

EXISTING COMMONWEALTH/STATE PERSONAL ASSISTANCE MEASURES

This table sets out a draft list of programs/ arrangements that exist to deal with situations that have similar consequences to those which might be experienced during and after an emergency animal disease event. The arrangements do not generally have the scope within the eligibility criteria to be available immediately to respond to an animal disease event. However, some of them might be useful, with slight modification, to respond to personal needs arising from the impact of an emergency like Foot and Mouth Disease. The list will need to be further considered by the Commonwealth/States/Territories when principles for relief and recovery are developed after the Productivity Commission report is released (see paragraphs 31 and 32).

The Commonwealth and States also have the capacity to implement “one-off” assistance programs in response to specific events if required and/or appropriate.

Non-government organisations, i.e. Australian Red Cross, Salvation Army, Smith Family, St Vincent de Paul etc also provide disaster/emergency assistance by way of emergency relief funds, shelter, accommodation, household supplies and clothing.

PROGRAM	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	DESCRIPTION
COMMONWEALTH		
Disaster Relief	Dept of Transport and Regional Services	The Commonwealth has in place a generic disaster relief payment, which is available if the Minister for Family and Community Services has declared that a natural disaster is a major disaster for the purposes of the Social Security Act 1991. Disaster relief payment is payable if, because of the disaster, the person has suffered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Severe damage to their residence; and/or – A significant interruption to their normal source of income Parts of this program may be relevant in the event of an outbreak, however guidelines and eligibility criteria are limiting factors.
Social Security Payments	Dept of Family and Community Services	May become relevant if the outbreak is sustained over a long period
FarmHelp	Dept of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (AFFA)/Centrelink	FarmHelp aims to provide : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – financial assistance to farmers and their families who are experiencing financial hardship and who cannot borrow further against their assets; – tailored assistance to farm families to adjust and make decisions about their future in the industry; – access to skills retraining for an alternative career; and – access to professional advice on the future viability of their business and on employment opportunities if they choose to exit the industry
Rural Financial Counselling Services	AFFA (in consultation with State governments)	Financial counsellors help primary producers, small rural businesses and individuals in rural areas who are experiencing financial hardship and have no alternative sources of advice with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessment of current financial position and cash flow budgeting reviews of contracts with lending institutions, loan applications and communication with lenders information on government assistance schemes information on Centrelink and other welfare benefits assistance with family decision making and personal or family counselling.

Regional Solutions Programme	Department of Transport and Regional Services	The Regional Solutions Programme aims to assist regional and rural communities find local solutions to local challenges. The Programme provides some \$90 million over four years to enable communities to put into action development projects that will lead to stronger local economies and improved access to services
QUEENSLAND		
Community Disaster Recovery Management Program	Department of Families	Provision of personal support, counselling, mental health services and community services
Farm Financial Counselling	Department of Primary Industries	Using financial analyses to help farmers understand their financial position, identify, assess and report the financial impacts of options and develop strategies and plans for industry and structural development.
Counter Disaster Operations	Department of Emergency Services	Reimbursement of costs incurred by State Agencies and Local Governments in performing community response activities.
Tourism Queensland Communication Crisis Management Strategy	Department of Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading	Communication strategy to deal with any adverse impacts on tourism
Workers Assistance Programme	Department of Employment and Training	Financial assistance for retraining of workers, job preparation, relocation and employer wage subsidies
Regional Business Development Scheme	Department of State Development	Assistance for business development projects where a net benefit to a region is identified (for example, grants for feasibility studies).
Immediate Response Plan	Department of State Development	Process for providing government assistance to mitigate impacts of significant employment losses and business closures in communities
Variety of operational and logistic services	Various departments	Technical advice to primary producers, 'on the ground' information distribution, veterinary support.
VICTORIA		
Natural Disaster relief payments to local government	Victorian Grants Commission	To assist municipal councils affected by natural disasters Special allowance equal to approved financial assistance by DTF is included in General Revenue Grant. The phrase 'natural disaster' is used because the scheme is directly related to the Commonwealth Government's Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements.
Concessional loans for primary producers	Rural Finance Corporation	For carry-on purposes and to assist with the re-establishment of the economic enterprise
Concessional loans for small business	Rural Finance Corporation	For carry-on purposes and to assist with the re-establishment of the economic enterprise.
Subsidy on transport of fodder and transport of stock to and from agistment	Rural Finance Corporation	To assist with the re-establishment of the farming enterprise.
Financial assistance to municipal councils	Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF)	(a) for the restoration of municipal assets. To assist community rehabilitation municipal council meets the first \$10,000 of approved expenditure, plus 25% of the next \$100,000. Approved expenditure exceeding \$100,000 is fully funded by the Government. (b) for emergency protection works - Government meets entire cost.
NORTHERN TERRITORY		
Personal hardship and distress	Department of Health and	Individuals and households

	Community Services	
Concessional loans for housing	Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs	Individuals and households
Concessional interest rate loans for carry on requirements and the replacement of livestock and plant; and Freight subsidies on the carriage of livestock and fodder	Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development	Primary producers
Concessional interest rate loans	Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development	Small business
Grants to meet additional costs of emergency services to restore essential services and grants to permanently restore other essential Council assets; and Grants to restore road works to pre-disaster standard	Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs	Councils
Grants to restore assets to pre-disaster standard	Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs	Voluntary non-profit organisations
Grants for the replacement or repair of facilities	Department of Health and Community Services	Non-profit incorporated organisations funded by the Department
Welfare Group Plan	Department of Health and Community Services	Provision of welfare support to the community during the "response phase"; provision of support to those persons engaged in counter disaster activities; the assessment of, and attention to, the long term (Recovery Phase) welfare requirements of the community; advice to the Regional Controller in relation to welfare response and recovery strategies; and co-ordination of NDRA when relevant.
TASMANIA		
Emergency housing and accommodation	Housing Services (DHHS) assisted by Local Government	
Child welfare and financial assistance	Child Youth and Family Services (DHHS)	Includes temporary child care, assisted by Local Government
Public Health	Health Advancement (DHHS)	
Community recovery coordination	Community and Rural Health	

