

Large Grants for Storm and Flood Impacted Regions

NSW Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative



Guidelines



Overview

Name Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative
–large grants for storm and flood impacted regions

Type of assistance and who will receive support Program funding to a range of organisations to deliver wellbeing initiatives for children and young people in storm and flood affected areas.

Description of initiative The objective of the program is to support the wellbeing of children and young people in storm and flood affected areas (as covered by AGRN 954 and 960).
This program will leverage the work of Youth Community Coordinators working with communities, government, Community Recovery Officers and non-government organisations to identify programs for funding in storm and flood impacted LGAs. This program is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and NSW governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Funding recipients can be government or non-government organisations such as the following entities:

- local councils
- joint organisation of councils
- not-for-profit organisations
- schools
- research or academic organisation
- Local Aboriginal Land Council

Eligible programs must:

- be delivered in LGAs listed in the Natural Disaster Declaration for the storm and flood events AGRN 954 and AGRN 960 with a significant community impact and need for wellbeing and mental health support for children and young people arising from the storm and flood event
- focus on children and/or young people aged 0-24 years
- directly respond to community need for support to recover and build resilience and supports improved wellbeing and mental support for children and young people arising from the storm or flood events for AGRN 954 or AGRN 960
- address mental health, wellbeing or healing in children and young people impacted by the storms and floods.

Programs that may be eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- community events and social activities
- sport and recreational programs
- youth mental health training
- cultural and community connection programs
- healing initiatives to support Aboriginal children, vulnerable children and young people affected by adverse events
- peer support programs, mentoring and training for children and young people
- digital communications and resources
- partnership programs, activities with schools, early childhood and NGOs.

Youth Community Coordinators will submit funding proposals for consideration by an Assessment Panel who will develop an agreed assessment process and weightings against the following assessment criteria:

- delivers new or enhanced existing programs, activities or services
- coordinates and works together with existing services, does not duplicate existing services
- promotes community cohesion to improve community recovery from natural disasters and resilience of children and young people
- cooperative program delivery -brings together agencies and organisations to deliver programs to support wellbeing and mental health of children and young people
- supported by the community and meets community need
- focuses on vulnerable children and young people
- equity of programs for different age groups with the 0-24 year cohort
- appropriately costed and costs incurred between September 2021 and 30 June 2023 (timing aligns with the funding envelope provided by the Commonwealth for joint funding)
- inclusive and accessible for children and young people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Funding is available for eligible recipients in Local Government Areas (LGAs) included in Natural Disaster Declarations AGRN 954 and AGRN 960 (Natural disaster declarations | NSW Government) where there is a demonstrated community need, and significant wellbeing and mental health issues of children and young people arising from the impact of the storm and flood events. Programs may cover more than one LGA.

A minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 can be allocated to each approved project with a maximum of \$100,000 allocated to each LGA. Multiple groups within the LGA can apply for a portion of this funding. Funding will be allocated based on community need and need for mental health support for children and young people arising from the event, with a focus on community programs that cover more than one LGA to maximise funding distribution. Not all LGAs impacted by the Storms and Flood event will receive funding through this program.

Funding allocation will be determined by the Assessment Panel and weighting criteria.

Eligible locations High need Local Government Areas declared under AGRN 954 and AGRN 960.
View a list of these Local Government areas in Appendix A below.

Administering agency Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW.



Purpose

In the last 24 months, communities in regional NSW have endured multiple natural disasters. The NSW Storms and Floods event (March 2021) have had an additional catastrophic impact on communities.

78 LGAs have been declared for the NSW Storms and Floods (AGRN 954 and AGRN 960), many of which were impacted by previous disasters such as the 2019-20 bushfires, compounding recovery needs.

The resilience of young people has been tested by multiple natural disasters. The compounding impacts of natural disasters have increased mental health issues among children and young people and increased the need for additional support. Research shows that natural disasters significantly affect young people. Since 2019, there has been a marked increase in access to mental health support among children and young people. The experiences of children and young people are different and unique to adults and they require additional and targeted recovery support.

The Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Program will fund projects in storm and flood affected communities to:

- improve access to programs and services to improve mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- provide programs and resources to improve recovery and resilience of children and young people to respond to the impacts of the floods and natural disaster
- strengthen community networks and connection to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- build community capacity and capability to support children and young people to recover post the floods and natural disaster.

The program will be delivered by the Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW.

