

Drought Assistance Initiatives

Name of initiative	Emergency Volunteer Support Framework
Description	<p>The Emergency Volunteer Support Framework will provide practical help to the many Victorians and local community organisations providing voluntary emergency relief in communities who are suffering as a result of the drought.</p> <p>The Victorian Government knows that volunteers and emergency relief organisations are the backbone of rural/ farming communities. The length and severity of the current drought has meant that volunteers and volunteer organisations now need help to bolster their capacity to ease the personal stress of existing volunteers and to recruit new volunteers.</p> <p>The Emergency Volunteer Support Framework is a \$1.6 million Victorian Government investment available to all Exception Circumstance (EC) declared regions with an initial focus on North and North West Victoria.</p>
Who is eligible?	<p>Victorian community not-for-profit organisations providing volunteers and not-for-profit emergency relief organisations working in communities affected by drought and declared Exception Circumstance (EC).</p> <p>An organisation must be an incorporated body, cooperative or association and have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or have written advice from the Australian Tax Office that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.</p> <p>Non-incorporated organisations may apply by using an incorporated organisation as their funds manager.</p>
What are the conditions of funding?	<p>The following conditions will apply to successful organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- funds must be spent on the activities agreed in the funding agreement;- the activities must start within two weeks of receiving funds; and- the organisation must provide a simple one-page summary of the outcomes of their project

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What will be funded?

The Emergency Volunteer Support Framework will provide grants up to \$20,000 to not for profit organisations to help ease the burden on individual volunteers and to help organisations recruit up to 400 additional volunteers to meet the growing needs of drought affected Victorian communities.

Types of activities that can be included for funding:

- Out of pocket expenses of volunteers working over extended periods including: travel costs; food and accommodation costs; and telephone expenses to help them keep in touch with their own families.
- Increased personal and counseling support for volunteers.
- Development of a recruitment and promotion plan to attract new volunteers including skilled and pro bono volunteers.
- Training for volunteers to assist them in identifying the emerging needs of communities affected by the extended drought.
- Recognition of the contributions made by volunteers in drought affected communities.
- Management and coordination of volunteers providing emergency relief in local communities.

Closing dates / timelines

Announcement of program
- 24 October 2007

Closing date for first round applications
- 19 November 2007

Announcement of successful first round projects
- Early December 2007

Closing date for second round applications
- 25 February 2008

Announcement of successful second round projects
- March 2008

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How to apply / access

Applications may be submitted in a number of ways:

Preferred method: Online at www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au

- by email to grantapplications@dpcd.vic.gov.au

- by fax to 03 9208 3680

- by mail to:

Grants Unit

Department of Planning and Community Development

GPO Box 2392

Melbourne VIC 3001

Website link

www.dpcd.vic.gov.au

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