

# Storm Response Accessing Legal Help



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## Yarra Ranges Storm Response

Disasters like the severe storm event in June can lead to complicated legal issues for our community, including insurance matters, or exacerbate existing issues like family violence. These issues may particularly start to show up in the recovery period following the disaster.

Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC) is here to help and can provide free information, advice and referrals for anyone in the Eastern Region including the storm affected areas. All ECLC services are free.

Our dedicated and experienced team is here to help.

[Monday to Friday - 9.00am to 5.00pm](#)  
[1300 32 52 00 \(1300 ECLC 00\)](tel:1300325200)

Community members can call us directly or you can call on their behalf with their consent. We can also respond to queries by email.

[eclc@eclc.org.au](mailto:eclc@eclc.org.au)  
[www.eclc.org.au](http://www.eclc.org.au)

Overleaf, we have provided a Legal Help Check to help with identifying potential legal issues.

## Other Legal Services

Eastern Community Legal Centre is the local lead for the Disaster Legal Help partnership. This gives access to legal support from a range of specialist legal services. ECLC will assist in navigating to the best help available.

Initial phone advice is available from Disaster Legal Help. Fact sheets and other information is available on the Disaster Legal Help website.

- Disaster Legal Help Victoria  
1800 113 432 - [disasterlegalhelp.org.au](http://disasterlegalhelp.org.au)

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If you answered yes or maybe to any of the questions on the second page, there may be information or assistance Eastern Community Legal Centre can provide.

**1300 32 52 00 . [eclc@eclc.org.au](mailto:eclc@eclc.org.au) . [www.eclc.org.au](http://www.eclc.org.au)**

# Disaster Recovery Legal Help Check



This check aims to help people working with community members affected by the recent storm event to identify legal needs and related issues that may have arisen or been exacerbated following the storms.

## Safety

- Do you have concerns for the physical safety or emotional wellbeing of yourself, your child/ren or anyone else?
- Are you concerned that you or someone you know may be at risk of family violence?

## Housing

- Has your housing been impacted to the point that you no longer have secure or safe housing?
- Are you at risk of or experiencing homelessness (lack of stable and appropriate housing)?
- Do you have any issues with your neighbours, such as with fencing or dangerous trees?
- If you are renting, do you have any issues or concerns with your landlord?
- If you are renting, are you having any trouble paying your rent?
- If you own your own home, do you have any concerns with your mortgage?

## Insurance

- Are you having any trouble with any of your insurance policies, such as home & contents, building, car or business insurance?

## Money

- Are you being hassled about any debts or loans that you owe?
- Are you experiencing any issues with Centrelink?
- Do you have any unpaid fines?

## Unemployment & Disability

- Have you been treated unfairly at work such as being denied leave entitlements?
- Did you stop work due to illness or injury – regardless of whether the medical condition was caused by/related to work?
- Have you remained unemployed due to mental health issues, chronic illness, cancer or any other medical condition?
- Are you having trouble with your super fund in regards to a claim for insurance such as Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) and/or Income Protection?

## Children

- Are you having any issues with sharing the care of your children with someone else?
- Have you had any contact from Child Protection?

## Crime

- Have you been the victim of a crime or had any property stolen or damaged by another person?
- Have the police charged you with a criminal offence or indicated they may do so?

## Legal Documents

- Have you lost important documents or identification?
- Do you need to make or update your Will, Enduring Power of Attorney (for financial and/or personal matters) or Appointment of a Medical Treatment Decision Maker?

## Court & Important Dates

- Do you have any important dates coming up including any court hearings?

If you answered yes or maybe to any of the above questions, there may be information or assistance Eastern Community Legal Centre can provide.