

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Equality
Minister for Creative Industries



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Thursday, 28 March 2019

MENTAL HEALTH BOOST TO SUPPORT GIPPSLAND RECOVERY

The Andrews Labor Government is standing with fire-affected communities in Gippsland, with new funding aimed at helping locals and their families that need mental health support.

Mental health support services across the region can now apply for their share of \$300,000 in Labor Government support for people in Cardinia, Baw Baw, Latrobe City, Wellington and East Gippsland Shires.

Fires can have a devastating impact on communities and locals, and the mental health effects can be felt for many months and years afterwards.

The Labor Government is already providing tailored, targeted and timely support for Victorians doing it tough after a spate of fires, including dedicated case managers as a single point of contact to help affected families access information and services.

Mental health support service groups can apply for up to \$50,000 to support their initiatives, with grant applications closing on 5 April.

Residents affected by bushfires can access a case support worker by contacting their local council, visiting a recovery centre or calling 1800 560 760.

Quote attributable to Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley

“We’re standing with Gippsland communities that have been doing it tough. Extra mental health support delivered by local groups who people trust will help residents get on with rebuilding their lives.”

Quote attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan

“Living with long-running fires and drought in your local area can put extra strain on relationships and families – that’s when reaching out for extra help and support is so important.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

“This summer season has been incredibly tough for first responders, families and communities across the region. Many locals may be struggling with their mental health not just because of this year’s fires, but because they may be reliving similar experiences from the past.”

“This support is crucial to providing the right support and care for healthy recovery and improved wellbeing.”