



## Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) - Factsheet

DRA is a short-term income support payment to assist individuals who can demonstrate their income is affected as a direct result of a disaster. DRA is taxable and assists employees, small businesspersons and farmers who experience a loss of income. It is payable for a maximum of thirteen weeks from the date at which a person has, or will have, a loss of income as a direct result of a disaster.

### 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
- receive income from one of the affected areas by working in that area, or they reside in the affected area
- suffered a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires
- did not or will not receive another social security entitlement for the period they are claiming DRA
- did not or will not receive a prescribed payment for the period they are claiming DRA.

If they're a member of a couple, they can both receive this payment. They will both 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 are encouraged to 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:

#### 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](https://humanservices.gov.au/specialbenefit)

## Social Security Entitlement

A social security entitlement is:

- an age pension
- a disability support pension
- a wife pension
- a carer payment
- a parenting payment
- a widow B pension
- a widow allowance
- a youth allowance
- an austudy payment
- a job search allowance
- a newstart allowance
- a mature age allowance
- a mature age partner allowance.

## Prescribed Payment

A prescribed payment is:

- an instalment of:
  - parental leave pay
  - dad and partner pay.
- a payment by way of:
  - service pension
  - income support supplement
  - bereavement allowance
  - special benefit
  - ABSTUDY living allowance
  - partner allowance
  - sickness allowance
  - farm household allowance.

## Assessment of direct result of a disaster

For the purposes of DRA, a direct result requires a clear link to be identified between the disaster (the cause) and the customer's loss of income (the effect). Examples of direct result of a disaster may include:

- physical damage to a work place such as damage to commercial buildings, loss of stock due to a power outage, damage to equipment or damage to a residential building where a home based business is affected, or
- physical destruction of, or damage to, a principal place of residence to the extent that a customer is required to find alternative accommodation, or
- physical impediments, such as road closures, that prevent a person from getting to their workplace.

## 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*.