



Autumn 2021

# NEWSLETTER



## WE'RE HERE FOR YOU THIS YEAR

**Step By Step Bushfire Recovery Support Service** offers practical, emotional and holistic support for you and your family. We are here for you through this second year, which can still surprise sometimes with how tired we feel and how long recovery can take. Try to remember that there's no strict time-frame for recovering from bushfires. It truly is a step by step process so remember to pace yourself – it's a marathon not a sprint.

Maybe you have ongoing insurance claims, or you're still waiting for block clearing, repairs, replanting or rebuilding. Some of us are just now ready to talk about what happened with the bushfires. Wherever you are, we are a listening ear, and we have information and support from services who can assist with small projects, funding and personalised care for your wellbeing.

For more information, a chat or a cuppa, give your local Step By Step worker a call, or email [stepbystep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](mailto:stepbystep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au)

### Development Applications

**Mid-Western Council** gives priority to applications relating to rebuilding bushfire damaged or destroyed buildings. Fees are waived for Development Applications, Complying Development Certificates and Construction Certificates.  
[council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au) 1300 765 002 or 6378 2850.

**Lithgow Council** Building on bushfire prone land webpage:  
<https://council.lithgow.com/development/building-on-bushfire-prone-land/>  
Contact Rachel Nicoll, Community Recovery Officer 6354 9999  
[Rachel.Nicoll@lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Nicoll@lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

**Hawkesbury Council** prioritises DA's related to bushfire recovery and related fees are waived. Free pre DA advice service for people rebuilding following bushfire. Contact Liz Murphy, Community Recovery Officer 4560 4489  
[emurphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emurphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

**Blue Mountains** development application fees waived for bushfire impacted properties with no time limit. Fees waived until mid-2022 for land use advice, pre-lodgement fees, tree removal permit fees, Roads Act application fees & Annual onsite sewage system fees. Contact Rebecca Evers Community Recovery Officer 0439 620 163 [revers@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:revers@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

## LOCAL SUPPORT

Step by Step  
Blue Mountains, Clarence  
& Dargan  
0466936747

Step by Step Hawkesbury  
0491 140 190


Step by Step Lithgow &  
Mid-Western Region  
0491 136 882


**Gateway Family Services**  
**Essentials** food, vouchers, bills,  
financial assistance, pharmacy  
& travel vouchers. **4720 6500**  
or **1300 316 746**



## CONTACT US:

 [stepbystep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](mailto:stepbystep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au)

 0417 298 832

 [facebook.com/  
Step-by-Step-  
Recovery-Support-  
Service](https://facebook.com/Step-by-Step-Recovery-Support-Service)

We acknowledge with great respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people of this land. We pay respect to the Darug, Gundungurra & Wiradjiri people-their elders, past and present, and to the children of today who are the elders of tomorrow.

## EXTRA SUPPORT

### Hawkesbury Community Advice & Support Service

(CASS) Hubs 9.30am to 12.30pm

Kurrabung Heights Bowling Club Tuesdays fortnightly from 16 March

Colo Heights Hall Thursdays fortnightly from 18 March

Bilpin District Hall Tuesdays fortnightly from 23 March

St Albans School of Arts Thursdays fortnightly from 25 March

call Liz 4560 4489 [emurphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emurphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

### Disaster Assistance Finder

<https://disasterassistance.service.nsw.gov.au/>

### Mental Health Navtool

Find local wellbeing supports, services and programs

[www.MentalHealthHelp.com.au](http://www.MentalHealthHelp.com.au)

### Legal Aid Disaster Response Legal Service Helpline

1800 801 529 <https://disasterhelp.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/>

### Community Wellbeing Grants

**Up to \$1000** from Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network

Supporting community (not businesses) to organise community activities. Keep an eye out for up to \$10 000 coming soon! Call Esther Perry 0419109358

[www.nbmphn.com.au/communitygrants](http://www.nbmphn.com.au/communitygrants)

### Free Bushfire Psychological Therapy Services (PTS).

Up to 10 free sessions with a professional therapist. Contact your GP for more information or to be referred <https://www.nbmphn.com.au/bushfirePTS>

### Headspace Bushfire Recovery Service

For young people aged 12-25 who were affected by the 2019/20 bushfires

Katoomba & Lithgow area 4720 8850

Hawkesbury **4720 8850**

<https://www.nbmphn.com.au/headspace>

### Black Dog Institute Bushfire Support Service

Mental health support for emergency service workers and family members

8627 3314 <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/bush-fire-support-service/>

### FORTEM Australia

Wellbeing support to first responder families

[www.fortemaustralia.org.au](http://www.fortemaustralia.org.au) 1300 33 95 94

### NSW Bushfire Recovery Financial Counsellors

Free and confidential service provides information and assistance to primary producers on financial position, business planning, budgets call Dev Tahal

0417 241 338 [www.rfcscr.com.au](http://www.rfcscr.com.au)

### Salvos National Bushfire Recovery Services

Financial assistance, emotional support and referrals Karen 0429 549 494

### “How to Prepare for Emergencies” Free Seniors Week workshops

22nd April 10 -12pm, Springwood Hub morning tea included.

23rd April 10-12pm Wentworth Falls Community Hub morning tea included.

Lucky door prize for each workshop. Call Rebecca 0439 620 163

[revers@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:revers@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)



### Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Bushfire Recovery

providing practical assistance and vouchers all regions

call Morna 4754 4050

[wincntre@tpg.com.au](mailto:wincntre@tpg.com.au)



## CONTACT US:



[stepbystep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](mailto:stepbystep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au)



0417 298 832



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