

Bushfire Recovery Information Sheet

Assistance available to arts, cultural & heritage sector

Arts Funding Available for Bushfire Affected Communities

The Victoria Government's Minister for the Arts, Lynne Kosky, has announced **\$50,000 in funding** will be made available for an Arts Recovery Quick Response Grants program for communities affected by the recent Victorian bushfires.

Grants of up to \$2,500 will be made available for local artists to work in their communities on projects which contribute towards the bushfire recovery effort.

Minister Kosky said the arts can play a vital role in the recovery process.

"In difficult and tragic times the arts have the capacity to make a real and meaningful difference to communities. Creative expression can be a powerful tool for healing and community rebuilding, and provides an important means to articulate and respond to the events that shake us."

The funding will be administered by **Regional Arts Victoria**, with submission deadlines closing on the **1st of every month** beginning **May 1** until further notice.

Lindy Allen, Director of Regional Arts Victoria, said the funds respond to feedback from artists in bushfire affected areas.

"Over the past month and a half Regional Arts Victoria has met with artists and organisations in bushfire affected communities to gain a solid first-hand account of the impacts of the fires and the need for small arts projects to help rebuild vitality and connectedness. This money will go a long way towards achieving this aim."

Applications are now being accepted from regional artists and communities. Anyone interested in applying can download guidelines and applications forms from the Regional Arts Victoria website at www.rav.net.au/funding-and-resources, or contact **Joe Toohey** at Regional Arts Victoria on (03) 9644 1800 or email jtoohy@rav.net.au.

There are a range of other resources available for artists in bushfire affected communities. Some of these are listed below.

Financial Assistance for ABN registered artists and arts organisations



RURAL FINANCE

Rural Finance Corporation has a one-off grant of up to \$5,000 for immediate repair and restoration costs for ABN registered artists and arts organisations. Check your eligibility on 1800 255 925 or visit their website <http://www.ruralfinance.com.au/>

Additional funds are available up to a total of \$25,000 for eligible businesses with significant damage as well as a low interest loan scheme of up to \$200,000. Contact Rural Finance Corporation to enquire about grants and loans on 1800 255 925 or visit their website for more detailed information <http://www.ruralfinance.com.au/>



Businesses indirectly impacted by the bushfires may be eligible for grants of up to \$5,000 through the **VECCI Business Relief Fund**. To donate to the Fund or for further information, please phone VECCI Corporate Social Responsibility Manager Michelle Hayward on ph: 03 8662 5227 or email: mhayward@vecci.org.au.

The peak body for regional arts activity in Victoria



Income Recovery Subsidy

The Commonwealth Government is providing immediate financial assistance to employees, small business owners and farmers over 16 years of age who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the Victorian Bushfires.

For more information on eligibility, visit the Centrelink website www.centrelink.gov.au or contact the **Australian Government Victorian Bushfires Hotline** on 180 2211.

Tools of Trade

ABN registered artists or employees of a registered business, who have lost equipment vital to their trade, may be eligible for a payment of up to \$5,000 based on the cost of replacing tools.

Further information is available from the **Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund** website www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal or by calling 1800 180 213.

Assistance for volunteers and communities

A range of new and existing grants are available to support volunteers and communities affected by the bushfire crisis.

- **Victorian Volunteer Small Grants** – Bushfire Relief – up to \$5,000
- **Emergency Volunteer Support Grants** – up to \$20,000

Both grants provide practical help to support volunteers who provide emergency relief in fire affected communities, including reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, equipment replacement, counselling and personal support, training, recruitment and recognition of volunteers.

Community not-for-profit organisations in Victoria providing volunteers to work in fire-affected communities can apply.

- **Bushfire Community Events Grants** (up to \$3,000)

Grants are also available for local governments and community organisations who host community events to assist in the bushfire recovery process. Groups are encouraged to contact their local council for more information

Applications are currently being accepted from the local government areas of **Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Yarra Ranges, Cardinia and Casey**. Regional Development Victoria will accept applications from other fire affected areas – contact **Regional Development Victoria** on 03 9651 9467.

