



Australian Red Cross Drought Relief in Queensland

How You Can Help

Australia is currently experiencing one of the driest periods since records commence in 1900. The worst-affected areas are New South Wales, with 100 per cent of the state in drought, and Queensland, with 57.4 per cent of the state in drought. Other areas of Australia are also experiencing dry conditions.

This is a tough time for Aussie farmers, their families and their communities. People in drought-affected areas can feel isolated and burdened by financial and social responsibilities. They may be less able to engage in their local community, and the health and wellbeing benefits of social interaction and community spirit can be eroded.

Australian Red Cross launched the Disaster Relief and Recovery Appeal to Help Aussie Farmers in August 2018. Thanks to the generosity of the Australian community, the Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Appeal 'Help Aussie Farmers' has raised more than \$11 million. These funds are being used to alleviate financial pressures and support the health and well-being of severely drought-affected farmers, farming families and their communities. Financial support is available to meet everyday household expenses, as well as enabling access to social, health and educational activities. Red Cross has partnered with the Country Women's Association (CWA) to distribute these funds.

Help to spread the word

Local organisations can play a key role in ensuring that information about the availability of relief funds reaches all people in need in an equitable and timely manner. You can help by spreading the word in your community and encourage drought-affected farmers to apply for funds with the form available on the Queensland Country Women's Association website at www.qcwa.org.au.

You can also assist by distributing in your community an information flyer with the CWA application form on the reverse. This double-sided sheet contains all the information farmers need to apply for relief funds. For more detailed information about who can receive funds, what expenses are covered and what the application process is, please refer to the flyer, the CWA form and the Frequently Asked Questions on the reverse of this page.

Help us report to our donors

More than 9,000 people have given to the Aussie Farmers Appeal, and they'd like to see the impact of their donations. If you know of farmers who have received funds from CWA and would like to share their story, could you let us know?

We want our donors to appreciate how resilient our farmers are. The story we're after is about how they are coping with the drought and how relief funds are helping them in a small way. We'll show the farmers the story before it goes out, and they will control how it gets told.

Contact

With your help, Red Cross can contribute to alleviate the hardships of drought-affected farmers and bring about more resilient communities. For enquiries, if you need printed copies of the flyer or if you know of someone who's happy to share their story, please contact Antoine Chandonnet at achandonnet@redcross.org.au or (07) 3367 7202.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much money was raised through the Red Cross 'Help Aussie Farmers' Appeal?

Since its beginning until its closure on August 31st, the Appeal has raised more than \$11 million.

How are the funds being distributed?

Australian Red Cross has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Queensland Country Women's Association to distribute financial support to farmers in drought-affected areas.

Who is eligible to receive funds?

Funds are available to farmers, farming families and farming-dependent contractors located in areas classed as drought affected by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (including Individually Droughted Properties) and that rely on farming activity for their livelihood.

What are the relief funds for and how much can people ask?

Funds raised by the Red Cross 'Help Aussie Farmers' Appeal are being used to alleviate financial pressures and support the health and well-being of severely drought-affected farmers, farming families and farming communities. They cover household expenses such as food, vehicle maintenance, school expenses, utility expenses, gas and electricity, rates and medical costs. Applications can be up to \$5,000 in total. However, applicants can receive a maximum of \$3,000 for household expenses (see next question for other covered expenses).

What if people need financial assistance for something else than household expenses, for example fodder or water?

The tax laws that allow Red Cross to collect money for people affected by disaster and crisis do not allow us to give funds to help with business expenses, such as machinery, fertilisers and feed. However, farmers can still apply to the Queensland Country Women's Association for assistance with these expenses with the same form.

Apart from financial assistance, what does Red Cross do to help drought-affected communities?

Australian Red Cross members, volunteers and staff have been responding at a local level to lift the morale of farming families and communities; to help people feeling separated and isolated by the burdens they are facing as a result of drought; and to support individual and community wellbeing. We will continue to support people to cope with and recover from the effects of this drought. This may include wellbeing checks, psychological first aid, information, referrals and community events to bring relief and keep community connections strong.

I have more questions, what should I do?

For specific questions about the relief funds, eligibility and application process, please visit the Queensland Country Women's Association website at www.qcwa.org.au or call (07) 3026 1220.