

FLOOD SUPPORT

The Gannawarra community is currently being impacted by the floods in different ways, and each community will need different support in the coming days, weeks and months.

The Victorian and Australian governments are providing financial support for people, businesses and farmers.

Regular updates will be posted on Gannawarra Shire Council's Facebook page www.facebook.com/gannawarra and on council's website www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods.

Impacted by the Floods?

- Water has gone through your residence or property
- Water is or has surrounded your property, leading to isolation
- Needed to evacuate, or have chosen to evacuate
- Your business has closed
- Your agricultural business has been impacted

If you have been impacted by one of the ways listed above or require assistance from Council for a similar situation, please register your details by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or call Council on 03 5450 9333. You can also register your details by visiting the "Have you been impacted by the floods" section at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods



Flood Recover Hotline

Call the Victorian Government Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 for the latest information on:

- Navigating available supports
- Clean-up
- Temporary accommodation
- Mental health and wellbeing support

The recovery hotline is open from 7.30am - 7.30pm every day. Need an interpreter? Call the hotline and press 9.

The list of help available is at <https://www.vic.gov.au/october-2022-flood-recovery>

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Relief Assistance

The Victorian Government is providing emergency relief assistance for community members whose homes have been impacted by the current flood emergency in Victoria.

If your home has been affected by flooding, you can get a one-off emergency payment.

This payment is for immediate relief, including food, shelter, clothing, medication, accommodation. Emergency relief assistance is based on a fixed amount for each member of your household (adults and children).

Payments of \$580 per adult and \$290 per child (up to a maximum of \$2030 per eligible family) are available.

There are eligibility requirements. For more information and application details see: Vic Emergency Relief Assistance Payment <https://emergencypayments.dffh.vic.gov.au>

Re-establishment Assistance

You can get financial help to return home if:

- You cannot live in your home because it is damaged or destroyed OR
- You cannot access your home for more than 7 days because of flooding

Re-establishment assistance is only available for your principal place of residence. It can help to pay for clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding your home, replacing some damaged contents.

This help is means tested. You can only get it if you:

- Do not have building (home) insurance or contents insurance AND
- Are experiencing financial hardship

For more information <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program>

If you need assistance due to flooding, please phone VICSES on 132 500. If you are in immediate danger, please call 000.

Relief Assistance for Business

Businesses directly affected by October 2022 floods that have incurred significant direct damage can access a one-off grant of \$5,000 to cover immediate clean up, repair and replenish expenses, through the Victorian Government's Small Business Immediate Flood Relief Program. Business mentors will also provide additional support to guide owners through issues.

Call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15 or visit www.business.vic.gov.au

Relief Assistance for Flood Affected Farmers

The Victorian Government is supporting primary producers across Victoria affected by the floods, with:

Flood Recovery Grants: Up to \$75,000 to support clean-up and recovery activities for primary producers.

Concessional loans: Up to \$250,000 to restore or replace flood damaged equipment or infrastructure.

Rural Landholders: Up to \$25,000 is available to help rural Landholders who have a smaller-scale Primary Production Enterprise with clean-up, relief and recovery efforts.

Transport Subsidies: Up to \$15,000 to support transport of emergency fodder, stock drinking water and livestock movement.

See www.ruralfinance.com.au for details and application.

Community Sport Emergency Flood Assistance Program

The program will assist Victorian sport and active recreation organisations directly affected by the October 2022 Victorian floods.

\$5,000 one-off grants are available to assist in the replacement of items that have been lost, damaged or destroyed.

The Program is now open for applications will stay open until 5pm on 13 January 2023 or until funding is exhausted.

See <https://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/Community-Sport-Emergency-Flood-Assistance-Program> for details and application.

Clean-up Program

The Victorian Government has announced a coordinated clean-up program for the hardest hit areas of the October floods. The clean-up program will assess damage to structures and provide detailed assessment reports.

For further information and to check eligibility, call the Victorian Government clean-up register on 1800 560 760 or register via www.vic.gov.au/register-structural-assessment-october-2022-floods

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)

The disaster recovery allowance (DRA) is for employees and sole traders who lose income because of a major disaster. You can get payments for up to 13 weeks after the disaster happens. These payments are taxable.

Find out more <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/victorian-floods-october-2022-disaster-recovery-allowance>

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)

This is for people who have suffered a significant loss because of the floods. This includes:

- If your home was severely damaged or destroyed
- If you suffered a serious injury

Adults can get \$1,000 and children can get \$400, if they are eligible. This payment is for people who live in the affected local government areas:

More <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/victorian-floods-october-2022-australian-government-disaster-recovery-payment>

Health and Wellbeing

There are many things you can do to cope with and recover from a distressing event.

For information on topics including seeking help, reactions to trauma (like flood), making sense of the event and healing, visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/trauma-reaction-and-recovery

FLOODS FACTSHEETS AND RESOURCES

Returning Home

When people are planning to return to their homes after the flood waters have subsided, and the risks from floods waters have reduced to a level that is considered safe, there may still be many potential health hazards.

A range of material is available on the Department of Health's website for people who have been affected by floods on the following topics:

- Animal and insect related hazards
- Mould
- Power outages after a flood
- Drinking water after a flood
- How to protect yourself from mosquito borne diseases after a flood
- Guidance for treating swimming pools
- Private water sources in flood affected areas
- Septic tanks in flood affected areas

Visit www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/floods to access the factsheets.

Mould

Flooding, excess moisture and pooled water can cause mould growth in your home. This may be a health risk for you and your family.

When returning to your home after a flood, be aware of any visible mould or a musty smell. High mould levels are likely if the house has been flooded for more than two days. To prevent mould growth, clean up and dry out the house as quickly as possible (within 48 hours). Seek advice from your insurance company before you start to clean-up, including the disposal of water or mould-damaged items.

If you decide to remove the mould yourself, make sure there is good ventilation and wear protective clothing. Remember that not everyone is suited to working in damp, potentially mouldy conditions. If you or anyone in your family feels unwell, seek medical advice from your local doctor or call NURSE-ON-CALL 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1300 60 60 24 for health information and advice.

For further information, or to download the *After a flood: Mould and your health* factsheet, visit www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/floods

Mosquitoes

After a flood or heavy rainfall, mosquitoes grow and spread in the pools of water left behind. Mosquito-borne diseases can cause life-threatening illness.

There are many simple things you can do to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes.

- Use an effective mosquito repellent, containing either picaridin or DEET, on all exposed skin.
- Wear loose fitting clothes that cover your skin.
- Try to limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about (usually dusk and dawn).
- Take action to prevent mosquito breeding around your home. Remove anything where water can collect, such as unused pots and tyres.

For more information visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/mosquitoes-can-carry-diseases

Animal and Insect Related Hazards

When returning to a flood-affected area remember that wild animals, including rodents, snakes or spiders, may be trapped in your home, shed or garden.

If you have been bitten by a snake get immediate medical attention by calling triple zero (000).

If you have been bitten or injured by an animal or insect seek advice from your doctor.

- Do not approach wild or stray animals. For advice about dealing with animals contact your local council, animal shelter or vet.
- Store away all food to avoid attracting rats and mice (for example, store food in containers with secure lids)
- Watch out for snakes.
- Mosquitoes can breed rapidly in stagnant waters and become a nuisance. Take precautions to control mosquitos around your home.
- Remove pets and other animals that have died as soon as possible. For advice on safe disposal speak to your local council or vet.

For more information visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/After-a-flood-animal-and-insect-related-hazards