



# Mental Health Supports for Bushfire Activity Work Plan

2019/20 – 2023/24

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# 1. Expansion of Mental Health Services in Bushfire Affected Communities

## Activity priorities and description

### Program key priority area

Mental Health

### Aim of activity

The aim of this activity is to expand mental health services in bushfire affected locations, primarily in the Southern Downs, Scenic Rim and Ipswich areas, to support individuals to access low intensity short to medium term mental health and wellbeing services as a result of the 2019-20 bushfires.

### Description of activity

This activity is designed to support family and community resilience to withstand the uncertainty, stress and anxiety as a result of the recent bushfire activity. Providers will be identified and commissioned to provide increased mental health services in affected locations within the PHN. The activity will look to increase referrals to Step Care services, remove barriers and stigma around accessing mental health services and increase GP and community awareness regarding available MBS bushfire services.

## Needs assessment priorities

Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN Needs Assessment 2019/20-2021/22.

### Needs assessment priority

Mental Health

## Collaboration

Consultation and Planning:

- bordering funded PHNs, co-design
- local Government, consultation
- local Government key staff, consultation
- rural mental health service providers, service delivery
- rural networks and collaboratives, consultation
- non-government state funded and community organisations, consultation.

## 2. Supporting Communities in Recovery

### Community Grants

#### Activity priorities and description

##### Program key priority area

Mental Health

##### Aim of activity

The aim of this activity is to commission small community grants that fund activities that help mental health and healing activities following the 2019-20 bushfires. The community grants will target activities to reduce suicide prevention, identifying post-traumatic stress disorder, building resilience and providing opportunities for social connectedness for communities that have suffered as a result of the 2019-20 bushfires.

##### Description of activity

This Activity will leverage of the work already conducted with the Empowering Our Communities Grant Funding with a view to:

- Continuing to upskill the community locally to understand and identify the impact of bushfire on mentalhealth and resilience including suicide prevention and identifying post traumatic stress disorder.
- Implementing community-led events/initiatives that promote family wellbeing and resilience, and reduce stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicide prevention.
- Collaborating with other funded agencies and PHNs (State and local governments/non-government organisations) to promote resilience and reduce stigma associated with mental health conditions.

#### Needs assessment priorities

Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN Needs Assessment 2019/20-2021/22.

##### Needs assessment priority

Mental Health

#### Collaboration

Consultation and Planning:

- bordering funded PHNs, co-design
- local Government, consultation
- local Government key staff, consultation
- rural mental health service providers, service delivery
- rural networks and collaboratives, consultation
- non-government state funded and community organisations, consultation.

### 3. Bushfire Trauma Response Coordinators

#### Activity priorities and description

##### Program key priority area

Mental Health

##### Aim of activity

The aim of this activity is to engage a Bushfire Trauma Response Coordinator whose role will be a single point of contact for individuals and communities to ensure that the right mental health support is offered at the right time. The Coordinator will work directly with communities impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires.

##### Description of activity

An appropriate candidate will be engaged to support affected individuals and communities affected by the 2019-20 bushfires through warm referrals to mental health, other social supports and promote a joined approach to navigating the mental health care system. The Coordinator will actively promote the availability of MBS bushfire services, consult with community groups, rural fire services, local governments, State Government stakeholders and coordinate the commissioning of small community grants.

#### Needs assessment priorities

Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN Needs Assessment 2019/20-2021/22.

Needs assessment priority
Mental Health

#### Collaboration

Consultation and Planning:

- bordering funded PHNs, co-design
- local Government, consultation
- local Government key staff, consultation
- rural mental health service providers, service delivery
- rural networks and collaboratives, consultation
- non-government state funded and community organisations, consultation.





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