

# Financial Assistance

## for people impacted by bushfires (Jul 19-Mar20)

### Information sheet

Information correct at 18 May 2020

Type of assistance	Who is eligible?	How to access it
<b>Bereavement Grant</b> \$20,000	Identified senior next-of-kin of people who have died in the fires	We are in direct contact with senior next-of-kin. For more information, call 1800 733 276.
<b>Emergency Grant</b> Up to \$20,000 is available per household	People whose <b>primary place of residence</b> has been <b>destroyed or rendered permanently uninhabitable</b> (i.e. has been or must be demolished) by bushfires since July 2019.	Apply at <a href="https://redcross.org.au/grants">redcross.org.au/grants</a> (you will need proof of ID, address and bank details) If your documents have been damaged or lost in the fires and cannot be replaced, please phone 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276).
<b>Primary Residence Repair Grant</b> \$5,000 per household	Home owners whose primary place of residence has not been destroyed but needs <b>structural repairs</b> (i.e. walls, ceilings, windows) or <b>repairs to private water, septic or power infrastructure</b> to make it safe to return home.	Apply at <a href="https://redcross.org.au/grants">redcross.org.au/grants</a> (you will need proof of ID, address and bank details) If your documents have been damaged or lost in the fires and cannot be replaced, please phone 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276).  <b>Eligibility for this grant has been extended to include repairs to critical private water or power infrastructure (i.e. water tanks, generators) or septic systems.</b>
<b>Injury Grant</b> \$7,500 per person	People who were <b>hospitalised for two or more days</b> 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 the bushfire starting.	Apply at <a href="https://redcross.org.au/grants">redcross.org.au/grants</a> (you will need proof of ID, bank details, evidence of hospital admission and discharge) If your documents have been damaged or lost in the fires and cannot be replaced, please phone 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276).

**Please note:** Applications for the above grants will remain open until **30 June 2020**.



Type of assistance	Who is eligible?	How to access it
<b>Re-establishment Grant</b> \$30,000 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 (Formerly known as the Rebuild Grant)	People whose <b>primary place of residence</b> has been <b>destroyed or rendered permanently uninhabitable</b> (i.e. has been or must be demolished) by bushfires since July 2019.  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 <a href="https://redcross.org.au/grants">redcross.org.au/grants</a> (New applicants will need proof of ID, bank details, address, evidence of being the owner occupier)  <b>If you've already received a Red Cross grant</b> , we won't ask you to provide information that you've already given us. When completing the application form you only need to let us know if you have changed your bank account since you last received a Red Cross grant).  <b>If you have already received the Rebuild Grant (\$20k)</b> , we will contact you to let you know that an extra \$10k is available to you.

**Please note:** Applications for this grant will remain open until **30 June 2020**.

## 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](https://redcross.org.au/grants) to apply. You will need to provide evidence of your identity (such as a driver licence), proof of residence (like a 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.

You can also call **1800 733 276** during business hours 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, wherever 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. It has been 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. If you have applied before the eligibility conditions were extended, please let us know at [grants@redcross.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.bushfirerecovery.gov.au) to see what is available in your state.