

MEDIA RELEASE

Community grants open for bushfire affected communities

3 April 2020

Local community groups and organisations are invited to apply for grant funding of up to \$10,000 to deliver grassroots activities to 2019-20 bushfire affected areas.

The Bushfire Community Recovery Grants, available through Murray PHN (Primary Health Network), are for activities that will strengthen social connectedness and support mental health and healing.

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

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

Murray PHN recognises the widespread impact of the bushfires is not confined to those directly impacted by fires. Priority will be given to applications benefiting communities within the North East region that were most impacted by the 2019-20 fires, including Towong Shire, Alpine regions, Indigo, Wangaratta, Albury/Wodonga, Mansfield and Benalla.

Matt Jones, Murray PHN CEO, said that while the current COVID-19 pandemic had created restrictions on social gatherings and an element of uncertainty about the future, groups are encouraged to think innovatively about how they could engage with their communities during and after the pandemic.

“These grants provide a practical opportunity for community groups to brainstorm ideas and apply for funding to deliver activities that support their community members. A local focus on recovery, resilience and connectedness will continue to be vital to address the impacts of bushfires and COVID-19.”

Applications are now open and close at 5pm, Thursday 30 April 2020. For more information, visit www.murrayphn.org.au/bushfiregrants

Contact details

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