



Community Wellbeing Grants FAQs

Community Wellbeing Grants (PHASE 1)

Supporting communities affected by the 2019/20 'Black Summer' Bushfires



Q: What are the applicant deadlines?

A: There are no deadlines to apply for the Community Wellbeing Grants. Grants will be assessed as they are received and available until the funding has been exhausted.

Q: How do I apply for a grant?

A: Please visit www.nbmphn.com.au/CommunityGrants to find the application guidelines and submission form. If you know someone who would like to apply but cannot access the online information they can contact Wentworth Healthcare on **4708 8100**.

Q: Who is eligible for phase 1 of the Community Wellbeing Grants?

A: Individuals (not organisations or businesses) directly impacted by the 2019/20 bushfires within the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow areas can apply for up to \$1,000 to conduct an activity in their area that meets the Grant Objectives.

Directly impacted areas include (but may not be limited to): Bell, Berrambing, Bilpin, Blackheath, Clarence, Colo, Colo Heights, Dargan, Kurrajong, Kurrajong Heights, Megalong Valley, Mt Irvine, Mt Tomah, Mt Wilson, Mt Victoria, Olinda, Running Stream, St Albans, Woodford and Wolgan Valley.

Q: Can a grant application be made up of residents of a street or suburb?

A: The applicant can be an individual who will coordinate activities on behalf of the residents of a street or suburb or community group (such as the RFS). The individual will be responsible for providing information about their grant activities to the PHN, liaising with the auspicing organisation about their activities and the expenditure of funds.

Q: I belong to a community organisation who would like to organise an activity for a local community. Can I apply?

A: If your community organisation is in an area that has been directly impacted (see list of areas above), an individual from your organisation can apply for funding to organise an activity for members or volunteers.

If your organisation is not in an area directly impacted, your organisation would need to be invited to partner with an individual in one of their activities.

Q: I own a business that would like provide a wellbeing service (art/yoga/exercise/mindfulness etc.) to the local community. Can I apply?

A: If you are within a bushfire impacted area you could apply for a grant to run a community connection activity for your community however funds must be used for the purposes of running the activity and not for the business.

If you live outside a bushfire impacted area, you will need to be invited to provide your service as a supplier.

Q: I belong to an organisation outside of the suburbs listed. I would like to provide services for bushfire affected residents located in one of these suburbs, can I still apply?



A: If your organisation is not in an area directly impacted, your organisation would need to be invited to partner with an individual in one of their activities.

Q: Why can't I get the funding directly if I am the applicant?

A: Wentworth Healthcare is unable to pay funds directly to individuals. You will need an organisation to oversee who can provide administrative support, access to concessions and protections such as GST and insurance for example. The auspicing organisation will receive funds on your behalf and is required to provide you with the funds to carry out your activity. You will be required to provide the auspisor with proof of expenses, such as receipts, and a summary of the activity/activities.

Q: As residents of a bushfire affected community we have some activities that will cost more than \$1000, can we apply for more?

A: The first phase of the Community Wellbeing Grants are for up to \$1,000 only. We encourage you to consider activities that fit within this budget. You are welcome to submit another application at the conclusion of your activity/activities however, applications from individuals that have not been awarded grant funding will be prioritised.

Q: Is there a maximum number of grant applications residents of a particular area can put in?

A: No, but we are aiming for an equitable distribution of funds across the three affected local government areas (Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow). This will be taken into account when multiple grant applications from the same area are being assessed.

Q: Is there a maximum number of grant applications a community organisation can auspice?

A: In part, this will be determined by the capacity of the auspicing organisation however we understand that there may be a limited number of community organisations activities that can auspice in some rural and remote areas.

Q: The activities our street wants to do are very informal, just get together for a few BBQs over the summer. Can we apply for this?

A: Yes. The PHN encourages socialisation and gatherings (that comply with [NSW Government COVID-19](#) restrictions) as community connectedness helps recovery and healing.

Q: My street or locality would like to apply for a grant but don't have an idea of what we want to do. Can we still apply?

A: Any type of activity that gets people together is a great starting point. Our Grants Team are happy to help and can be contacted via the details on the [grants page](#). Additionally, our list of activities in the Application Guidelines may help. You can also talk to your neighbours, other members of a community group you belong to or contact your Community Recovery Worker.



Q: Can we buy some equipment for the community to use (or build something)?

A: The Community Wellbeing grants cannot be used for any capital items such as purchasing equipment however our funding could be used for purchasing refreshments for a community gathering or working bee, supplies for an art & craft workshop or a yoga instructor at a mindfulness session or a guest speaker for community education.

Q: How do we find an auspicing organisation?

A: Look for an organisation in your local area or contact your Council. You can also ask outreach organisations including Step by Step, Red Cross and Salvation Army to assist you in finding a suitable organisation.

Q: The area I live in is not listed on the application form but we believe we are bushfire affected, can we still apply?

A: If you believe your area was directly impacted we will be happy to consider your application. We encourage you to [contact us](#).so we can discuss this with you prior to you submitting an application.

Q: I belong to an emergency services organisation (e.g. Rural Fire Service or State Emergency Service) who are in a suburb not listed on the form but we were involved in the bushfire efforts and would like to organise some social connection activities for our members/volunteers and their families. Can we apply?

A: Yes, applications from Emergency Services Workers are strongly encouraged.

Q: My community organisation would like to auspice the same project in multiple areas, do I need to submit different applications for each area?

A: The Community Wellbeing Grants are for activities that are led by individuals in communities that have been directly impacted.

Q: The activity I would like to apply for is to address and relieve the stress, anxiety and exhaustion of residents that are not listed in a suburb on the form. Can I still apply?

A: The aim of the Community Wellbeing Grants is to provide activities to foster community connection, resilience and healing for those directly impacted by the bushfires. It is acknowledged that the wider community in the three affected LGAs have also been impacted and may be addressed in the next phase of the Community Wellbeing Grants.

Q: When will I be advised of the outcome of my submission?

A: We will endeavour to inform you of the outcome within 2 weeks of your submission. However please understand this is dependent on the quantity of submissions we receive.