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# New Zealand Ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Payment

The ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Payment provides a one-off financial assistance to eligible New Zealand citizens residing in Australia who hold a “non-protected” Special Category (subclass 444) visa who have been adversely affected by a major disaster.

It is only available in circumstances where the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (DRP) has been made available. The payment is provided consistent with the conditions and eligibility of the DRP under the *Social Security Act 1991* (the Act).

## Eligibility

A person qualifies for the ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Payment if:

- the person is at least 16 years old; and
- the person is a non-protected Special Category (subclass 444) visa holder and is a ‘non-resident’ under the Act; and
- the person has participated in the Australian tax system for at least one year in the past three financial years or will do so within the next twelve months; and
- the person is ‘adversely affected’ by a ‘major disaster’ in Australia.

The term ‘adversely affected’ derives its meaning from the Ministerial Determination made by the Minister under section 1061L of the Act.

The term ‘major disaster’ derives its meaning from the Ministerial Determination made by the Minister under section 36 of the Act.

A person cannot qualify for more than one ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Payment in relation to the same major disaster (excluding ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Allowance).

A person can also claim as the ‘primary claimant’ on behalf of a ‘secondary claimant’, if the secondary claimant has been adversely affected by a major disaster and does not qualify or have received the ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Payment or the DRP for the same disaster.

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## **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 the ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Payment and eligibility requirements, please visit the [Department of Human Services](#) website.

## **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, DRP, Disaster Recovery Allowance, as well as Disaster Recovery payments for New Zealander Special Category visa holders can be found on the [Disaster Assist](#) website.