



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.

Contact Details:

dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/

Grants for Resilience & Wellness (GR&W)

Bushfire-affected communities can apply to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) through the Grants for Resilience and Wellness ([GR&W](#)) program for funding 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 Details:

FRRR
1800 170 020
frrr.org.au

Skills and Capacity Program

There are three elements to this VBAF funded program:

Community Group Futures:

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

Stronger Community Foundations:

Supporting the VBAF funded Community Foundations as they establish and mature

Regional Futures:

Fostering the development of social enterprise and economic vitality in fire-affected regions

Contact Details:

FRRR
1800 170 020
frrr.org.au

School and Beyond Program

Through this VBAF funded program, schools, agencies and other community groups working directly with young people aged 12-24 years who were impacted by the 2009 bushfires, can submit an expression of interest to FRRR to become a Community Organisation Partner.

Partners can apply on an as-needs basis for funds to support costs associated with keeping individuals engaged in school or employment pathways or to support programs and activities for groups of young people who may be at risk or have left the system.

Contact Details:

FRRR
1800 170 020
frrr.org.au



Community Foundations

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (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 Details:

Into our Hands Foundation

(Alpine, Indigo and Wangaratta Shires)

intoorhandsfoundation.com/

Kinglake Ranges Foundation

krfoundation.org.au/

Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation

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

MCRAG Trust

(Mitchell Community Resources and Advocacy Group)

mcrag.org.au

Strathewen Bushfire Relief Trust

strathewen.com.au/trust/

Planning Provisions for Temporary Accommodation and Streamlined Planning Process

After the 2009 fires special provisions were introduced to allow for temporary accommodation and to fast track approval of a replacement house on a site affected by the bushfires.

The [provision for the streamlined replacement](#) of a house will now apply until 30 September 2017 and the [provision for occupation of temporary accommodation](#) will now apply until to 30 September 2018.

Planning Provisions Information:

dtpli.vic.gov.au/planning/planning-and-building-for-bushfire-protection/rebuilding-and-recovery

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

Mental Health Support & 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 Details:

Community based and phone based counselling service contact details are available in:

[Victorian Bushfire Recovery Services Guide](#)

Fire Recovery Unit

The Fire Recovery Unit has been a key point of contact for information on services within the State Government for communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

Information and resources relating to the 2009 Victorian bushfires will be retained on the FRU website and the Victorian Bushfire Recovery Services Guide can be accessed at:

<http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/fire-recovery-unit/support-for-people>

The Fire Recovery Unit closes on 31 December 2015

Contact Details:

rdv.vic.gov.au/fire-recovery-unit
