the Victorian Bushfire and Storm Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority

Information on clean-up and rebuilding, and agricultural and animal assistance. Visit www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/

Financial counsellors

Call Consumer Affairs Victoria on 1300 558 181 for a financial counsellor near you.

Local government area websites with information on services and help in your area

Alpine:	http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=120&h=1
Baw Baw:	http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?page_Id=1552
Cardinia:	http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=2257&h=1#BM6848
Casey:	http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/bushfires/?nav=tree
Corangamite:	http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/
East Gippsland:	http://www.egipps.vic.gov.au/
Greater Bendigo:	http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/index.asp
Hepburn:	http://www.hepburnshire.com/
Horsham:	http://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/
Indigo:	http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/residents/health-and-safety/emergencymanagement/bushfire-information
Knox:	http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=1858&h=1
Latrobe:	http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Emergency/BushfireInformation/
Macedon Ranges:	http://www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=1938&h=0
Mansfield:	http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/
Mitchell:	http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/page/page.asp?page_Id=622
Moorabool:	http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/
Moyne:	http://www.moyne.vic.gov.au/index.asp?h=-1
Mornington Peninsula:	http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=803&h=1
Mount Alexander:	http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?page_Id=543

Murrindindi: http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=828&h=1&p=1
Nillumbik: http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/page/page.asp?page_Id=2013
South Gippsland: <http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/index.asp?h=-1>
Southern Grampians: <http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/index.asp>
Wangaratta: <http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/>
Wellington: http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=1609&h=1
Whittlesea: <http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/channel/channel.asp?cid=499&tid=499&sid=&spid=>
Yarra Ranges: http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=3623&h=1&p=1

DISCLAIMER

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