Eligibility criteria

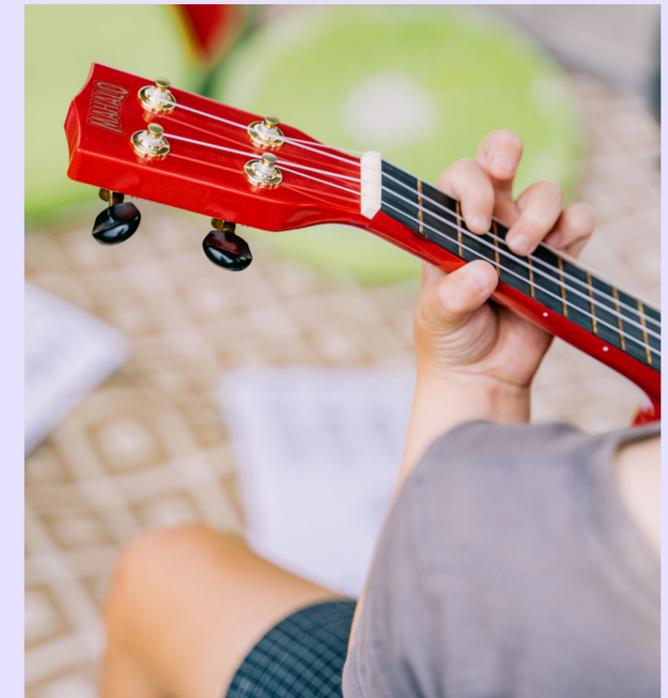
To be eligible, program funding recipients must:

- ✓ hold an Australian Business Number (ABN), Australian Company Number (ACN) or be registered with NSW Fair Trading under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009
- ✓ have or be able and willing to purchase at least \$20 million in public liability insurance.

The following activities and costs are not eligible for funding under the program:

- ✗ costs associated with existing ongoing staff
- ✗ purchase of plant, equipment, and other capital items. In exceptional cases, equipment essential to project delivery as part of larger projects may be approved by the administering agency in consultation with Resilience NSW and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency
- ✗ requests for ongoing program funding
- ✗ projects and/or activities that are not related to wellbeing of young people and communities in areas impacted by the February or March 2021 storm and flood events
- ✗ requests to recover costs for existing debts and/or budget deficits.





Funding

To be eligible, costs must be directly associated with the delivery of the program.

The cost of the program will be shared equally by the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government on a 50:50 basis.

Funding is available for eligible recipients in Local Government Areas (LGA) included in Natural Disaster Declarations AGRN 954 and AGRN 960 (Natural disaster declarations | NSW Government) where there is a demonstrated community need, and significant wellbeing and mental health issues of children and young people arising from the impact of these events. Programs may cover more than one LGA.

\$3.6 million is available within this program for eligible LGAs. \$1.8 million will be allocated in 2021-22 and \$1.8 million

will be allocated in 2022-23. A minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 can be available to each approved project with a maximum of \$100,000 allocated to each LGA. Joint applications from a number of LGAs are encouraged.

Co-contributions and cooperative program delivery are strongly encouraged. This may include in-kind support and/or funding from other sources. Evidence of co-contribution is required as part of the proposal for funding where relevant.

Programs and locations will be identified through the Youth Community Coordinators. Community Recovery Officers (and other community-based roles) may refer programs to the Community Coordinators to develop applications.

Program proposals will be assessed by a Panel comprised of the Office for Regional Youth and Resilience NSW. The Panel will consider applications on a monthly basis and recommend projects for funding to the NSW Minister for Regional Youth for approval.

Funding recipients must adhere to the funding agreements and reporting required under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Agreements (DRFA), including requirements outlined below.



Timeframes

Under the DRFA, the NSW Government has 24 months from the end of the financial year in which the relevant eligible disaster occurred or such longer period as agreed by the Commonwealth to incur state expenditure for Category C funding. For the NSW Storms and Floods from 10 March 2021 (AGRN 960), this period expires on 30 June 2023. The programs and activities funded under this program must be completed before this date.

Key dates:

- Program commencement: September 2021
- Proposals considered monthly from: February 2022 to December 2022 or until funds are fully expended.
- Proposals provided for Ministerial approval monthly from: March 2022
- Proposals announced and commenced: ongoing
- All funding allocated by: 30 June 2023

Funding proposal process

Youth Community Coordinators (YCCs) will work with communities, government and non-government organisations within storm and flood impacted communities to identify community projects for funding under the program.

