



Fire Recovery Unit



Services and Support for people affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF) was established immediately after the 2009 bushfires by the Victorian Government in partnership with the Federal Government and the Red Cross. In excess of \$400 million was donated (including interest) and has been allocated to a variety of gifts to support individuals and communities affected by the bushfires.

While all VBAF funds are now allocated, a number of funding programs are available through the Foundation for Regional & Rural Renewal (FRRR) and through the locally based Community Foundations. Details are listed below.

Grants for Resilience and Wellness (GR&W)

Bushfire-affected communities can apply to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) for the Grants for Resilience and Wellness program to run a wide variety of localised programs and projects that meet the recovery needs of their residents. Make contact with FRRR to inquire about your community project's eligibility.

Contact:

FRRR

1800 170 020

frrr.org.au

recovery@frrr.org.au

Skills and Capacity Program

Community Group Futures:

Grants to support local community groups to increase their capacity, capability, and viability

Contact:

FRRR

1800 170 020

frrr.org.au

recovery@frrr.org.au

Community Foundations

VBAF has made contributions to several independent, locally run Community Foundations in bushfire-affected communities.

The Foundations manage grant rounds, provide services to the community and undertake community leadership and partnership activities to address a wide variety of needs in their service areas in the longer term.

Contact:

Into our Hands Foundation

(Alpine, Indigo and Wangaratta Shires)

intoourhandsfoundation.com.au/

Kinglake Ranges Foundation

krfoundation.org.au/

Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation

marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au/community-grants/vbaf/



Mitchell Community Resources and Advocacy Group

(MCrag Trust)

<https://mcrag.smartygrants.com.au/>

Strathewen Bushfire Relief Trust

strathewen.com.au/trust/

Planning provisions for temporary accommodation and streamlined planning process

2009 Bushfire – Replacement Buildings were introduced to support the rebuilding of dwellings, dependent persons' units and buildings used for agriculture damaged or destroyed by the 2009 Victorian bushfires. These provisions streamlined the planning process to fast track rebuilding and recovery. While these provisions ceased on 30 September 2017, landowners may still go through the regular planning process.

2009 Bushfire Recovery planning provisions were introduced to support immediate recovery operations including site clean-up, and to enable occupation of temporary accommodation. These provisions expire on 30 September 2018. Landowner living in temporary accommodation will be required to transition to permanent arrangements by this date.

Planning provisions Information:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/bush-fire-protection/rebuilding-and-recovery>

Please note: *New temporary accommodation cannot be constructed without a planning permit from council.*

Contact:

Local Council to discuss planning permit processes.

Mental Health Support and Counselling

There are a range of ways that people can access support for anxiety, depression, trauma related symptoms, relationship issues or difficulties with alcohol and other drugs or gambling.

In most cases, you should begin by visiting your local GP or Community Health Service.

Contact:

Community based and phone based counselling service contact details are available in the Victorian Bushfire Recovery Services Guide: <https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/fire-recovery-unit>