

State Welfare Emergency Committee (SWEC)

The State Government has designated the Department to coordinate a welfare response if there is a disaster. The Department has arrangements with other agencies including Australian Red Cross, Salvation Army, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, St John Ambulance and others who form the State Welfare Emergency Committee (SWEC) to assist in service provision as part of a coordinated response.

When to contact the Department

The Department can operate welfare evacuation centres and should be contacted whenever an evacuation is considered, or people are likely to be affected.

Who to talk to at the Department

The Department supports staff at the local level to coordinate appropriate responses to disaster situations, liaises with emergency services organisations, and ensures staff are appointed to Local Emergency Management Committees.

For more information on the Department's role in coordinating emergency support services contact:

Disaster Response Hotline

Tel: 1800 032 965 (country free call)

www.communities.wa.gov.au



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Disaster and Emergency

Support Services





Disaster and Emergency Support Services

Under Western Australian emergency management arrangements, the Department of Communities is responsible for coordinating the provision of welfare support services to people affected by an emergency or disaster.

Types of emergency services coordinated by the Department are:

- **Emergency accommodation:** ranging from short term emergency shelter (eg. evacuation centre) to medium term overnight accommodation.
- **Emergency catering:** provision of meals in emergency shelters for evacuees and welfare workers, or assistance to help people buy food.
- **Emergency clothing and personal items:** eg. toiletries and pharmaceuticals.
- **Personal support services:** including practical assistance, emotional support, information, referral, advocacy, counselling, and psychological services.

- **Registration and reunification:** of persons evacuated or affected by the disaster; providing a means for people to locate family members and reunite. The Department uses Register.Find.Reunite for this purpose and is assisted by the Australian Red Cross in providing this service.

Register.Find.Reunite may be available for online registration.

Department staff and Red Cross staff/volunteers are trained and available to complete registrations on site at an emergency shelter or accommodation facility.

- **Financial assistance** including personal hardship and distress relief payments where applicable: to those affected by emergencies who are assessed as eligible and in need. Other categories of assistance that may be available are replacement of essential household goods and minor repairs to residences.

Visit www.communities.wa.gov.au and see the State Welfare Emergency Plan for more information.

Working together

The Department recognises Local Government as a major service provider during emergency response and recovery. The Department works collaboratively with Local Government to support the community in times of emergency. The Department has officers appointed to all Local Emergency Management Committees throughout the State.

