



This supplementary sheet is for people affected by the 2019-20 Victorian Bushfires.

You should read this sheet with the Disaster Recovery Payment and Allowance guide.

Disaster Recovery Payment

Am I eligible?

For the 2019-20 Victorian Bushfires you may be eligible for Disaster Recovery Payment if you lived in one of the following Local Government Areas:

- Alpine
- East Gippsland
- Towong
- Wodonga

Centrelink may consider you 'adversely affected' if at least one of the following applies to you:

- You were seriously injured as a direct result of the bushfires
- An immediate family member was killed in the bushfires
- Your home was destroyed or suffered major damage in the bushfires
- A major asset was destroyed or suffered major damage in the bushfires
- Any of the above applies to a child in your care

Can I still claim Disaster Recovery Payment?

Claims for Disaster Recovery Payment for the 2019-20 Victorian Bushfires were due by August 2020. This means you are out of time to make a normal claim for Disaster Recovery Payment now.

You can still apply if you think that there are special circumstances that mean you should have more time to apply.

You can apply by calling the Centrelink Disaster Assist line on 180 22 66. You may wish to seek advice about your circumstances first.

Disaster Recovery Allowance

Am I eligible?

For the 2019-20 Victorian Bushfires you may be eligible for Disaster Recovery Allowance if you lived in one of the following Local Government Areas:

- Alpine
- Ararat
- Ballarat
- East Gippsland
- Falls Creek
- Glenelg
- Golden Plains
- Greater Bendigo
- Indigo
- Mansfield
- Mount Buller
- Mount Hotham
- Mount Stirling
- Moyne
- Northern Grampians
- Pyrenees
- Southern Grampians
- Strathbogie
- Towong
- Wangaratta
- Wellington
- Wodonga

No specific industries were identified by the Minister for the 2019-20 Victorian Bushfires. This means the kind of work you do does not affect your eligibility for Disaster Recovery Allowance for this disaster. If your loss of income is a direct result of the bushfires you may be eligible.

Can I still claim Disaster Recovery Payment?

Claims for Disaster Recovery Allowance for the 2019-20 Victorian Bushfires were due by August 2020. This means you are out of time to make a normal claim for Disaster Recovery Allowance now. You can still apply if you think that there are special circumstances that mean you should have more time to apply.

You can apply by calling the Centrelink Disaster Assist line on 180 22 66. You may wish to seek advice about your circumstances first.

Contact Social Security Rights Victoria

Advice Line: 03 9481 0355
Monday to Thursday 9:30 am –12:30 pm
ssrv.org.au

More information

www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au
www.disasterassist.gov.au

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This guide is not legal advice and you may wish to seek advice about your individual circumstances. Social Security Rights Victoria is an independent, state-wide community legal centre that specialises in social security and related law, policy and procedure. We provide free legal advice and information about the social security system.

Eligibility requirements for payments change from time to time. You should check the Services Australia website or seek advice from Social Security Rights Victoria or another legal service about your circumstances.