

The Bushfire Recovery

Julian Leeser



We've never seen a fire season like this one.

Our 26 local RFS and two local SES units have been heroes, spending so much of their time away from their families and jobs to protect our communities.

People have also donated significant funds and supplies to help Australians get back on their feet.

Although fire management has traditionally been the responsibility of the states, the federal government is assuming an unprecedented role in fighting the fires and assisting with the recovery.

The Federal Government has established a National Bushfire Recovery Agency to help rebuild communities.

The agency's initial \$2 billion recovery fund will ensure the families, farmers and business owners will get the support they need to recover.

Since 5 September 2019 the Australian Defence Force has been working closely with Emergency Management Australia to assist firefighting efforts in all affected states and territories.

A record troop commitment to these fires including more than 5,000 ADF personnel and reservists personnel are providing direct support.

For more information on the Federal government's involvement in the bushfire crisis visit <https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

I'm in regular contact with the Federal Minister for Emergency Services David Littleproud and senior officers from our local RFS and SES to keep on top of developments in our community and across the state.

This information is up to date as of 14 January 2020.

Living happily, not coordinating care



For people over 65, accessing help to stay living happily at home even when some daily tasks are becoming more difficult can be a lifesaver. But the aged care system is complex - and older Australians and their carers are expected to navigate the system on their own, often at a time when things are already stressful.

Individualised packages and the choice to move between providers is empowering but can mean hours of research.

"This is the burden of choice", says Home Care Package Provider *Your Side's* CEO, Danielle Ballantine.

"It's brilliant that people in and around Hornsby can choose from 93 Home Care Package providers. But working out how to choose, then dealing with ongoing service changes can be a challenge."

And often this unpaid work falls on carers, who themselves have busy lives, perhaps children of their own and an aging parent they are supporting.

"*Your Side* is trying something different. We have a trusted network of providers and coordinate the support package for you. We quality check our partners, call them to arrange services and keep people up to date with the plan. We hope to put some time back in the hands of our families and carers to spend living, not coordinating care."

North Shore man's lifetime of service

For recognising his efforts in helping the homeless in Mission Beat and for serving on the board of the North Epping Bowling Club, North Epping resident Michael Bereton was commended in Parliament.

Mission Beat is a not-for-profit organisation offering support to Sydney's homeless with service vans, medical care, food and other essentials.

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet commended Mr Bereton for these and accomplishments, and being a past president of the Trinity Grammar School Parents and Friends Association, as well as for his 15 years with the North Epping Probus Club where he has served as

President and Secretary.

Mr Bereton was also awarded the Lifetime Service Award at the recent Liberal Party State Council AGM.

The Probus Club of North Epping is a community organisation for men who are retired or semi-retired and who want to enjoy a variety of activities with other people that share similar interests. It meets at the North Epping Bowling & Community Club on the third Monday of each month.

For more information on the club call 0435 112 035 or visit www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/eppingnorth

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As your Federal Member, I am here to:

- Assist with accessing Federal Government services
- Attend your local community event
- Arrange congratulatory messages

Please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

JULIAN LEESER MP

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