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Disaster Recovery Allowance

The Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) is a short-term income support payment to assist individuals who can demonstrate their income has been affected as a direct result of a disaster.

When available, DRA assists employees, small business persons and farmers who experience a loss of income as a direct result of a major disaster.

It is payable for a maximum of thirteen weeks from the date at which a customer has, or will have, a loss of income as a direct result of a disaster. DRA is taxable.

Eligibility

You may be eligible for assistance if you meet all of the following criteria:

- you are 16 years of age, or older and are not a dependent child
- you are an Australian resident or the holder of an eligible visa and living in Australia for the period of time you receive the allowance
- you earn, or receive an income by working in an affected area or reside in an affected area
- you have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the disaster
- you are not receiving another income support payment or pension (such as Age Pension, Newstart Allowance, service pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or Exceptional Circumstances Income Relief Payment) for the same period you are claiming the Disaster Recovery Allowance
- your income is less than the relevant income threshold amount in the fortnight following your loss of income.

How do I claim?

Once an event is declared a major disaster you will have six months to lodge your application. To lodge you can:

- call the Department of Human Services on 180 22 66
- complete, sign and take your claim form to your nearest Centrelink or Medicare Service Centre or any Centrelink Agent, or post to:

Emergency Processing Centre

Reply Paid 7815

Canberra BC ACT 2610

- fax your form to 1300 727 760.

For further information regarding DRA and eligibility requirements, please visit the [Department of Human Services](#) website.

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Disaster assist website

The Australian Government's Disaster Assist website provides a comprehensive overview of natural disasters that have recently impacted Australia.

Financial information for eligible disaster declared areas and individuals through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment, DRA, as well as Disaster Recovery payments for New Zealander Special Category visa holders can be found on the Disaster Assist website.