

BUSHFIRE  
**Recovery**  
GRANTS

## Murrumbidgee Bushfire Recovery

### Community Grants

Supporting Communities in Recovery

Applications open: Monday 24 August 2020

Applications close: Sunday 4 October 2020



**phn**  
MURRUMBIDGEE

An Australian Government Initiative

[mphn.org.au](http://mphn.org.au)

# Application Guidance Document

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### Supporting Communities in Recovery

Application open: Monday 24 August 2020

Applications close: Sunday 4 October 2020

firsthealth ltd trading as Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (ABN 15 111 520 168)

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While the Australian Government has contributed to the funding of this document, it has not reviewed the content and is not responsible for any injury, loss or damage however arising from the use of or reliance on the information provided in this document.

Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network acknowledges and pays respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Elders past, present and future as custodians of all country in Australia.

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# 1 Introduction

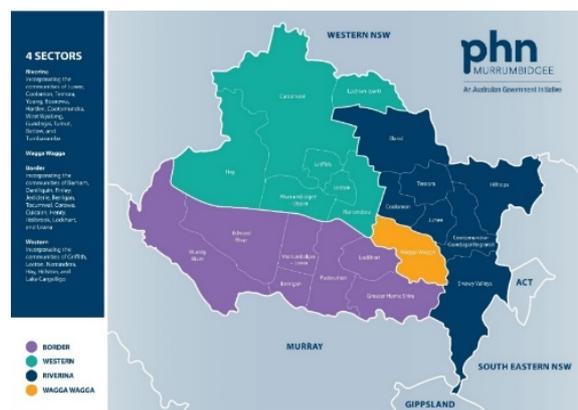
The *Supporting the Mental Health of Australians Affected by Bushfires* measure is a Commonwealth-funded initiative aimed at ensuring people and communities have access to the coordinated and tailored support needed to help them recover from the effects of the 2019-20 bushfires.

Under this measure, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN) is offering the Supporting Communities in Recovery community grants program. We invite local individuals, community groups and organisations in bushfire affected communities to apply for grant funding for grassroots community activities that aim to strengthen social connectedness, emotional wellbeing and resilience assisting communities to recover and heal.

# 2 Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network

Murrumbidgee PHN (MPHN) is a not for profit primary healthcare organisation tasked with commissioning service providers to deliver a range of health services aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of our people, resulting in resilient communities across the Murrumbidgee.

The Primary Health Networks Program is an Australian Government initiative, and MPHN is one of 31 PHNs with the objectives of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time. MPHN covers a land area of approximately 136,000 square kilometres and services a population of 242,962 covered by 21 Local Government Areas. For more information at [www.mphn.org.au](http://www.mphn.org.au).



## 3 Eligibility

### Who can apply?

Individuals, community groups and organisations based within bushfire-affected areas\* in the Murrumbidgee PHN region are eligible to apply. Appropriate community groups may represent particular geographic areas, cultural groups, ages, networks and/or those with frontline staff and volunteers impacted by bushfires, e.g. church-affiliated groups, Aboriginal or migrant groups, playgroups and children's groups, groups for older people, men's groups, sporting groups, local community associations, school-affiliated groups, firefighting brigades, charities, animal welfare and wildlife organisations. Funded organisations will need an ABN in the organisation's name.

\*Bushfire affected communities located in the following declared natural disaster local government Snowy Valleys LGA, Greater Hume Shire LGA, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional LGA

### Objectives and Purpose:

The purpose of these grants is to support grassroots community activities that aim to strengthen social connectedness, emotional wellbeing and resilience, assisting communities to recover and heal. Grant activities must promote any or all of the following:

- social cohesion, connectedness and supportive friendship and relationships;
- community wellbeing, resilience, mental health healing and post-trauma recovery for communities;
- information about services and where to seek assistance when needed; and
- assistance to identify and support distressed or struggling peers or family members.

Applicants must outline how their proposed activities will support these outcomes.

## 4 Grant funding

- Grants of up to **\$10,000 (GST exclusive)**
- Funding is available through the Supporting Communities in Recovery community grants program, through grant rounds, up until December 2021.

### What the grant funds can be used for?

This funding is for grassroots community-focused health and wellbeing initiatives. Activities may target a broad geographical community impacted by bushfires and/or specific population segments, including (but not limited to) children, youth, older people or cultural groups.

