

Financial Assistance

for people impacted by bushfires since July 2019

Information sheet

Information correct at 26 June 2020

Type of assistance	Who is eligible?	How to access it
Bereavement Grant \$50,000 (increased from \$20,000)	Identified senior next-of-kin of people who have died in the fires and are experiencing financial hardship as a result.	We are in direct contact with senior next-of-kin. For more information, call 1800 733 276.
Emergency Grant \$20,000 is available per household	People whose primary place of residence has been destroyed or rendered permanently uninhabitable (i.e. has been or must be demolished) by bushfires since July 2019 and are experiencing financial hardship as a result.	Apply at redcross.org.au/grants (you will need proof of ID, proof of address and bank details*)
Primary Residence Repair Grant Up to \$10,000 per household (increased from \$5,000)	Home owners whose primary place of residence has not been destroyed but needs structural repairs (i.e. walls, ceilings, windows) or repairs to private water, septic or power infrastructure to make it safe to return home and who are experiencing financial hardship.	Apply at redcross.org.au/grants (you will need proof of ID, proof of address and bank details*) If you are eligible for a top-up of this grant , we will contact you by SMS and email, or you can call us at 1800 733 276. Eligibility for this grant has been extended from 12 March to include repairs to critical private water or power infrastructure (i.e. water tanks, generators) or septic systems attached to the primary place of residence.
Injury Grant Up to \$15,000 per person (increased from \$7,500)	People who were hospitalised for two or more days as the direct result of physical injuries or mental health issues caused by the fires and are experiencing financial hardship as a result. Hospital admission needs to have occurred within two weeks of a bushfire affecting your area. This grant has been increased to \$15,000 to assist people whose out-of-pocket medical costs have exceeded or are likely to exceed \$7,500.	Apply at redcross.org.au/grants (you will need proof of ID, bank details, evidence of hospital admission and discharge*) If you are eligible for a further payment through this grant , we will contact you by SMS and email, or you can call us at 1800 733 276.

***Please note:**

Applications for the above grants will remain open until **31 August 2020**. If your documents have been damaged or lost in the fires and cannot be replaced, please phone 1800 733 276.



Type of assistance	Who is eligible?	How to access it
Re-establishment Grant Increased to \$40,000 per household for home owner occupiers \$10,000 per household for people who were renting a home or whose primary place of residence was a caravan or mobile home	People whose primary place of residence has been destroyed or rendered permanently uninhabitable (i.e. has been or must be demolished) by bushfires since July 2019 and who are experiencing financial hardship . This grant helps people to find somewhere safe to live in the medium to long term. It could help with rebuilding, renting, finding interim or retirement housing, or purchasing a caravan or mobile home.	Apply at redcross.org.au/grants (New applicants will need proof of ID, bank details, address, evidence of being the owner occupier) If you've already received a Red Cross grant , we won't ask you to provide documentation you've already given us. If you are eligible for a top-up of this grant , we will contact you by SMS and email, or you can call us at 1800 733 276.

Please note: Applications for this grant will remain open until **31 August 2020**.

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How can I apply for a grant?

We're making the process as simple as possible, with a few basic checks which we have to make. Visit redcross.org.au/grants to apply. You will need to provide evidence of your identity (such as a driver licence), proof of ownership or residence (like a rates notice or utility bill), evidence of hospital admission and discharge (for the Injury Grant) and details for a financial transfer (a recent bank statement showing BSB and account details).

We know that some people have lost documents in the fires. Use what you do have to complete your application. We'll follow up with you to verify details. Our teams know and understand that it's not always easy to provide all of your documents. They will help you to work through the process. **Call 1800 733 276** for help.

How long will it take to receive my grant?

Once your information is verified and the application approved, the grant will be paid within days, where possible.

Who's eligible for the re-establishment grant?

People whose primary place of residence was destroyed or rendered permanently uninhabitable by a bushfire from July 2019. Your 'primary place of residence' could be a house, a non-permanent structure such as a mobile home or a caravan, you could have owned it or rented it, as long as it was where you lived. You also need to be seeking to re-establish housing or living arrangements, have faced financial hardship as a result of the bushfires and continue to face financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

My home has a damaged water tank or generator. Can you help?

Yes, you can apply for the Primary Residence Repair Grant. From 12 March, it was extended to include loss, damage or destruction of critical private water infrastructure (like water tanks and pumps), power infrastructure (like generators and fuse boxes) and septic systems. The amount available has also increased to \$10,000 for those still experiencing financial hardship. If you have applied before the eligibility conditions were extended, please let us know at grants@redcross.org.au or call 1800 733 726.

I've lost a holiday house/investment property in the bushfires. Can I get a grant?

The grants are for people whose primary place of residence has been destroyed or rendered permanently uninhabitable (whether owned or rented) or structurally damaged (if owned). This is because we are trying to respond to the most urgent cases first. Other assistance may be available from government: visit www.bushfirerecovery.gov.au to see what is available in your state.