

# Temporary Living Expenses Grant

## FINGAL BUSHFIRE: DECEMBER 2019

### PURPOSE OF THIS GRANT

This grant is to meet temporary living expenses beyond normal day to day expenses where the principal place of residence is uninhabitable and costs cannot be met from the applicant's own resources.

Grants are made available on the basis of need and are not a replacement for insurance or compensation for losses.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Those individuals or households whose principal place of residence is uninhabitable as a result of the December 2019 Fingal Bushfire event.

### HOW DO I LODGE MY CLAIM?

In order to lodge your claim, you will need to contact an assessor. Please phone the Department of Communities Tasmania on 1300 665 663 to lodge a grant application.

### IS THERE AN INCOME OR ASSETS TEST?

Yes. All applications will be assessed according to an income and asset test.

If you do not satisfy the income/asset test, you will not be eligible for the grant. The asset test excludes a principal place of residence and superannuation that is not accessible.

### INCOME/ASSET TEST

STATUS	WEEKLY INCOME	ASSET TEST
Single/Sole Resident	\$846.00	\$35,000
Two principal residents (either couple or shared housing)	\$1,461.00	\$35,000
Single with one Dependent Child	\$1,461.00	\$35,000
Each Additional Child Add	\$51.00	N/A

### AM I STILL ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE IF I HAVE INSURANCE?

Yes. However, grants will only be considered in cases where insurance does not adequately cover costs (or where there is no insurance).

If you have insurance for your home or household contents, you must lodge a claim against your policy with respect to any loss or damage you have suffered. When submitting your application for this grant, you must provide full insurance details, including policy numbers.

You must also certify if you are ineligible to claim insurance, that the insurance has been refused or that the insurance will not cover all the costs.

If your insurance company deducts temporary living expenses from the sum insured, then you are entitled to claim the Temporary Living Expenses Grant, leaving the full amount of the sum insured for repairs to the residence.

Note: Claims can be lodged before you know the outcome of insurance claims. You must, however, advise the Department of Communities Tasmania as soon as the outcome of your insurance claim has been decided.

#### **HOW MUCH CAN BE PAID?**

Up to \$9,400 per household can be paid to assist with temporary living expenses.

#### **HOW WILL PAYMENTS BE MADE?**

Payments will be made where possible via electronic funds transfer.

#### **WHAT DOCUMENTS MUST I PROVIDE?**

In order to submit your claim form, you will need to provide evidence of your identity, income, assets and insurance arrangements.

*Make sure you keep a photocopy of all documents submitted.*

Note: The Department of Communities Tasmania will verify with the appropriate Government departments or other relevant authorities that the claimant meets the eligibility criteria.

#### **WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATING TO MY INCOME?**

Grants can only be paid where an applicant's income can be verified. However, in circumstances where an applicant is unable to verify their income, some assistance may still be provided (such as in circumstances where the applicant is suffering unnecessary hardship). All relevant documentation must be provided within one week of the grant being paid. If you are subsequently found to be ineligible, you will be required to repay the grant.

#### **DO I NEED QUOTES OR RECEIPTS?**

Yes. You are required to keep evidence of what the grant is spent on and you should also be aware that you may be audited after the grant has been paid.

### **WHAT IF I HAVE ALREADY SPENT THE MONEY AND NEED REIMBURSEMENT?**

If you are applying for reimbursement, you will need to provide the receipts/tax invoices with your application.

Receipts should include the providers name, address, ABN and should be itemised.

Note: Only reasonable costs will be paid or reimbursed. The Department of Communities Tasmania has discretion to limit the amount paid if claims do not reflect current market prices.

### **ON WHAT CONDITIONS IS THE GRANT PROVIDED?**

The payment of the grant is made on the basis of a number of conditions. You may be required to repay the grant if you are found not to have incurred the living expenses for which the grant was approved, for example, rent for alternative accommodation was lower than the estimate on which the grant was based.

### **WILL THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY?**

Your personal information is protected by law. The Department of Communities Tasmania will collect and use the information you provide on this form to assess your entitlement. Certain information may be used to detect or prevent fraud.

The Department of Communities Tasmania will give your information to relevant Tasmanian and Australian Government agencies for the purpose of the joint administration of this program.

Government agencies may give this information (including information that you have received grants assistance) to State and Commonwealth Agencies, humanitarian, welfare and charitable organisations for the purposes of providing assistance to persons affected.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CLAIM FORMS**

Phone the Department of Communities Tasmania on 1300 665 663.