The types of activities that may be considered appropriate include:

- bringing the community together to support social skills, connectedness and build networks and friendships through group activities, e.g. community barbecues, regular coffee mornings, community meetings;
- projects that are recovery focused and aim to build on the community's and members' resilience, healing and capacity building;
- sharing information about available community resources and services and how to access them, including printing and photocopying information sheets and other items for dissemination;
- engaging proactively with bushfire affected people in remote or isolated areas;
- Initiatives offering comfort, reassurance and assistance to communities and individuals to address practical needs and return to normal routines; and/or
- practical advice and skills development, e.g. for parents to help provide support for their children, or addressing particular needs of isolated older people.

### What the grant funds cannot be used for?

Applications which include any of the below elements will be **ineligible** for grant funding:

- initiatives that duplicate existing activities and services;
- activities that are more appropriately funded under another grant program or funding source;
- communities that were not impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires;
- communities outside the Murrumbidgee PHN region;

- a proposal submitted by an applicant who resides outside of communities impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires;
- activities that are difficult to link to bushfire recovery;
- initiatives that would require ongoing funding;
- alcohol purchases for community or other events;
- projects that subsidise commercial activities (e.g. ongoing business operational costs);
- capital works or construction, including refurbishment, repair or maintenance of existing community infrastructure; and/or
- purchasing of assets (i.e. buildings or vehicles).

## 5 How to apply

To apply for a Murrumbidgee Bushfire Recovery Community Grant you can:

1. Head to Murrumbidgee PHN [website](#) to apply online via a webform.
2. You can download a paper-based form for you to complete [here](#) and return via email to [recovery@mphn.org.au](mailto:recovery@mphn.org.au).

Applicants should ensure each question in the application form is completed, including sufficient details about their organisation/group and proposed activities. This will assist with prompt assessment of the application and avoid the need to request further information or clarification.

Applications will be assessed through an evaluation process. Successful applicants will need to enter into a grant agreement with Murrumbidgee PHN.

If the application is successful, funding will be paid directly into the bank account provided following the return of signed grant agreement documents. Successful applicants will need to complete a short evaluation report at the completion of their grant that describes the outcomes achieved, as well as a brief financial acquittal.

The Murrumbidgee PHN reserves the right to directly approach communities in relation to grant program support where necessary to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of grant funding across all bushfire affected areas.

## 6 For more information

Please direct enquiries about the Supporting Communities in Recovery grants, contact:

Name: Larah Harding  
Email address: [recovery@mphn.org.au](mailto:recovery@mphn.org.au)  
Phone: 02 69233 147

**For bushfire recovery mental health support, information and resources, see:**

Murrumbidgee PHN Bushfire support webpage [www.mphn.org.au/bushfire-support](http://www.mphn.org.au/bushfire-support)

## 7 Conditions of this grant process

Acceptance	Murrumbidgee PHN may in its discretion choose to accept or not accept all or part of any submission.
Representations	Representations by Murrumbidgee PHN before accepting an expression of interest do not bind Murrumbidgee PHN.
Assessment	Murrumbidgee PHN may engage third parties to assess submissions.
ABN	Successful applicants must be able to supply an Australian Business Number (ABN).
Costs	Applicants must meet their own costs associated with preparing and presenting their proposal and any negotiations.
Additional information	Murrumbidgee PHN may require additional information in writing or in interview. Information must be provided at no cost.
Confidential Information	MPHN and Applicants must take reasonable steps to keep confidential information confidential and must not disclose confidential information without prior written consent.

Process	Murrumbidgee PHN may in its discretion discontinue or change this community grants program.
Service agreements	Successful applicants may be required to enter a service agreement with Murrumbidgee PHN.
Conflicts of interest	Applicants must declare to Murrumbidgee PHN any matter or issue which is or may be perceived to be or may lead to a conflict of interest.
Ownership	Murrumbidgee PHN will not return application documents.
Probity	If you consider that your application has not been fairly dealt with, please tell us as soon as possible.
Lobbying	Applicants who try to influence how an application is assessed will be disqualified from this process in Murrumbidgee PHN's absolute discretion.