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APMHA Update - Fire Support

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APMHA HealthCare Fire Update



improving mental health and wellbeing



Fire update from APMHA.

Hello All,

Whilst I welcome you to the new year, it is very sad indeed that we are now facing some major challenges as mental health providers delivering services to community members affected by current and recent bushfires in NSW and Vic.

We understand that some of our providers are busy defending home and family from the ongoing bushfire threat, whilst others are providing CFA and community support. Our thoughts are with you all.

The fires will not only impact many of our community members, but also provide a trigger for many whom have been through this before.

It is not surprising the the Federal Government have committed significant funds specifically for mental health service provision. We understand that PHNs have been in conversation with the DoH, to ascertain funding and services for psychological support and we are waiting for further information about what this might look like. In some instances we may find ourselves providing 'on the ground' psychological support in key areas, and in others we will be providing counselling for those impacted for quite some time.

Having coordinated some regions affected by Black Saturday Bushfires in Vic in 2009, the learnings from this meant that psychological support needs will be extensive, will come at different times for different people, and will require a longer term and coordinated response by all services available.

In preparation for this, we are sending this email out to you all to ascertain your current status and availability and also to provide you with some relevant links to key information.

You will see a link below to a survey which helps us understand three critical needs:

1. Your own needs for support with current clients if you are directly impacted by fires
2. Your availability to provide extended psychological services either via face to face, phone or telehealth
3. Your availability to provide direct 'in person' support should we be mobilised to bushfire relief centres to provide psychological support.

Please can I ask you respond to this survey ASAP, to allow us to map our current provider status and needs so we can quickly and efficiently commence providing services as soon as this becomes available.

We have also developed a landing page on our website ([LINK IS HERE](#)) which provides key links to bushfire information for Vic and NSW and great resources which may help you, your family and your clients.

If you have any great resources / links etc that you would like to share, please send these to admin@apmhahealthcare.com.au and we will load these on to our website.

We will also keep regular posts on [Facebook](#) about any updates as they come to hand.

We will also set up a regular supervision group for those providing psychological support for bushfire affected communities, so we can ensure you are supported during this time.

Please stay safe and remember we are all here to work as a team during this terrible time.

Renee Hayden
CEO



PROVIDER NEEDS SURVEY

In preparation for any call to action or mobilisation of resources for bushfire psychological support, we are asking that you complete this survey to enable us to ascertain your current status and availability during this time.

Please note: this is purely for APMHA to ascertain current provider status in the event we are called to respond or be mobilised in affected regions.

[SURVEY LINK](#)

Important links:

VICTORIA:

- [Murray PHN - Bushfire update](#)
- [Gippsland PHN](#)
- [APMHA HealthCare Ltd website](#) - Bushfire information repository, links and resources
- [Victoria Emergency and Incident Warnings](#)
- [CFA Fires, Warnings and Incidents](#)
- [VicRoads - VicTraffic](#)
- [Vic Government Bushfire Factsheets](#)

NSW:

- [SWSPHN](#)
- [NBMPHN](#)
- [HNEPHN](#)
- [Fires Near Me - NSW](#) (website and smart phone app)
- [Rural Fire Service - NSW](#)
- [Live traffic](#) (website and smart phone app)

NATIONAL:

- [Register.Find.Reunite](#) - Redcross - This service registers, finds and reunites family, friends and loved ones after an emergency
- [BeyondBlue - Looking after yourself after a disaster](#)
- [RACGP - Information for GPs and Practices](#)

- [Chief Health Officer - Health concerns related to Bushfires](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Human Services](#)

Relief Centres

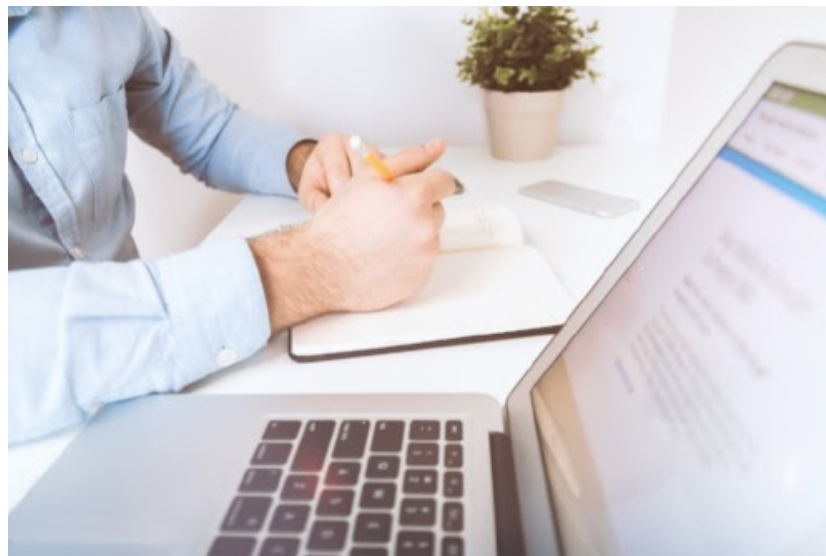
- [Victoria](#)
- [NSW](#)

Emergency Accommodation Providers:

- [Open Homes - VIC](#)
- [Open Homes - NSW](#)
- [Find a bed - National](#)

APMHA Phone Assistance:

Please feel free to call our intake line on 1300 514 811 should you need assistance in coordinating client appointments or for locum services. You can also contact us via email when needed on admin@apmhahealthcare.com.au



Resources

APMHA continues to update our resources and website links for the bushfires as they come to hand. These are for consumers & carers, GP's, allied health providers.

[Click here to access our resources.](#)

Please share any useful resources or web-links with us by sending the information to admin@apmhahealthcare.com.au.

Free Training Sites

Black Dog Institute

Black Dog have a variety of online accredited modules which are aimed at giving health professionals confidence in prescribing evidence-based e-mental health resources. [Black Dog Link](#)

Emerging Minds

Emerging Minds has been dedicated to advancing the mental health and emotional wellbeing of Australian infants, children, adolescents and their families. The organisation now leads the National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health. The deliver free online training to health professionals.

[Emerging Minds Link](#)

Livingworks

Their primary focus is improving helper competencies to intervene with persons at risk of suicide. They offer a variety of suicide intervention skills training.

[Livingworks link](#)

Centre of Perinatal Excellence (COPE)

Supporting health professionals to provide best practice in Perinatal Care

[COPE link](#)



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