

Additional Grants For Break O'Day Fire Victims

The State Government today announced a grant package for victims of the recent Break O'Day bushfires.

Funding for these grants is in addition to the State Government support of \$350,000 for community recovery assistance in the area.

Labor Member for Lyons, Heather Butler said the assistance is for low-income earners with little or no insurance who lost their homes in the recent blaze.

"These additional grants will make sure that those families most in need can continue to live in the local community," said Mrs Butler.

"Depending on their circumstances, individuals and families will be eligible for up to \$20,200 to help them get back on their feet.

"This also includes assistance with temporary living expenses whilst a house remains uninhabitable, funding to replace essential household items and assistance for clean-up and/or rebuilding their property"

The grants package is in addition to emergency assistance provided last year within days of the devastating December fires breaking out.

Grants have previously been made available to charities, small business and primary producers affected by the fires.

"The people of St Helens area are determined to recover, particularly in the Scamander to Four Mile Creek area which lost almost everything.

"These grants will go a long way towards helping them in achieving that goal," said Mrs Butler.

Housing Tasmania and Anglicare will be administering the grants and people will be apply to apply for assistance at the St Helens Service Tasmania office or by downloading the application form from www.development.tas.gov.au

Available Grants

Temporary Living Expenses - maximum of \$7,300 per household;

This grant is provided to assist households who receive a low income with the cost of temporary accommodation and other expenses when the principal place of residence is uninhabitable.

Replacement of Essential Household Items - \$5,600 per household + \$500 per household member;

This grant is to assist households who receive a low income with the replacement and/ or repair of essential household items destroyed or damaged by a natural disaster.

Restoration or Repair - maximum \$7,300 per household;

This grant is to assist with the reestablishment of a person's principal place of residence.

Eligibility Details

To qualify for a grant individuals and families must

- have had their principal place of residence destroyed,
- have little or no insurance,
- pass a \$35,000 asset test (excluding super and principal residence)
- have a weekly income below the thresholds listed in the table below.

Weekly income

(A) Single	\$504.00
(B) Couple (combined)	\$770.00
(A or B) plus 1 child	\$807.40
Each additional child	\$34.00