

Summer strategy for Home and Community Care funded organisations

The Victorian Government is keen to work collaboratively with the Home and Community Care (HACC) funded sector, where it is appropriate, to support planning and preparedness for emergency situations.

Some people living in the community, particularly older people and people with disabilities, are at higher risk during an emergency situation or extreme weather event. HACC-funded organisations are in contact with their clients on a regular basis. As part of the preparation for the coming bushfire and heatwave season all organisations should be encouraging their clients to prepare and plan for the coming summer.

Organisations should encourage all clients to:

- assess their risk
- develop a bushfire survival plan
- prepare their home and plan what they will do on a code red day, in an emergency or extreme weather event and to
- discuss their plan with family, friends and neighbours.

It is important that clients discuss these plans with their family, friends and neighbours so that the support that they may need to provide to help clients relocate is considered and appropriate actions are put in place if the need arises.

Staff of in-home HACC-funded services can play an important role in raising awareness of the predicted high danger summer season and prompt older people and people with disabilities to look at resources and to prepare and plan for the summer.

HACC-funded group-based activity providers may host group discussions about how to plan and prepare for summer.

Preparing your organisation for the 2009-10 summer season

There is increased attention being focused on bushfire preparedness and heatwave response for the forthcoming summer months.

There are reported predictions of high temperatures and fire risk potential in Victoria.

There are 52 areas in Victoria that have been specifically identified as high risk, and other areas may equally be affected. This means that all funded organisations need to be prepared.

All organisations should identify their risk and prepare and plan for what they, as an organisation, will do on a code red day in an emergency or extreme weather event.

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All organisations should make sure that their plans consider the local planning arrangements in each local government area. It is important to talk with your local council about appropriate responses and key contacts in the event of an emergency.

Your plans should be well considered, understood and practised by the managers and staff in your organisation to ensure that they are well prepared to implement the plan in the event it is necessary.

For more information

- **Country Fire Authority (CFA).**
You can find detailed information and phone numbers on the CFA website:
<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>
- **FireReady Kit**
This kit has been produced to help you understand your bushfire risk, prepare your property and develop a Bushfire Survival Plan. You can find it at:
<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/summer/firereadykit.htm>
- **Emergency REDiPlan:** Household preparedness for seniors.
This is a resource to help people be better prepared in case of an emergency. It is targeted particularly to older people and you can find it at:
http://www.redcross.org.au/ourservices_acrossaustralia_disasteremergencyservices_default.htm
- Department of Health Bushfire response: client and services policy, 2009-10 at
http://www.health.vic.gov.au/bushfire/downloads/br_dh.pdf
Refer to pages 25 – 26 for HACC program related information
- Better Health Channel, Preventing heat stress -
http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Heat_stress_and_heat-related_illness?open&source=homepage&linktype=Alert-More&ppnl=Alert&ppos=More
- Better Health Channel , Managing heat stress and older people -
http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Heat_stress_and_the_elderly?open&source=homepage&linktype=Alert-More&ppnl=Alert&ppos=More

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