Relevant agencies and organisations in the community will be consulted on the program and potential programs for funding. YCCs will work with all relevant agencies and organisations to develop community proposals for funding, involving multiple agencies and organisations in the community. Community Recovery Officers and other key community staff can refer programs to the YCCs to develop applications. Program proposals must demonstrate community involvement and support.

YCCs will develop funding proposals for consideration by an Assessment Panel (made up of Office for Regional Youth and Resilience NSW). Proposals will take into account disaster impacts, recovery needs, available and existing services and community need and support for resources. Funding proposals will be ranked based on meeting the eligibility and weighted according to the assessment criteria. The applications, weighting and assessment process will be determined and agreed by the Assessment Panel.

Assessment and approval process

Proposals for program funding will be assessed by an Assessment Panel comprised of the Department of Regional NSW and Resilience NSW representatives. NSW Health will be invited to participate in the Assessment Panel.

The Panel will meet monthly as required to consider and recommend projects for funding to the NSW Minister for Regional Youth for approval.

A funding agreement and milestones will be created, within program requirements. If successful, you will be advised of this information.

Proposals will be assessed against the eligibility requirements and the following assessment criteria:

- delivers new or enhanced existing programs, activities or services
- coordinates and works together with existing services, does not duplicate existing services
- promotes community cohesion to improve community recovery from adverse events and resilience of children and young people
- supported by the community and meets community need
- focuses on vulnerable children and young people
- equity of programs for different age groups with the 0-24 year cohort
- appropriately costed and costs incurred between September 2021 and 30 June 2023, (timing aligns with the funding envelope provided by the Commonwealth for joint funding)
- inclusive and accessible for children and young people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Greater weighting will be given to the following criteria:

- Cooperative program delivery -brings together agencies and organisations to deliver programs to support wellbeing and mental health of children and young people
- Demonstrated support from the community and meets community need
- Focuses on vulnerable children and young people
- Programs with reach across LGAs.



Reporting

(to both Commonwealth
and the state/territory)

The Office for Regional Youth will coordinate quarterly progress reports to Resilience NSW and the Commonwealth including activity delivery, dates and expenditure. Program progress reports will be used to identify appropriate program milestones and opportunities for joint program announcements.

Financial reporting to the Commonwealth will be through Resilience NSW and in line with existing quarterly financial reporting mechanisms established under the DRFA.

Projects will be monitored for compliance and progress throughout the project delivery period in accordance with the DRFA, the funding agreement, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Disaster Recovery Programs.

Funding recipients will be required to complete:

- quarterly reporting including actual expenditure until the completion of the project
- evaluation report upon completion of the project.



Assurance and acquittal

Assurance and acquittal will be in accordance with existing requirements established under the DRFA.



Public acknowledgement

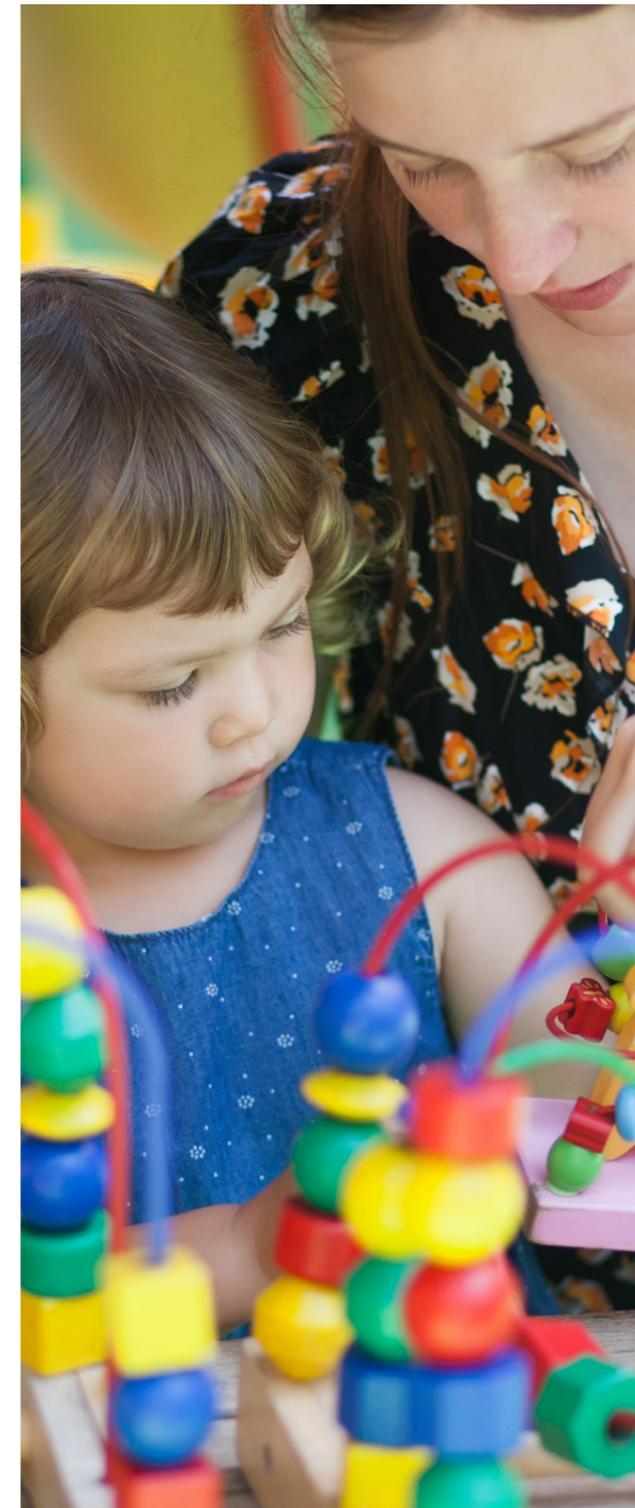
Under the DRFA, the announcement of assistance must be done jointly by the Commonwealth and the State, unless otherwise agreed.

