

BACKGROUND

This program is specifically for not-for-profit organisations working in and for the benefit of communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires. The program provides resources for organisations to consider their viability, sustainability and future roles in their communities, and to strengthen organisational capabilities to achieve their aspirations. Funds are provided by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund in partnership with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).

The program is designed with the recognition that not-for-profit organisations in 2009 Victorian bushfire affected communities continue to experience particular operational and service delivery challenges and are working in very changed environments to those prior to the bushfires. Organisations are encouraged to consider which of the three streams illustrated below most closely fits their needs at this point in time with a view to supporting future viability and sustainability.

Community Group Futures aims to support the following outcomes:

- Communities enjoy access to a range of high quality, relevant and sustainable local service options;
- Not-for-profit organisations are underpinned by efficient and effective structures, systems and processes;
- Not-for-profit organisations are led and managed by skilled and capable people, whether they be volunteer or paid;
- Innovative and collaborative approaches exist to address community needs and priorities and resourcing challenges for organisations.

A total of \$272,000 is available across three program streams:

1. Organisational Capability (\$105,000 available)
2. Viability & Sustainability (\$131,000 available)
3. Cost Efficiencies for Community Infrastructure (\$36,000 available)

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

The diagram below shows the three program streams and the types of activities and projects that funds can be used for. These are indicative only and applicants are encouraged to speak with the FRRR Program Manager to discuss needs and ideas.

Organisational Capability Total of \$105,000 available	Viability and Sustainability Total of \$131,000 available	Cost Efficiencies for Community Infrastructure Total of \$36,000 available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFP Committees / Boards in governance, financial management, planning, risk management, human resource management, asset management • Paid positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and embed policies / procedures, financial systems & processes, evaluation frameworks and processes: positions need to leave a legacy within the organisation • Requests up to \$15k for training and \$20k for positions will be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning • Business planning and implementation support • Financial analysis & planning for sustainability • Shared back office services across similar geographic or service boundaries • Exploring collective impact approaches to key social issues • Legal support for mergers • Community engagement • Requests up to \$20,000 to engage external expertise will be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants for community asset cost efficiencies such as solar panels, water tanks • Requests up to \$10k will be considered.

WHO CAN APPLY

Not-for-profit community organisations permanently operating in and for the benefit of communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires are eligible to apply. These may include but are not limited to:

- Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centers
- Community Arts organisations
- Community Leadership Programs
- Community groups such as Landcare groups, Men’s Sheds,
- Progress Associations
- Committees of Management of Hall and Recreation Reserves and other community owned or operated facilities
- Youth Groups

Please note no special tax status is required.

WHAT CAN'T BE SUPPORTED

- Purely social, sporting or recreational activities
- Organisations whose core activity is sport are not eligible, e.g.: tennis clubs
- Projects not relating to not-for-profit organisations affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires
- Requests for funds that can be accessed via other means or which the organisation is able to self-fund
- Projects outside Australia and overseas travel
- Federal, State and Local Government core business and areas of responsibility
- Projects that support private businesses or commercial activities

HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE ASSESSED?

Assessment of eligible applications will be based on the following:

- Clear demonstration of the need and the relevance of the proposed project to that need
- Clear identification of the anticipated project outcomes (what will be different, improved, increased, decreased, etc.) and how the achievement of those will be known and learnings used by the organisation
- The sustainability legacy the project will leave for the organisation – how will the organisation be more viable, sustainable, stronger?
- A clear and achievable project plan (what will happen, when, by whom, and at what cost)
- Capacity of the organisation to manage the grant
- Evidence from key stakeholders of the relevance and benefits of the project (letters of support from partner organisations, clients / user groups, local government)
- The broad benefit of the project to the community
- Value for money

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the Application Form and attach all supporting documentation requested:

- You must attach an up to date organisational financial statement (most recent audited financial statements or Profit & Loss Statement or Balance Sheet)
- You must attach a copy of your ABN or Incorporation Certificate
- If using a consultant, a quote, copy of the project brief and their proposal for the work to be carried out must be provided
- If employing a paid position, a position description inclusive of KPI's must be provided
- If purchasing / installing equipment, a quote must be provided
- Letters of support significantly strengthen your application. We strongly recommend that you include letters of support, in-kind support and quotes with your application
- All supporting material must be submitted with the application
- Applications must be signed by the delegated Head of the Organisation (President / CEO) or the application will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

5pm April 28th 2017

Applications can be submitted by email (preferable) or post.
Please note emailed application forms are preferred in Word format.
Mailed applications to be post marked on or before the closing date.

Email: recovery@frrr.org.au

Post: Community Group Futures; FRRR, PO Box 41, Bendigo, Vic 3552

For further information visit www.frrr.org.au

We recommend that you speak with the Program Manager about your project before submitting an application. To speak with FRRR call 1800 170 020 or email recovery@frrr.org.au.

Further Information to Support Applicants

ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Following is a list of Local Government Areas impacted by the 2009 Victorian Bushfires. Note not all towns in LGA's were affected and applicants will need to demonstrate that their project is supporting an impacted town / community.

- Alpine
- Baw Baw
- Cardinia
- Casey
- Greater Bendigo
- Hepburn
- Horsham
- Indigo
- La Trobe
- Mitchell
- Mount Alexander
- Murrindindi
- Nillumbik
- South Gippsland
- Wangaratta
- Wellington
- Whittlesea
- Yarra Ranges

LINKS TO USEFUL RESOURCES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The following links may assist organisations to explore resources and service providers available to support organisation capacity and capability building. This list is not exhaustive and is intended as a starting point only.

Resource	Website	Focus
Australian Institute of Company Directors	http://www.companydirectors.com.au/Courses	Training and resources for governance, organisation performance.
Our Community	http://ourcommunity.com.au/	Resources, training in governance, fundraising, organisation performance.
Justice Connect	http://www.justiceconnect.org.au/our-programs/not-for-profit-law	Legal resources and services for organisation structure, governance, legal responsibilities, training.
Vic Health Partnerships Tool	https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/medial-and-resources/publications/the-partnerships-analysis-tool	For organisations entering into or working in a partnership to assess, monitor and maximise ongoing effectiveness.
McKinsey & Co	http://mckinseysociety.com/ocat/	Organisation Capacity Assessment tool.
Australian Institute of Management	https://www.aim.com.au/	Training and resources for management.
Accounting for Good	http://www.accountingforgood.com.au/	Financial management services for the non-profit sector.
Social Traders	http://www.socialtraders.com.au/	Support for social enterprises.
Fundraising Institute of Australia	http://www.fia.org.au/pages/education-training.html	Training and resources for fundraising.
Centre for Social Impact	http://www.csi.edu.au/	Thought and practice leadership on social change and achieving social impact.