

Supporting Communities in Bushfire Recovery Community Grants Program

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What is the Supporting Communities in Recovery community grants program?

The Supporting Communities in Bushfire Recovery program provides grants of up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) to local not-for-profit organisations in bushfire affected communities. The grants are for grassroots community activities that aim to strengthen social connectedness, emotional wellbeing and resilience, and assist communities to recover and heal.

Who is eligible to apply?

The program is open to not-for-profit community-based organisations with an ABN that are based in declared bushfire affected locations in the following local government areas across the region:

- Port Macquarie – Hastings
- Nambucca
- Coffs Harbour
- Richmond Valley
- Ballina
- Byron
- Kempsey
- Bellingen
- Clarence Valley
- Kyogle
- Lismore
- Tenterfield (Tabulam, Upper Tooloom, Urbenville only)

Eligible community organisations can cover everyone in a geographic area or focus on particular segments of the community (for example, Aboriginal people, sporting clubs, older people, playgroups, animal welfare volunteers, firefighters, etc.).

The community organisation, the target community and grant funded activities must all be located in a bushfire affected area.

I am a private health service provider – can I apply for a grant?

Individual healthcare providers and other sole traders or for-profit businesses are ineligible unless the application has been co-designed with and in active partnership with a not-for-profit community-based organisation. The grants cannot be used to subsidise usual clinical or service costs. To be eligible, activities need to extend beyond usual business to support communities in bushfire recovery. All funded activities need to be driven by the community and identified community needs, rather than provider driven.

How much funding can I apply for?

Grants of up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) are available. There is no minimum amount. There are 2 levels of available funding:

- **Level 1: up to \$1,500** (GST excl) – for community gatherings or activities consistent with the grant program's objectives.
- **Level 2: \$1,501 to \$10,000** (GST excl) – for wider-ranging or more comprehensive projects.

When will the grant application period close?

The grant application period is open now and will close 31 March 2021, or when grant funding is fully allocated.

What kind of activities are eligible for funding?

Activities must be grassroots community activities that aim to strengthen social connectedness, emotional wellbeing, and resilience and assist communities to recover and heal following the 2019-20 bushfires. Eligible activities should aim to promote any or all of:

- social cohesion, connectedness and supportive friendship and relationships
- community wellbeing, resilience, mental health healing and post-trauma recovery
- information about services and where to seek assistance when needed
- skills to identify and support struggling or distressed family, friends and community members.

What won't be eligible for funding?

Communities and organisations outside the North Coast region or those who were not impacted by 2019-20 bushfires, as well as activities that are difficult to link to bushfire recovery, are not eligible for funding. Other ineligible activities include those that duplicate existing activities and services, are more appropriately funded under another program or funding source, would require ongoing funding, or subsidise business operational costs or commercial activities. Funding cannot be used for capital works, repairs or purchasing of assets, or for alcohol purchases at community or other events.

How can I apply for a grant?

- Visit www.hnc.org.au/community-bushfire-grants-application-form to complete the application form online, or
- Download the application form from [the link above](#) and email the completed form to commissioning@hnc.org.au

How long will my application take to process?

The processing time depends upon the level of funding.

- **Level 1: up to \$1,500** (GST excl) – for community gatherings or activities consistent with the grant program’s objectives. Fully completed grant applications from eligible organisations will be assessed and applicants notified within two weeks of receiving the application.
- **Level 2: \$1,501 to \$10,000** (GST excl) – for wider-ranging or more comprehensive projects. Fully completed grant applications from eligible organisations will be assessed and applicants will be notified within four weeks of receiving the application. While the emphasis is on prompt turnaround and notification of outcomes to applicants, Level 2 grant applications will be subjected to more detailed assessment.

Why do I need an ABN?

Without an ABN, Healthy North Coast must deduct almost 50% of the contracted grant funds for payment to the Australian Taxation Office. This is why all applicants must have an ABN in their organisation’s name. Please ensure that your organisation has an appropriate ABN before submitting your grant application. Organisations without an ABN can apply online [here](#) and receive their ABN within minutes. There is no cost to apply for an ABN.

How can I ensure that my activities comply with COVID-19 government regulations?

Grant applicants should propose activities that can comply with government COVID-19 requirements and restrictions relating to public gatherings and continue to monitor government requirements in case of changes. Please refer to the [Public Health Order](#)

Depending upon your proposed activities or events, and current government requirements, you may need to consider aspects such as:

- Limiting participant numbers
- Putting in place physical distancing requirements and managing the flow of people
- Providing hand sanitiser and masks
- Sanitising common spaces, equipment and consumables
- Guest registration
- Special considerations for vulnerable population groups

- Ensuring all participants are aware that they cannot attend if they feel unwell, have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 within 14 days of the event, or are subject to self quarantine requirements (e.g. have recently visited a 'hot spot' area)

For further information please refer to [COVID-19 Safety](#)

Is there anyone I can discuss my idea for a grant application with prior to submitting an application?

You can call 02 6659 1800 to discuss your idea with an HNC representative. You may be assisted with information or be put in touch with bushfire support services or other useful contacts in your area.

Further information

For further information about the Supporting Communities in Bushfire Recovery Community Grants Program please email commissioning@hnc.org.au or phone 02 6659 1800.