

Bushfire support

Information sheet

Transportation for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) treatment

If you currently use transportation to get to optometry or ophthalmic appointments, it is recommended that you maintain your current practice or contact your local councils for assistance with trying to arrange for community transport or non-emergency health transport.

Access to eye health

OPSM

OPSM, in conjunction with global not-for-profit eyecare, OneSight are providing assistance and support to residents suffering genuine hardship, along with emergency service personnel who have been affected by the bushfires.

Vision vouchers will be available from OPSM Forster or the Salvation Army Salvos Assessment Line page or by calling or 1300 371 288

OPSM also will support those fighting fires in evacuation locations and the local community by delivering lubricating eye drops to major evacuation points in each fire affected areas.

Community members who are also feeling the effect of smoke from the surrounding fires can visit their OPSM Forster store to obtain eyedrops.

[Learn more](#)

Eyecare Plus

Two Eyecare Plus practices in New South Wales, and a handful of their suppliers, have responded to help victims of recent bushfires that have destroyed over 600 homes in their area.

Practice owners Dale Rolfe and Peter McKay have offered free glasses to people who have lost their homes. Their offer has been supported by TigerVision, Rim Optics and Hoya.

Learn more on [mivision](#) or [Insight news](#).

Aid from your bank

All four major banks, NAB, CommBank, ANZ and Westpac have offered comprehensive aid packages, although NAB so far is the only to supply financial grants.

NAB customers who have lost their homes in the catastrophic fires will be eligible for \$2,000 grants. Additionally, NAB employees who have been forced to evacuate their homes will be eligible for a \$1,000 relief grant. [Learn more](#)

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Legal Aid NSW

Legal Aid NSW lawyers will give free legal advice and support to hundreds of people affected by the recent bushfires.

[Learn more](#)

Telecommunications

All three major telco companies, Optus, Telstra and Vodafone, have committed to waiving volunteer firefighters' phone bills for December and January.

[Learn more](#)

The Salvation Army

Salvation Army teams are currently active at roughly a dozen evacuation centres where, among other things, they are providing meals to evacuees and firefighters. Relief teams are also providing food and water and emotional and practical support. The Salvation Army has warned recovery will be a long and difficult process.

[Learn more](#)

Lifeline and Beyond Blue

If you or a loved one need immediate assistance or support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. For further information about depression, contact beyondblue on 1300 22 4636 or via [their website](#) or talk to your GP, local health professional or someone you trust.

Disaster Legal Help Victoria

Free legal assistance is available through Disaster Legal Help Victoria for anyone affected by the recent Victorian bushfires. People can call the Disaster Legal Help Victoria phone line on 1800 113 432, available Monday to Friday, 8 am to 6 pm for free legal information, advice and referrals, or visit [their website](#).

The Australian Red Cross

Red Cross volunteers are at evacuation centres providing psychological first aid and helping evacuees get in touch with families and friends. More than 60 Red Cross volunteers are supporting people at 16 evacuation centres across NSW. There are roughly 16 volunteers helping people at five evacuation centres in Queensland.

The Red Cross also has a register allowing affected residents and their families to reunite.

[Learn more](#)

The St Vincent de Paul Society

Vinnies is on the ground helping victims in the immediate aftermath and will assist in longer-term recovery. It says public donations will help it provide food, clothing, essentials, and financial support to affected residents. It will also refer victims to other support and accommodation services, and provide them with emotional and practical support.

[Learn more](#)