

New Zealand Disaster Recovery Allowance

New Zealand Disaster Recovery Allowance (NZ DRA) is financial support if you've lost income as a direct result of a declared disaster.

You can get it for a maximum of 13 weeks, starting from the date you began losing income as a direct result of the disaster.

Who can get it

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

- are a non-protected Special Category Visa (subclass 444) holder
- lost some or all of your income as a direct result of the declared disaster
- earn less than the average Australian weekly income after this income loss
- work or live in a declared area
- have paid tax in Australia for at least one year in the past 3 financial years, or will do so before the end of the 12 month period following the date the disaster was declared
- were 16 or older at the time of the disaster.

You don't need to have lost all your income to be eligible for this payment. You can get NZ DRA for a maximum period of 13 weeks, for each week your income is below the average weekly income.

We use Australian Bureau of Statistics figures to tell us what the average Australian weekly income is.

You can't get NZ DRA and some other payments at the same time.

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

There are other rules you must meet if you're aged between 16 and 21 years.

To check declared areas and for more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/disastersupport

How much you can get

If you're eligible, you'll get the maximum equivalent rate of JobSeeker Payment or Youth Allowance, depending on your personal circumstances.

We'll reduce your payment to zero if your income is the same or more than the average weekly income.

Evidence you need to provide

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

Evidence can include any of the following:

- pay slips from your employer
- a letter from your employer.

If you're a farmer, have a small business or you're involved in a trust or partnership where you get wages, evidence includes:

- 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 returns that show you have been paid a wage or salary.

We will also ask you to give evidence that you've participated in the tax system in Australia for at least one year in the past 3 financial years, or will do before the end of the 12 month period following the date the disaster was declared. Participation in the tax system means you have exceeded the tax free threshold after any deductions or offsets are applied.

Evidence can include notices of assessment, income tax returns, payslips or a letter from your employer.

If you don't have evidence you can still submit your claim and call us on 180 22 66 to discuss your options.

How to claim

The fastest way to claim is online through myGov.

-  For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/disastersupport

Help for you

A disaster can have a physical and emotional impact on you and your family.

-  For additional help, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/disasterhelp

How to manage your payment

If you get NZ DRA you'll need to report changes in your circumstances. This includes if you earn more than or the same as the average Australian weekly income while you get NZ DRA.

-  Contact us on **180 22 66** to report changes.

For more information

Scan the QR code or go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/disaster

