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WA Emergency Services Volunteers Hardship Assistance Scheme

If you are a volunteer going through a tough time, you may be eligible for support through the WA Emergency Services Volunteers Hardship Assistance Scheme (the Scheme).

Established in 2015, the Scheme assists volunteers who are unable to meet minimum living expenses due to unexpected events. Whether you are dealing with illness or injury, loss of a job or income, the passing of a loved one, a relationship breakdown or the impact of a natural disaster or other emergencies, the Scheme is here to help you meet essential living expenses and ease the burden during difficult times.

Eligible volunteers can receive up to \$6,000 in hardship assistance to cover costs such as:

- outstanding utility accounts and charges
- general household expenses
- funeral expenses for a family member
- unexpected costs due to accident or injury to self or family member
- self-employment expenses
- support for dependent family members
- last resort welfare assistance for self or family member
- medical expenses
- Shire or council rates
- mortgage or lease expenses.

Emergency claims up to \$2,000 are also available without completing the full application form. Additionally, the governing committee may offer a special emergency grant of \$2,000 to a volunteer who has lost or sustained significant damage to their primary residence.

For more information about the Scheme including eligibility, please visit waesvhas.org.au or contact your association. Full advice on applying for a grant can be found under the “Apply” link on the website.

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COMMISSIONER