

Relocation assistance for Morwell South residents affected by the Hazelwood open cut mine fire

Victoria's Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester has recommended the following 'at risk' groups living or working in Morwell, south of Commercial Road, should relocate away from near the open cut mine:

- pregnant women
- residents aged 65 and over
- children under school age (under 5)
- anyone with pre-existing heart or lung conditions.

Where will we relocate to?

You are encouraged to organise your own accommodation and transport, if you have the means.

It is far better to stay with family or friends who live outside Morwell, in order to take a break from the smoke.

Help is available for those identified as 'at risk' who can't organise suitable accommodation or transport for themselves.

Contact the Department of Human Services hotline on **1800 006 468** to make an appointment to speak with a DHS officer in person at one of two locations:

- The Greek Hall, 44-46 Elgin Street, Morwell
- Senior Citizens Hall, Maryvale Crescent, Morwell.

What sort of accommodation is available?

The Department of Human Services will arrange suitable accommodation for those identified as 'at risk' who cannot find their own accommodation.

This will be found as close to Morwell as possible.

When will or should we relocate?

Those people identified as 'at risk' should plan to leave over the next 48 hours.

If you need extra help to organise somewhere to stay, or transport, then please ring the DHS hotline on **1800 006 468** to make an appointment to speak with a DHS officer in person at one of two locations:

- The Greek Hall, 44-46 Elgin Street, Morwell
- Senior Citizens Hall, Maryvale Crescent, Morwell

Financial assistance is available

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments are providing financial assistance to eligible residents who live near the mine in Morwell, south of Commercial Road, to help them take a break if they choose to do so.

These payments are made to help reduce personal hardship caused by the relocation, by helping to meet each applicant's immediate essential health, safety and wellbeing needs.

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- The Greek Hall, 44-46 Elgin Street, Morwell
- Senior Citizens Hall, Maryvale Crescent, Morwell.

How much money is available?

Personal Hardship Respite Payment

A one-off *Personal Hardship Respite Payment* (\$500 per household) remains available to residents who need assistance to take a break away from the smoke.

To be eligible for a respite payment you need:

1. to be a Morwell resident
2. to be able to demonstrate low income/financial hardship.

Please call the DHS hotline on **1800 006 468** to speak to a DHS officer about your personal circumstances.

The Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payment

If you are in the vulnerable group you can apply for a *Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payment*, providing:

1. you live near the mine in Morwell, south of Commercial Road
2. you have demonstrated hardship conditions, and
3. you intend to relocate away from their home.

The *Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payment* is designed to help vulnerable residents cover the ongoing expenses of relocating to accommodation they have organised themselves.

Payments will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and will be in the order of \$750 per adult; or a maximum of \$1250 per household, per week.

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Further information

Up to date information is published on the Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria website at: www.recovery.vic.gov.au