Prior agreement must be reached with the Commonwealth on the nature and content of any subsequent events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to DRFA assistance measures.

This includes but is not limited to: media releases, events, social media, signage and advertising.

NSW will identify and inform the Commonwealth of media opportunities relating to the Program.

Successful funding recipients must seek approval from the Department of Regional NSW to issue program announcements, promotional material or other publicity materials relating to DRFA assistance measures.



Monitoring and evaluation

Under the DRFA, monitoring and evaluation should be undertaken for Category C measures. Monitoring and evaluation of the program will be undertaken by the Department of Regional NSW in accordance with the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Disaster Recovery Programs (<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/national-recovery-monitoring-and-evaluation/>). Monitoring will be undertaken on a quarterly basis and evaluation will be undertaken and reported after 12 months and at the end of the program.

Evaluation measures may include:

- improved access to programs and services to improve mental health and wellbeing of children and young people following natural disaster
- improved mental health and wellbeing of children and young people arising from natural disaster
- increased number of programs and resources to improve recovery and resilience of children and young people to respond to the impacts of the floods and natural disaster
- improved community networks and connection to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- increased community capacity and capability to support children and young people to recover post the floods and natural disaster.

Appendix A – NSW Storms and Floods

19 February 2021 onwards

Clarence Valley
Coffs Harbour
Kyogle
Lismore
Nambucca Valley
Port Macquarie-Hastings
Richmond Valley

NSW Storms and Floods 10 March 2021 onwards

Armidale	Goulburn Mulwaree	Parramatta
Ballina	Greater Hume	Penrith
Bathurst	Gunnedah	Port Macquarie- Hastings
Bega Valley	Gwydir	Port Stephens
Bellingen	Hawkesbury	Queanbeyan-Palerang
Blacktown	Hornsby	Richmond Valley
Blue Mountains	Hunters Hill	Shoalhaven
Bogan	Inner West	Singleton
Brewarinna	Inverell	Snowy Monaro
Byron	Kempsey	Sutherland
Cabonne	Ku-ring-gai	Tamworth
Camden	Kyogle	Temora
Campbelltown	Lachlan	Tenterfield
Canterbury Bankstown	Lake Macquarie City	The Hills
Central Coast	Lismore	Tweed
Central Darling	Lithgow	Upper Lachlan
Cessnock City Council	Liverpool	Uralla
Clarence Valley	Liverpool Plains	Walcha
Cobar	Maitland City	Walgett
Coffs Harbour City	Mid-Coast	Warren
Coonamble	Moree Plains	Wingecarribee
Cumberland	Muswellbrook	Wollondilly
Dungog Shire	Nambucca Valley	
Eurobodalla	Narrabri	
Fairfield	Narromine	
Georges River	Newcastle City	
Gilgandra	Northern Beaches	
Glen Innes Severn	Oberon	



Contact

For more information, please contact
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