

## Community Sector update

### COVID-19 response

**Wednesday, 10 February 2021**

The Department of Communities will endeavour to keep service providers updated with relevant information over the course of the COVID-19 transition out of lockdown.

The frequency of notices may not be daily.

Please see below key updates:

- **Wooroloo fire recovery**
  - More than 800 people have been assisted.
  - Welfare checks will be conducted for the elderly and other vulnerable people.
  - The WA Council of Social Service (WACOSS) has been providing a triage service for offers of support from the **community service sector** (not the general public).
  - If the service sector has any goods, supports, or information to offer to the bushfire response team, please get in touch with Eva Perroni from WACOSS via email: [eva@wacoss.org.au](mailto:eva@wacoss.org.au).
  - The Department of Fire and Emergency Services has a [donations page](#) with a list of opportunities for members of the public to also get involved.
  - To volunteer, visit Volunteering WA's register for [emergency support volunteers](#) to help out on the ground, as well as the [facilitation of emergency accommodation](#) to relevant providers.
  - If you have staff or clients impacted by the bushfires, they can call the Disaster Response Hotline on 1800 032 965; operating 24 hours, 7 days a week.
  - Lifeline's Bushfire Recovery phoneline 13 HELP (13 4357) is a dedicated service available to support people in bushfire affected areas that are struggling.
  - Existing [helplines for immediate, confidential and free support](#) are available to people requiring additional or targeted support.
  - The Australian Government is offering a [disaster recovery payment and/or allowance](#) for people directly impacted by the Perth bushfires.
  - For further information on financial assistance visit the Bushfire recovery centre at Percy Cullen Oval and Building, 1990 Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup or call the Disaster Response Hotline on 1800 032 965.
    - Please share the details of helplines and supports on your website/social media channels.
- **Masks**
  - Providers/organisations that have received masks will be contacted in due course to gather information for stocktake purposes.
- **Send us feedback**
  - Our funded services and sector partners are encouraged to submit feedback and comments regarding our interactions and information sharing since 1 February 2021 – things that worked well and areas where we can improve.
  - Please email the Sector Support Team at [sectorsupport@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:sectorsupport@communities.wa.gov.au).

Stay up to date with the latest government advice via [www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au) and [www.healthywa.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au).

Sector update messages are also available on the **Department of Communities website** at [Community Sector Partnerships \(COVID-19\) | Department of Communities \(www.communities.wa.gov.au\)](#).