



WELFARE RIGHTS & ADVOCACY SERVICE

2023 Kimberley Floods

Disaster Recovery Payment

WHO CAN GET IT?

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment is a one-off payment to help you if:

You are an **eligible Australian resident who has been adversely affected by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie (December 2022 – January 2023)**.

You must be living in the Local Government Area of Derby-West Kimberley. You may not be eligible if you live outside this area and were visiting.

You must be:

- at least 16 years of age; or
- receiving a social security payment.

Both members of a couple can claim.

You can claim for each dependent child under 16 years of age (you have legal responsibility for their day-to-day care).

You also need to be one of the following:

- an Australian resident; OR
- hold a relevant visa; OR
- is an Australian citizen who is not an Australian resident but the Minister has determined they qualify.

You have until **12 July 2023** to claim.

Centrelink defines '**adversely affected**' differently for each disaster.

For people affected by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie, the relevant circumstances include, if you or your dependent child, is experiencing one of the following:

- serious injury as a direct result of the natural disaster OR
- an immediate family member (who is an Australian citizen or resident) is missing or has died as a direct result of the natural disaster OR
- the disaster caused major damage to your home requiring items to be repaired or replaced OR
- major assets (of \$20,000 or more) located on your property, such as a car, caravan or shed, have been destroyed or damaged and need to be replaced.

HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

\$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child

HOW DO I GET IT?

- Use your MyGov account linked to your Centrelink online account.
- If you can't use your Centrelink online account, you can call Centrelink on 180 22 66 for help
- Go into your local Centrelink office, agent or access point to use their computers and WIFI. (They can't lodge claims for you).

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO GIVE TO CENTRELINK?

Centrelink will likely ask you for the following evidence that you have been 'adversely affected' –

- If you have been seriously injured as a direct result of the disaster, Centrelink may ask you for medical evidence.
- If your immediate family member is missing or has died as a direct result of the disaster, Centrelink may ask you for evidence that they are missing or have died.
- If the disaster caused major damage to your home, requiring items to be repaired or replaced, you will need evidence of this.
- If major assets (valued at \$20,000 or more) located on your property, such as a car, caravan or shed, have been destroyed or damaged and need to be replaced you will need evidence of this.

WHAT CAN I DO IF CENTRELINK REJECTS MY CLAIM?

- Ask for an urgent formal review of that decision by an Authorised Review Officer. See our factsheet titled '[Appealing Decisions – Centrelink](#)' for more information - [Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service \(WA\)](#)
- Seek advice from us at Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service at 9328 1751 or welfare@wraswa.org.au

WHAT OTHER PAYMENTS COULD I BE ELIGIBLE FOR?

Crisis Payment for Extreme Circumstances

You may be able to get this one-off payment equivalent of your usual Centrelink income if you:

- Are in severe financial hardship;
- Have had to relocate; and
- Are not covered by a disaster relief payment

You must make a claim within 7 days of relocating.

You can only claim a maximum of 4 crisis payments per year.

More information is available [from Services Australia here](#).

Advance Payments

You can ask for an advance on your current Centrelink payments. This is a loan which you will have to repay every fortnight. If you have had an advance loan in the last 12 months, you will not be able to get another advance loan.

If you have a Centrelink debt, you are not eligible for an advance.

More information available [from Services Australia here](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Declared Local Government Areas

Derby – West Kimberley

- [Link to map here](#)
- Includes Camballin, Derby, and Fitzroy Crossing

Wyndham – East Kimberley

- [Link to map here](#)
- Includes Kalumburu, Kununurra, Lake Argyle, Lakeside, Packsaddle, and Wyndham

Broome

- [Link to map here](#)
- Includes 12 Mile, Bilingurr, Broome, Cable Beach, Cape Leveque, Coconut Well, Djugun, Lombandina, Minyirr, Morell Park, and Skuthorpe

Halls Creek

- [Link to map here](#)
- Includes Balgo Hills Community, Billiluna, Frog Hollow, Halls Creek, Kundat Djaru, Mulan, and Yiyili

Centrelink offices (agents or access points) open as of 16 January 2023

Fitzroy Crossing NIAA Building, Emanuel Way, Fitzroy Crossing 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Yakanarra Agent Yakanarra Community Office Yakanarra Community St George Ranges WA 6728
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Derby Service Centre (Centrelink) 44 Clarendon Street Derby WA 6728	Warmun Agent Warmun Council Office Warmun Community Warmun WA 6743
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Mowanjum Access Point 8.30 -2.30 Mowanjum Community Resource Centre Gibb River Road Derby WA 6728	Bidyadanga Agent Bidyadanga Community Lot 88 Bidyadanga Road Bidyadanga WA 6725
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Looma Agent Looma Community Administration Office Lot 36 Lungura Drive Looma WA 6728	Wirrimanu Agent (Balgo) Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation Off Tanami Road Tanami WA 6770
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Imintji Access Point Imintji Community Gibb River Road Imintji WA 6728	Kiwirrkurra Agent Lot 68B, Kiwirrkurra Community Kiwirrkurra NT 0872
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CONTACT US

If you need legal advice about Centrelink and you live in Western Australia, please contact Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service on (08) 93281751 or by email at welfare@wraswa.org.au. We specialise in social security law, administration and policy. We are entirely independent of Centrelink. All assistance is free.