



DISASTER LEGAL HELP

Disasters like bushfires and floods can create new legal issues and make existing ones worse. **The Disaster Rights Practice at VALS is here to help.**

 **Call toll-free number:** 1800 064 865 *mention "Disaster Rights"*

 **Email:** Disaster.Support@vals.org.au

 **Visit your local VALS office:** vals.org.au/locations

DISASTERS AND LEGAL ISSUES

The Disaster Legal Help Check on the second page lists common legal issues and shows how free legal help can support you before, during and after a disaster.

HOW CAN VALS HELP?

VALS may be able to help with information, referrals, advice or ongoing casework. Your lawyer will discuss what VALS can do to assist you.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Call Triple Zero (000)
in an emergency

Download the **VicEmergency App**
for live updates in your area

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

13YARN: 13 92 76

VAHS Yarning Safe'N'Strong:
1800 959 563

Lifeline: 13 11 14

**Dardi Munwurro Brother to Brother
Crisis Line:** 1800 435 799

DISASTER LEGAL HELP CHECK



Victorian Aboriginal
Legal Service

Housing

- Is your rental provider trying to evict you?
- Does your rental need repairs (eg damage, mould, heating)?
- Do you want to end your tenancy?
- Are you at risk of homelessness?

Money, Bills, Debt and Cars

- Are you being hassled about bills, debts or loans?
- Have you applied for the utility relief grant for electricity, gas or water?
- Do you have unpaid fines or letters from Fines Victoria or the Sheriff?
- Has your car been impounded? Or have you bought a faulty car?
- Are you having issues with Centrelink?
- Do you want advice on government grants?

Employment, Disability and Mental Health

- Have you lost your job?
- Do you want advice on work entitlements or conditions (eg leave, pay, super, safety)?
- Did you stop work due to illness or injury?
- Do you have a Mental Health Tribunal hearing coming up?

Insurance

- Has your insurance claim been denied or not fully covered?
- Have you been offered a cash settlement?
- Are you paying for insurance you can't afford or that doesn't work the way you were told it would?

Discrimination

- Have you experienced discrimination trying to access services?

Family Law and Child Protection

- Are you having issues with parenting arrangements, property or child support?
- Have you had contact from Child Protection?
- Are you at risk of family violence?
- Are you concerned about your or your child's safety?

Victims of Crime Compensation

- Have you been the victim of a violent crime (including family violence) and want compensation?

Court Orders and Criminal Law

- Are you at risk of breaching bail, parole, community corrections, intervention or other court orders due to a disaster?
- Have the police charged you with a criminal offence?
- Do you have any court dates coming up?

Police and Emergency Services Complaints

- Have you been treated unfairly by the police?
- Do you have a complaint about the actions of emergency services?

Prison Complaints

- Do you have a complaint about conditions or treatment inside a prison, for you or someone else?
- Are you concerned about your health or safety during a disaster?

Lost or Missing Documents

- Do you need, or have you lost, important documents (eg birth certificates or other ID)? Want tips on disaster-proofing your documents?