



Department of Health

Incorporating: Health, Mental Health and Senior Victorians

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OUR REF:
ADF/10/14883

YOUR REF:

1 February 2011

Dear Treatment Provider

I am writing to advise you about a new initiative that may be of interest to you.

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF) Advisory Panel has allocated \$1 million to establish the Bushfire Recovery Wellness Voucher Program. The program will provide individuals affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires with four vouchers of \$50 each, to contribute towards the provision of allied health services or complementary therapies.

Allied health practitioners and complementary therapists with a private health insurer provider number will be eligible to accept wellness vouchers for treatment in their area of qualification. Treatment providers will be able to charge clients a co-payment to cover the difference between the cost of the session and the \$50 voucher but are expected to apply the standard schedule of fees for treatment sessions where vouchers are presented for use. Fees for services charged by treatment providers will be reviewed and any increase in fees may be referred to the relevant professional bodies or registration boards.

The vouchers do not cover the cost of any products or goods recommended by the treatment provider.

The program will commence from 14 February 2011 and will conclude on 10 August 2011.

I have attached some further information about the program which is available at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/wellnessvouchers or through the VBAF information line on 1800 180 213.

Thank you for supporting this program which will assist the recovery of people affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

Yours sincerely

Maree Guyatt
Director
Integrated Care