Financial Assistance	DHHS & Centrelink	Administration of Special Benefits or Disaster Relief Payment. Advice on the grants, loans, compensation or Commonwealth payments available, and persons affected by an event who are in immediate need
SOUTH AUSTRALIA¹		
Emergency Grant	Department of Human Services	This grant provides immediate personal needs such as food, clothing, accommodation and transport etc.
Temporary Living Expenses Grant	Department of Human Services	Provides for up to 26 weeks for accommodation and other temporary living arrangement expenses.
Re-Establishment Grant	Department of Human Services	Provides assistance for damage to house structure and loss of personal and household items for principal place of residence (if not covered by insurance).
State Disaster Relief Fund	Funds generated by public donations	Administered by the State Disaster Relief Fund Committee reporting to the State Disaster Recovery Committee.
Small Business Emergency Service	Department of Industry and Trade	Provides counseling and referral services for small businesses in crisis situations
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY		
Accommodation	ACT Housing	Coordinate emergency accommodation for people rendered homeless, evacuees and/or casualties and the allocation of more permanent accommodation.
Compensation for animals or property destroyed	Minister for Urban Services	Owners of animals that have died or have been destroyed, and property that has been destroyed as a result of an exotic or endemic disease may apply to the Minister for compensation (up to a maximum of the market value of the animal/property).
Counselling Services	Department of Health and Community Care	Provision of counselling services to members of the community who directly or indirectly experience some psychological or emotional problems as a result of, or in response to, an emergency.
Financial Assistance	Department of Education and Community Services	Subject to means test and/or assessment of need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Assistance – for immediate short-term needs such as food, clothing, accommodation, transport and medical supplies • Temporary Living Expenses – to assist with accommodation costs where residence uninhabitable or inaccessible for more than 48 hours • Essential Household Contents – assistance for replacement or repairs of essential household contents if not covered by insurance • Structural Grants – for restoration of residences to a safe and habitable condition, but not necessarily to pre-emergency standard • Loans – in certain circumstances for household contents
Infrastructure recovery	Urban Services	Infrastructure recovery, including restoration of essential services, if required
Population Health	Department of Health and	Food/water safety (including safety of supplies to field staff); general hygiene and solid waste

¹ There is some flexibility in SA arrangements for additional or alternative types of funding to be made available as circumstances warrant. These could extend to individuals, households, farming enterprises or small businesses affected by the emergency.

	Community Care	management; public health advice; water quality monitoring and analysis; and prevention of human infectious diseases (not specific to FMD but could be applicable to other zoonotic infections) through enhanced surveillance, vaccinations to target groups and contact tracing.
Various assistance measures under the Community Recovery Sub-Plan of the ACT Emergency Plan	Government and non-Government organisations	Services include child care; welfare of domestic animals; translating and interpreting; catering; clothing, furniture and personal needs; first aid; registration; chaplains, outreach service; personal support, information and advice.
NEW SOUTH WALES		
Family	DOCS	Personal Hardship & Distress
Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements	NSW Agriculture	50% subsidy on transport of fodder and livestock to and from agistment. 100% subsidy on transport of donated fodder and infrastructure if public donation scheme overviewed by the Government.
	NSW RAA	Loans of up to \$130,000 are available at the concessional rate of 3% subject to conditions (50% of income derived from farming enterprise). Loans of up to \$20,000 for specific projects if announced by Government eg Newcastle Disease clean up costs.
Emergency Response	NSW Agriculture	Costs of rescuing feeding and health of threatened or injured livestock in a declared event. (fire and flood automatic) Costs of disposal of destroyed, burnt/drowned livestock. (include fish and bees) Provision of flood/fire support workers as component of Government recovery program
WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
Farm financial counselling	Joint program AFFA and Dept of Agriculture WA	Financial counselling
Land Sales Liaison	Department of Agriculture	Rural Land Sales Liaison Committee offers a forum for negotiation between financier and landowner when action is proposed that would force land sales.
Miscellaneous Initiatives	Department of Agriculture	The State has in the recent past been prepared to provide funds to subsidise a range of activities such as; -the cost of agistment, -soil testing -dam repairs -water carting -the provision of animal feed -animal welfare -production of publications offering options to deal with the problem -specific workshops to build knowledge and skills to deal with the problem -access to help lines -access to professional advice These initiatives are not seen as primary solutions to reducing the burden of natural disasters. The Department objective is to provide the farmer, landowner/manager with the skills, knowledge and applied science to maximise the individuals capacity to self manage risk.

Personal Hardship and Distress (PHD)	Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA (FESA); Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services; Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Department of Community Development; Main Roads Department of WA; Department of Treasury and Finance; Department of Health; WA Municipal Association; and a range of State, Local and semi-Government agencies as deemed necessary.	Standard relief and restoration measures under NDRA, if the disaster is deemed to be a disaster within the definitions of the NDRA.
Grants for the restoration of public assets and emergency protection and repair works.	A range of State, Local and semi-Government authorities.	
Concessional loans provided to small businesses, churches and sporting associations, primary producers and other voluntary non-profit organisations.	Agencies involved as above for PHD	
Family Counselling, Provision of personal support.	Department of Community Development (coordinating with Centrelink)	