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New Zealand Ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Allowance

The ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Allowance provides short-term income support to eligible New Zealand citizens residing in Australia who hold a “non-protected” Special Category (subclass 444) visa who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of a major disaster.

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

Eligibility

A person qualifies for ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Allowance if:

- the person is at least 16 years of age; 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 earns, derives or receives income from one of the affected areas and does so by working in that area, or resides in the affected area; and
- the person has suffered a loss of income as a direct result of a major disaster; and
- the person did not receive or will not receive another income support payment or pension (such as Age Pension, Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance) for the period of time which they are claiming ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Allowance; and
- the person did not receive or will not receive an income support allowance (such as income support allowance, partner allowance or farm household Allowance) for the period of time for which they are claiming ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Allowance; and
- the person’s rate of payment is greater than nil for the first fortnight of the period which the claim for payment of ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Allowance is determined.

Qualification rule where a person is under 22 years of age

The rule applies to a person if on the day of the signing of the Ministerial Determination:

- the person is wholly or substantially dependent on another person (except the person’s partner); and
- the person is not the parent of another person; and
- the person’s income in the financial year in which that day occurs will not be more than \$6,403.

If the qualification rule above applies to a person on the day of the decision, the person is not qualified for the ex-gratia Disaster Recovery Allowance.

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

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 Allowance 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, 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.