



Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) - Factsheet

How much money will claimants receive?

- \$1000 per eligible adult
- \$400 per eligible child

Who is eligible to receive the payment?

People may be eligible for this payment if they:

- are an Australian resident or hold an eligible visa
 - are 16 years or older or getting a social security payment
 - have been adversely affected by the bushfires.
- ❖ Claims cannot be lodged on behalf of people who have died or their estate.
- ❖ If someone is a member of a couple, they and their partner can both receive this payment. They and their partner will need to complete separate claim forms.

How will payments be made?

Payments will be made to a bank, building society or credit union account held in the customer's name. A joint account is acceptable. If they don't have an account they can contact the department on **180 22 66** for alternative arrangements.

What will customers need to provide?

Customers may need to provide document/s showing Proof of Birth or arrival in Australia, or any other approved documents that add up to the value of 50 points. For example, driver's licence (40 points) and bank card (40 points). They may also need to provide evidence to show they are eligible for this payment. For example, evidence of hospital admission or damage to a principal place of residence.

If documents cannot be provided, customers are encouraged to submit a claim, they have 28 days to produce documents.

Definition of key terms:

Adversely affected

You have been adversely affected if you have experienced one or more of the following as a direct result of the major disaster:

- you have been seriously injured
- you are an immediate family member of an Australian resident or citizen who died
- your principal place of residence has been destroyed or sustained **major damage**
- you are the principal carer of a dependent child who has experienced any of the above.

Australian resident

A person who resides in Australia and is either:

- an Australian citizen
- a permanent residence visa holder
- a protected Special Category visa holder.

Holder of an eligible visa

Holder of a visa that would meet qualification for Special Benefit. More information is available from humanservices.gov.au/specialbenefit

Definition of a partner

Under social security and family assistance law, you are considered partnered and therefore a member of a couple if you and the person you have a relationship with are either:

- married
- in a registered relationship
- in a de facto relationship.

You are not considered a member of a couple if you and the person are living separately and apart on a permanent or indefinite basis. However, two people not physically living together can still be considered a member of a couple.

You may be considered to be in a de facto relationship if you are not married but have a relationship similar to a married couple.

Destroyed

Where a principal place of residence has been damaged to the extent that it must be demolished.

Immediate family member

An 'immediate family member' means an individual:

- who is the partner of the person
- who is the natural child, adoptive child or stepchild of the person
- who is the natural parent, adoptive parent or step parent of the person
- who is the legal guardian of the person, or
- who is the brother, sister, stepbrother or stepsister of the person.

Major damage

Major damage means:

- the interior of the residence has sustained major damage as a result of the disaster, or
- the residence has been breached, exposing the interior of the residence to the elements, or
- the residence has been declared structurally unsound, or
- the residence has sustained major damage from smoke or ash that requires repair work or the replacement of soft furnishings, or
- the interior of the residence has experienced sewerage contamination.

Major disaster

Where the Australian Government has determined that a disaster, whether naturally occurring or otherwise, is a major disaster for the purposes of the *Social Security Act 1991*.

Principal carer of a dependent child

You are a principal carer of a child if, on any day of the major disaster, the child is your dependent and has not turned 16 years of age. A principal carer must have legal responsibility for the day-to-day care, welfare and development of the child, either alone or jointly with another person, and the child must be in your care.

Principal place of residence

The person regularly lives at the place with a degree of settled purpose; and the person has a lawful right to reside at the place.

Seriously injured

You are seriously injured if, as a direct result of a major disaster, you have sustained an injury, and:

- were admitted to a hospital, or
- except for the circumstances of the disaster, you would have been admitted to hospital.