For more information on Volunteer, Community and Bushfire Community Events grants, contact the **Department of Planning and Community Development** T: 03 9208 3333, W: www.dvc.vic.gov.au

Support for Musicians – Resound Bushfire Appeal

The **Music Council of Australia** 's Resound program, in partnership with the Dandenong Ranges Music Council, is organising donations of musical instruments to musicians of all ages and ability who have lost instruments in the bushfires.

If you have lost an instrument in the fires you can register on the Resound website www.mca.org.au or by contacting:
Rachael Hocking M: 0424 071 914 E: rhocking@mca.org.au

All applications will be considered and Resound intends to start replacing instruments as soon as possible.



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**ARTS
VICTORIA**

Arts Funding Opportunities

Arts Victoria have extended to their funding deadlines until 6 April, for the Arts Development, Community Partnerships, Victoria Rocks and International program categories for artists and arts workers in bushfire affected areas. Further information is available at <http://www.arts.vic.gov.au> or 03 8683 3100



NAVA Australian Visual Artists Benevolent Fund - This fund provides limited financial assistance to visual arts practitioners faced with financial difficulty as a result of serious illness, accident or some other unexpected catastrophe. For more information, go to www.visualarts.net.au or phone NAVA on 02 9368 1900.

Non – Financial and In-Kind support



Information Technology Support for Individuals and Organisations

Infexchange have a range of information and resource tools at their website <http://www.bushfirerelief.infoxchange.net.au>

This includes assistance with replacement IT equipment and sourcing skilled IT professionals to rebuild tech systems for organisations and individuals. If you require IT and set up assistance or if you are an IT professional or company and can offer assistance you are encouraged to contact Infexchange through the website.



Business Advice and Development

In partnership with the State Government, **VECCI** is offering Victorian businesses affected by the bushfires the opportunity to discuss their situations with qualified business advisors and be provided with advice on the future of their business. The advisors will be able to give business owners strategic, independent advice. Businesses affected that would like to speak to an advisor should contact Ed Walta on ph: 0417 314 933 or email: edwalta@netspace.net.au.



Assistance to those businesses impacted by the bushfires can also contact the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line** on ph: 1800 240 667.



Free access to professional business advice and counselling services are available through **Business Victoria**. Register your interest in this assistance via their website http://www.business.vic.gov.au/BUSVIC/STANDARD//PC_63278.html



Business Events Victoria, The Age, Tourism Alliance and **Tourism Victoria** have developed a campaign to attract businesses to bushfire impacted areas in order to assist in economic recovery. The *Open for Business* campaign encourages government and the private sector to hold conferences, seminars, meetings and retreats in bushfire-impacted regions and provide much needed business to those affected areas. Further information on the amazing range of venues across regional Victoria can be found by visiting www.businesseventsvictoria.com or ph: 1800 726 544. Organisations and businesses can also pledge their support for the campaign on the Business Events Victoria website.

Support for affected Museum, Gallery and Historical Society Collections



Arts Victoria has an established protocol for immediate responses to disasters impacting collections of cultural heritage. Three peak bodies are signatories to this protocol:

- Museums Australia Inc (Vic)
- Public Galleries Association of Victoria
- Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Under the terms of this protocol, these bodies can spend up to \$5,000 per affected organisation on emergency conservation work to conserve damaged historical/cultural collections. If you wish to access this funding, please contact your relevant peak body.

Public Galleries Association of Victoria

T: 8662 1585 E: merle.hathaway@pgav.ngv.vic.gov.au

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

T: 9326 9288 E: office@historyvictoria.org.au

Museums Australia Inc (Vic)

T: 8341 7344 or 1800 680 082 (regional Victoria only) E: mavic@mavic.asn.au

Public Records of Victoria are offering to support the conservation of records and objects. Please contact Margaret Sawyers or Lauren Bourke on 9348 5600 or visit www.prov.vic.gov.au

Photo register

A website has been created to help replace photographs that have been lost. Register your requests or submit photographs at <http://disasterhelpsite.com/>

General Information

Key peak arts bodies offering support and assistance to artist and arts and cultural workers include:

Regional Arts Victoria

T: (03) 9644 1800
E: enquiry@rav.net.au
W: www.rav.net.au

Cultural Development Network

T: (03) 9558 8850
E: admin@culturaldevelopment.net.au
W: www.culturaldevelopment.net.au

Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres

T: (03) 5772 2338
E: exec@vapac.org.au
W: www.vapac.org.au