



DISASTER LEGAL HELP

vals.org.au | 1800 064 865 | Disaster.Support@vals.org.au

Disasters like bushfires and floods can cause new legal issues and make existing legal issues worse.

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) is here to help.

To contact us, you can:

Free call 1800 064 865

Email Disaster.Support@vals.org.au

Visit your local VALS office

vals.org.au/locations

DISASTERS AND LEGAL ISSUES

Our Disaster Legal Help Check on the next page contains a list of legal issues that may come up before, during or after a disaster.

You can seek free legal help to prepare for disasters or to help you respond or recover.

HOW CAN VALS HELP?

VALS may be able to help with information, referrals, advice or ongoing casework. Your lawyer will discuss what VALS can do to assist you.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In an emergency, contact **Triple Zero (000)**!

Download the **Vic Emergency App** for live updates about your region.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

You can contact the following organisations for 24/7 free and confidential counselling:

13YARN: 13 92 76

Lifeline: 13 11 14

**Victorian Aboriginal Health Service's
Yarning Safe'N'Strong:** 1800 959 563

**Dardi Munwurro 24-hour Brother to Brother
Aboriginal Men's Crisis Line:** 1800 435 799



DISASTER LEGAL HELP CHECK



Housing

- Is the rental provider trying to evict you?
- Does your rental need repairs (eg damage, mould, heating)?
- Do you want to end your tenancy?
- Are you at risk of homelessness?

Money, Bills, Debt and Cars

- Are you being hassled about any bills, debts or loans?
- Have you accessed the utility relief grant to help pay for electricity, gas or water?
- Do you have any unpaid fines? Have you received a letter from Fines Victoria or the Sheriff's Office?
- Has your car been impounded?
- Have you bought a car that doesn't work?
- Do you want advice on government grants?
- Are you having issues with Centrelink?

Employment, Disability and Mental Health

- Have you lost your job?
- Do you want advice on your work entitlements or conditions (eg leave, pay, directions, superannuation or safety)?
- Did you stop work due to illness or injury?
- Do you have a Mental Health Tribunal hearing coming up?

Insurance

- Has your insurance claim been denied or taking a long time?
- Have you been offered a cash settlement?
- Are you paying for insurance policies that are unaffordable or you might not need?

Discrimination

- Have you experienced discrimination accessing relief centres or other services?

Family Law

- Are you having issues sharing the care of your children with someone else? Or property or child support issues?
- Have you had contact from Child Protection?
- Are you at risk of family violence?
- Are you concerned about your or your child's safety?

Victims of Crime Compensation

- Have you been the victim of a violent crime (including family violence) and want to seek compensation?

Complying with Court Orders and Other Criminal Law Issues

- Are you at risk of breaching any bail, parole, community corrections, intervention or other court orders due to a disaster?
- Have the police charged you with a criminal offence?
- Do you have any court dates coming up?

Police and Emergency Services Complaints

- Have you been treated unfairly by the police?
- Do you have a complaint about the actions of emergency services?

Prison Complaints

- Do you have a complaint about conditions or treatment inside a prison, for you or someone else?
- Are you concerned about your health or safety during a disaster?

Lost Documents

- Have you lost important documents or ID? Or want tips on disaster-proofing your documents?