

Bushfire Community Recovery Grants 2020/2021

After a bushfire, many people deal with memories and ongoing feelings by drawing on their own strengths, as well as the support of others, and will gradually rebuild their lives and achieve a sense of wellbeing again.

To support wellbeing, local community groups and community organisations are invited to apply for grant funding of up to \$10,000 to deliver grassroots activities to 2019-20 bushfire affected areas that will strengthen social connectedness and support mental health and healing.

The funding grants provide the opportunity for communities to come together to foster resilience, healing and capacity building.

While the current COVID-19 pandemic has created restrictions on social gatherings and an element of uncertainty about the future, groups are encouraged to think innovatively about how they can engage with their community following the pandemic.

APPLICATIONS OPEN:
5pm
Wednesday 1 April
2020

APPLICATIONS CLOSE:
5pm
Thursday 30 April
2020

TOTAL FUNDING:
Each applicant can
apply for a grant
amount of up to
\$10,000

About Murray PHN

Murray PHN is a not-for-profit organisation that forms part of the national network of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia. PHNs are predominately funded by the Australian Government to work closely with organisations, mainly general practices, in the primary health care system. Murray PHN identifies opportunities to improve health outcomes in areas that have the greatest impact on our communities, such as mental health and chronic disease.

Eligibility

Each applicant can apply for a grant amount of up to \$10,000. All applications must describe how this grant is needed within the community.

Community grant applicants must be located within a bushfire affected area in the Murray PHN region or be of direct benefit to communities living within these areas.

Preference will be given to communities who were the most impacted by the bushfires of 2019-2020 and community groups/organisations residing in those areas.

Community groups can represent particular areas, for example: multi-cultural, age or gender-specific, or target particular networks, for example: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, migrant or refugee, playgroups, churches, sports, local community associations, and school affiliated groups.

The funding is to be used for grassroots community-focused activities and wellbeing initiatives, some examples of which include:

- Bringing the community together to support social skills, connectedness and build networks and friendships
- Projects that are recovery-focused and build on resilience, healing and capacity building
- Engaging with affected people in remote or isolated areas.

The funding cannot be used for activities or services, that:

- extend or expand services that are currently funded by Murray PHN
- duplicate existing activities and services
- are more appropriately funded under other grant programs or funding sources
- are for communities that were not impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires
- are for communities outside of the Murray PHN region
- are difficult to link to bushfire recovery
- would require ongoing funding
- subsidise commercial activities
- involve purchasing of assets.



Selection criteria

Applications need to meet the following criteria:

- A. The applicant is based in a 2019-20 bushfire affected area, or the activities proposed will directly benefit the community within a bushfire affected area
- B. The proposal activities aim to:
 - reduce mental health issues and support suicide prevention, and/or
 - identify post-traumatic stress disorder, and/or
 - build resilience within the community
 - provide social connectedness for communities
- C. The proposal demonstrates a clear outline of the proposed activities
- D. The proposal describes the need within the community.

Terms and conditions

- A. The applicant group/organisation must have an ABN or partner with an organisation that has an ABN that can manage the grant on its behalf.
- B. Applicants must complete all project activities in the year of application.
- C. Murray PHN may in its discretion choose to accept, or not accept all or part of any submission.
- D. Applicants must meet their own costs associated with preparing and presenting their proposal.
- E. Murray PHN may require additional information in writing and/or through interview, which should be provided at no cost.
- F. All information received will be kept in accordance with the Privacy Act laws.
- G. Applicants must declare to Murray PHN any matter or issue which is or may be perceived to lead to a conflict of interest.
- H. If the proposed activities include public events, evidence of appropriate public liability insurance and workers compensation must be provided, as is required by law.

Evaluation and assessment

Murray PHN recognises the widespread impact of the bushfires is not confined to those directly impacted by fires. Priority will however be given to applications benefiting communities within the North East region that were most impacted by the 2019-20 fires:

- Towong Shire
- Alpine regions
- Indigo, Wangaratta, Albury/Wodonga, Mansfield, Benalla.

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of Murray PHN employees, based on merit and benefit to the community.

Application process

To apply:

- Complete the Funding Application form available for download at murrayphn.org.au/bushfiregrants
- Email the completed Funding Application form to apply@murrayphn.org.au

The first round of applications will open on 1 April 2020 and close on 30 April 2020. All applications will be acknowledged on receipt and notified as to whether their application has been successful or unsuccessful.

Successful applicants will need to enter into a grant agreement with Murray PHN. Funding will be paid directly into the nominated bank account provided following the return of the signed grant agreement documents.

At the end of the delivered activity, successful applicants will be required to complete a short evaluation report that describes the outcomes achieved.

Timeframes

Bushfire funding grant applications open	5pm, 1 April 2020
Bushfire funding grant application closes	5pm, 30 April 2020
Successful and unsuccessful applicants are informed	No later than 8 May 2020
Funding grants are distributed	May 2020 – June 2020
Proposed activities to take place	May 2020 and September 2020
Final evaluation	From September 2020

For more information

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Murray PHN commissioning

Our approach is to drive improvements in efficiency and effectiveness of primary health care services through commissioning that is based on health priorities and funding decisions; guided by regional planning and regional input; improving population health outcomes, service coordination, system integration and value for money.

Commissioning at Murray PHN includes strategic procurement, based on strategic planning, service system design and implementation of the range of services required. We also draw on our successful commissioning to date of primary health care services for specific chronic illnesses and conditions experienced in communities in the Murray PHN region.

Our commissioning principles:

- Develop models of care that are informed by evidence, responsive to need and community context and demonstrate progress towards improved health outcomes
- Ensure that consumers, carers and their families, communities and service providers are enabled to participate in service design and delivery of models of care
- Recognise that primary health care exists within a broader service system
- Build enduring partnerships that will invest and share accountability with us for innovation, quality and systems improvement
- Strengthen the primary health care service system to gain greater service coordination and system integration
- Strengthen capacity and capability of service providers to meet new and emerging market demands
- Embed effective evaluation to improve models of care and build our commissioning knowledge and skills
- Ensure decisions about resource mobilisation and distribution will be based on population health evidence, market analysis, value for money and performance
- Demonstrate commitment to high standards and principles of good governance
- Operate in accordance with high standards of probity and transparency in our procurement strategy.

See murrayphn.org.au for:

- Murray PHN Strategic Plan 2018-2021 (murrayphn.org.au/strategicplan)
- Murray PHN Commissioning Framework (murrayphn.org.au/commissioningframework)

This grant funding has been made available by the Australian Government through the Supporting the Mental Health of Australians Affected by Bushfires initiative.

Murray PHN's values:



Leadership

We commit to lead effective change in primary health care



Collaboration

We build enduring relationships that lead to better health



Knowledge

We use knowledge to improve health and shape our health care system



Innovation

We foster new and better ways to improve health outcomes



Accountability

We are accountable to our communities, partners, funders and each other

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