







# Disaster Recovery Allowance

**Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) is a short term payment to help you if you lose income as a direct result of a declared disaster.**

You can get it for up to 13 weeks, starting from the date you lose income.

The maximum payment rate is the same as JobSeeker Payment or Youth Allowance, based on your circumstances.

## Who can get it

To get DRA you must meet all of the following. You:

- were 16 years or older at the time of the disaster
- are an Australian resident or hold an eligible visa
- work or live in an affected Local Government Area (LGA)
- lose income as a direct result of the disaster
- earn less than the average weekly income in the weeks after you had your income loss.

If you are 16 – 21 years old, you must be independent.

We use Australian Bureau of Statistics figures to work out average weekly income.

A direct result of the disaster can include the following:

- your workplace has closed due to damage from the disaster
- road closures stopped you getting to work

It does not include a general downturn in business following an event.

## What evidence you need

We will ask you to give us evidence of your loss of income.

If you earn a salary or wage we will ask you for documents that show your income for the 4 weeks before the disaster.

If your income changes each week we will ask you to show your income for the 8 weeks before the disaster.

Evidence can include:

- pay slips from your employer
- bank statements showing previous bank deposits from your employer
- a letter from your employer.

If you are a farmer or you have a small business we will ask you to show us as many of these documents as possible:

- profit and loss statements
- income tax returns
- other documents that show cash flow such as a bank statement for your business
- trust or partnership tax return.

Speak to us if you do not have this evidence.

## How to claim

The fastest way to claim is to call **180 22 66**. The phone line is open Monday to Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm local time.

You can ask for an interpreter for free if you need one.

If you are a member of a couple, you can both claim this payment. You and your partner must make separate claims.

Go to **[servicessaustralia.gov.au/disaster](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/disaster)** for more information. This includes:

- eligible LGAs
- claiming options
- how to access our services
- who we consider to be independent
- how we calculate average weekly income.

## For more information

- go to **[servicessaustralia.gov.au/disaster](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/disaster)** for more information in English
- go to **[servicessaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage)** where you can read, listen to or watch videos with information in your language
- call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services
- visit a service centre.

Note: calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

## How to manage your payment

If you get DRA you must tell us about any changes in your circumstances. This includes if you earn more than or the same as the average weekly income while you get DRA.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances.