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River Murray Flood Community Newsletter

Issue 22: Monday, 14 August 2023



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Message from Alex and Deb

Welcome to the latest edition of the River Murray Flood Community Recovery Newsletter.

Another fortnight of progress being made in the recovery efforts. Demolition and rebuilding works are underway and the sunny days in between the rain certainly help. We are now able to schedule many more demolitions and you will see this occurring in multiple locations throughout the impacted areas over the coming weeks.

A number of events were held this period and we hope you got out to one or more of them. The Illuminate Adelaide display at Mannum was a sight to see.

Some Accidental Counsellor workshops were held and Community meetings were convened at Mannum and Murray Bridge focussing on the work being done in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation areas (LMRIA). A couple more Accidental Counsellor workshops are being planned for the 6th and 7th of September at this stage. We will post the details in the next newsletter once confirmed.

The Women of the LMRIA held their inaugural get together in Murray Bridge on Monday 7 August. We hope to give you some information on how it went next fortnight but by all reports it was a great event.

Of particular note is the great news from South Australia Tourism Commission (SATC) on the progress of round two of the River Revival vouchers especially as we have now had the second chance draw. The take-up of the vouchers and the economic impact from this is heartening to see and a good indication of even more visitors into the Region.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact us should you need further information or to be linked to someone who can assist with issues you may be confronting.

For any flood-related queries call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787, visit sa.gov.au/floods, visit a [Recovery Centre](#), or contact either Deb Richardson or myself. I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.



Alex Zimmermann

Community Recovery Coordinator

[0455 984 411](tel:0455984411)

alex.zimmermann@sa.gov.au



Deb Richardson

Community Development Officer

[0459 283 878](tel:0459283878)

deb.richardson@sa.gov.au

Important Update - River Murray floods Tax relief on new build



RevenueSA

Search website



[Home](#) > [Stamp Duty on Land](#) > [River Murray Floods Tax Relief](#)

River Murray Floods Tax Relief

If you own a home which is your principal place of residence and that home was destroyed/substantially damaged due to the River Murray Floods in the specified flood area, relief from stamp duty on the purchase of a replacement home which is to be your principal place of residence is available.

Stamp duty relief is also available on the transfer of vacant land on which a replacement home will be built within 3 years from the date of purchase and become your principal place of residence.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Important Changes - New planning rules in place now



A suite of new planning rules designed to protect River Murray regions from future flood events and assist with a strong recovery and rebuild came into effect last fortnight.

To enhance the region's recovery, the interim changes came into immediate effect from the 29th June 2023, allowing building approvals to be fast tracked.

This coincided with the start of community consultation to shape the final, long-term code amendment – the River Murray Flood Resilience Code Amendment – which seeks to enhance the region's resilience and reduce the impact of any future flooding events or declared emergencies.

South Australians are invited to have their say on the River Murray Flood Resilience Code Amendment on the [yourSAy](#) site.

Some excerpts for your interest are:

If a property owner currently has an existing ground level dwelling that cannot be repaired (which is explained further below) it will generally need to be replaced with an elevated dwelling.

New dwellings and dwelling additions should also avoid impeding floodwaters. To achieve this, they must either:

- ***be wholly located outside of the 1956 floodplain, or***
- ***limit undercroft enclosures to 15 square metres in area that do not contain habitable rooms and that are clad with removable panels or roller doors.***

Further, the following forms of remediation works generally require approval and you will be required to consult with the relevant council for confirmation:

- ***replacement (or addition) of structural framing (floor, wall and roof) members, and***
- ***replacement of stairs and/or balustrades.***

The interim amendments to the Planning and Design Code include:

- **Requirements around height of floor above ground – the ‘finished floor level’**
 - **Maximum height increased from 2.5 metres to 3 metres, or up to 4 metres to be above the level of a one-in-100-year flood event.**
 - **Minimum heights along the river based on updated one-in-100 year flood event data.**
- **Maximum overall building height increased to 8 metres, up from 7.5 metres, with a two-storey cap.**
- **Updated resilient design and materials for underfloor structures**
 - **Installation of roller doors or similar on all four sides of any enclosed area to ensure the free passage of floodwaters.**
- **Maintain open space areas around storage areas, with maximum storage area increased to 60 square metres, up from 15 square metres.**
- **Streamlined assessment for sheds, carports and garages which are located behind a riverfront dwelling, removing previous red tape.**
- **Rezoning flood-affected shack settlements, including Paisley and Murbko, to assist development applications and rebuild efforts.**

[Everything you need to know, and the Code Amendment can be found at yourSAy.](#)

Info - Understanding the current rising river levels this winter



We appreciate there have been many questions raised regarding the river water levels this winter. Please find a link to the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) website. They have posted quite a bit of information relating to what is being experienced at the moment which can help you understand the

current levels. The material includes the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) as well.

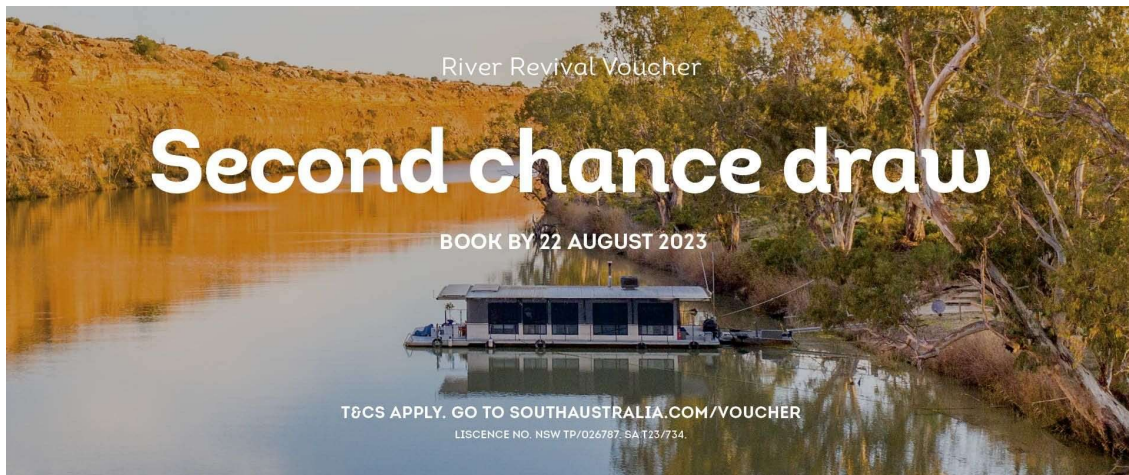
Updates will be available as things change and DEW are monitoring what is occurring very closely.

For more information, please visit [DEW Flows and daily water levels page](#)

There is also a link below to an interesting news interview that took place in recent days regarding River Murray levels and weather patterns.

<https://indaily.com.au/news/2023/07/11/winter-rains-see-river-murray-rise-again/>

Vouchers - Round two progress update and second chance draw



The second round of the South Australian Tourism Commission's River Revival Voucher program has already injected more than \$4.1 million in booking value alone into flood-affected Murray River communities, with bookings continuing as unused vouchers were reallocated in a second chance draw in late July.

The value of bookings already made well exceeds the total \$3.1 million economic impact into the river communities from the first voucher round.

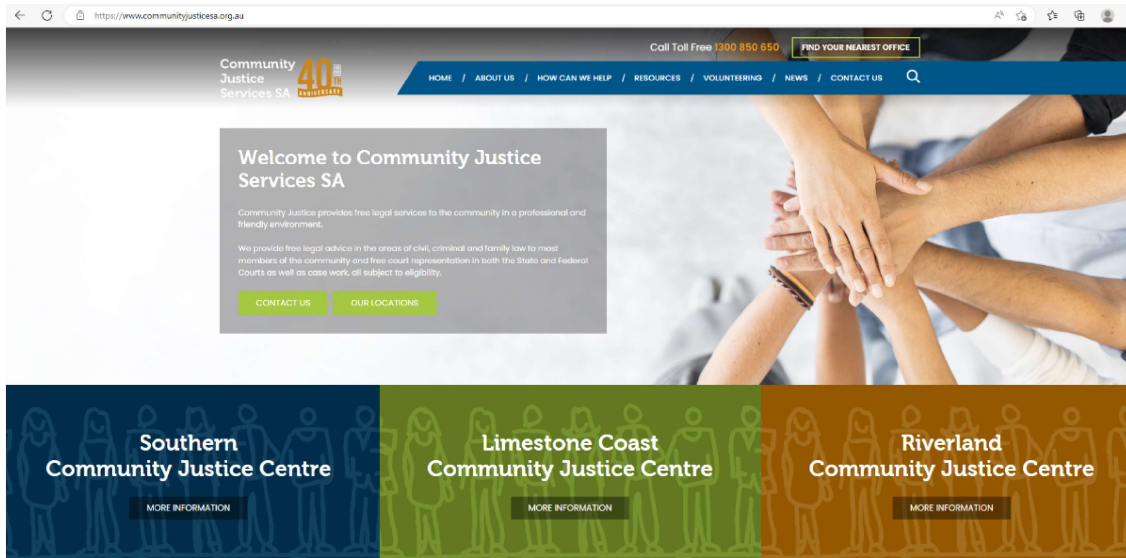
Round two has already seen almost 6,000 vouchers redeemed in just the first part of two booking periods in the round, equating to a 50 per cent redemption rate.

The already increased redemption and booking value in round two reflect the impact of extra incentives introduced, including a \$750 voucher for houseboats and guided tours, a longer travel period, and more options to choose from.

Flood affected operators will continue to see bookings roll in for winter and spring, with the second booking period open until 22 August 2023, for travel until 30 November 2023.

More information: <https://tourism.sa.gov.au/news-articles/millions-injected-into-flood-affected-murray-river-communities>

Info - Community Justice Services: Disaster Legal Support Program



Please find some information about the [Disaster Legal Support Program](#) through Community Justice Services SA. They can offer free legal advice appointments (phone or in person at an outreach) on a range of issues, and Community Legal Education throughout the region, on request.

Information about the Disaster Legal Support Program, including support for communities impacted by floods is also online at:

<https://www.communityjusticesa.org.au/how-can-we-help/dlsp/>

There will also be some Lifeline **Wellness Sessions for people impacted by the River Murray floods** where the Riverland Community Justice Centre / Disaster Legal Support Program will be guest speaking at the following events (included in this newsletter below also):

Blanchetown 8th August. 10:30 – 2:30pm :

<https://events.humanitix.com/accidental-counsellor-workshop>

Bowhill 9th August, 10:30 – 2:30pm : <https://events.humanitix.com/wellbeing-sa-grant-funded-accidental-counsellor-workshops>

You can follow their **social media page(s)** and/or sign up to the **mailing list**:

Riverland Community Justice Centre Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RiverlandCommunityJusticeCentre>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/riverlandcommunityjustice/>

Disaster Legal Support Program Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/disasterlegalsupport/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/disasterlegalsupportprogram/>

Mailing List Sign Up: <https://www.communityjusticesa.org.au/contact-us/community-justice-mailing-list/>

Grants - Small Business Flood Grants application periods extended and eligibility updated



**River
Murray
Flood**

**Small business
grants**

**Application periods
extended &
eligibility updated**

 Office for
Small & Family
Business


Government
of South Australia

Small business flood grants – application periods extended and eligibility updated

Flood Recovery Grant has been extended until 31 December 2023.

The **Flood Recovery Grant** is available to help pay for costs of clean-up and reinstatement of small businesses and not-for-profit organisations that experienced damage as a result of the River Murray flood. Recently the definition of a **sole trader small business** changed, to those that derive at least 50% of the income from the business.

Industry Support Grant has been extended until 30 September 2023.

The **Industry Support Grant** is a \$10,000 payment for an eligible business that usually operates in the affected area and has experienced a downturn of 30% or more in revenue over three consecutive months, up to and including April-June 2023. This grant may cover your usual business costs or used to make changes to your business so it can operate effectively post-flood.

Eligibility now includes **businesses that have been operational for less than one year**, if the business can demonstrate that income received was 30% less than anticipated.

Information on all small businesses flood supports, including guidelines and eligibility criteria can be found at www.business.sa.gov.au/floods.

Financial counselling through Rural Business Support (RBS) is available to help you on 1800 836 211 (freecall), email enquiries@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au or visit Rural Business Support.

Grants - Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal



The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Prepare & Recover program supports communities in remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to implement initiatives that **prevent and prepare** for future climate related impacts, or **recover** from existing disasters in the medium to long-term timeframe, generally one to ten years after the disaster.

Grants **up to \$25,000** are available for not-for-profit organisations to deliver a broad range of initiatives to strengthen the capacity and capability of local people, organisations, networks, and systems that help communities to be informed, skilled, connected and resourced for the future.

For more information and specific funding requirements for South Australian flood-impacted communities, please visit the Foundation for Rural Regional

[Renewal](#) website. **Application close 31 August 2023** (with funding announced in late November).

Grants - Non-Government Organisation (NGO) grants



Non-Government organisations (NGOs) and/or Not-for-profit organisations (NFP) play an important role in assisting communities and individuals with recovery from emergencies and disasters.

These organisations generally deliver their services through volunteers who are crucial in helping out communities. While volunteers offer their time for free, it is acknowledged that NGOs/NFPs have ongoing costs in providing the supervision, training, equipment, and supplies that enable volunteers to undertake activities and work safely and effectively.

In recognition of this, funding is available to support non-government and not-for-profit organisations assisting flood-affected communities to recover from the flood. Grants can be used towards supervising or training volunteers, purchasing critical supplies and assist with the rapid deployment of crews on the ground to assist with recovery activities.

The first round of flood-related NGO grants was announced in February 2023 and Round 2 is now open. If you are an eligible organisation, we encourage you to have a look at the fund guidelines and get your application in to help you help others.

There is no closing date for Round 2 at this time so please contact us if you wish to put in an application. For more information or to apply, please visit [Relief and financial assistance | Recovery](#).

Resources - iReach Wellbeing Kit anyone?



DMA Update

The program is progressing well, and we are meeting the needs of the community through registrants' clean-up goals. Over the past two weeks DMA has doubled the completions of demolitions, reached the milestone of collecting over 10,000 tonnes of flood-affected waste and have been engaging with the community through Community Recovery Meetings. We encourage those who are yet to register to do so, enabling the DMA team to schedule works and get the community into recovery mode.

Community Clean-up BBQ's

Round two of the Clean-up Program BBQs have been confirmed and these aim to provide the community a face-to-face opportunity to speak to program operations staff. This includes a case manager to discuss support options or provide an update and members of the operations team to provide an understanding of how our works will be conducted. These will be held at Morgan and Bow Hill, and we encourage people to join us for a free bite to eat. We look forward to meeting you!

The details are as follows:

Date:

26 August 2023

Location and time:

Morgan River Front Reserve: 09:30am – 11:30am

Bow Hill Community Centre: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Kerbside Collection

Kerbside Collection is an ongoing facet of the clean-up and we encourage members of the community to register and get in touch with our Contact Centre to arrange a collection. The schedule will no longer be published in this newsletter due to the reduced demand of the support. We have now diverted the program capability to demolitions as their primary focus, but as demands change we will continue to collect flood affected waste.

Hazard Reduction

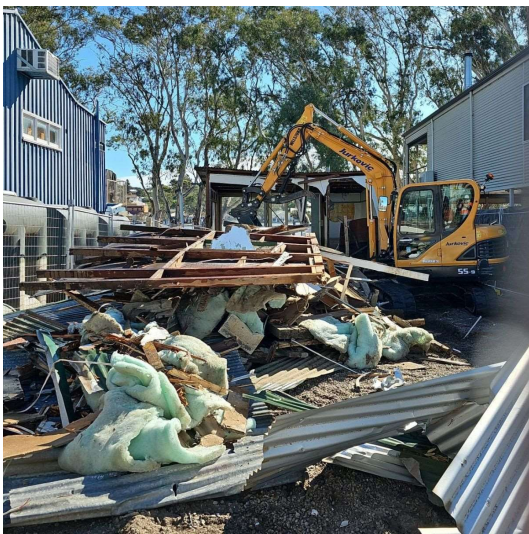
For those registrants who would like to opt in for hazard reduction including mould treatment and removal of flood affected asbestos, please get in touch with your Case Manager. To facilitate this work, we will need to complete a Structural Assessment to assess your property and define a scope of works. This may require a hygienist to take some samples from your property. Once your Scope of Work is approved, your allocated site supervisor will be in touch to arrange the signing of your consent agreement. For more information about consent for works, please reach out to your Case Manager.

We have been working closely with other government agencies to ensure that registrants with an urgent need for this work are escalated to expedite works. If you require urgent works please speak to your Case Manager.

Demolition

Demolitions are a key priority at this stage of the program. These are now occurring all across the flood affected area and we thank the community for their ongoing patience during what is a significant step in people's recovery.

Demolition is the complete removal of the structure, so you are in a position to rebuild a new dwelling. If you are interested in demolition, please contact your Case Manager via the DMA number below.



If you have not yet registered your property and would like assistance, please register with GISA on 1800 302 787 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. If you have already registered and wish to discuss your case, please contact DMA on 1800 418 491.

Info - Demolition

Insured and uninsured properties are eligible for a **free demolition**.

1. The first step is to talk to your insurer and follow their assessment process.

2. If you are advised that your property is considered a total loss and that you will receive a payout from your insurance provider you can opt in for a free demolition.
3. Check your settled sum against your policy details. Some policies include the cost of a demolition in the sum insured, while others will be in addition to the sum insured. As the South Australian and Australian government are covering the costs of demolitions, insurance providers have agreed to pass on these savings to policy holders. If your policy has demolition costs as an additional sum, make sure this has been paid to you. You can discuss this with your insurance provider.
4. Have your insurance documents ready for discussion
5. Once you have done these steps, or if you are uninsured, please call Disaster Management Australia (DMA) on 1800 418 491 to discuss next steps.

Contact - Riverlands & Murraylands mental health support



Fact Sheet

Riverland and Murraylands mental health support

When a disaster happens, it is common to feel stress and grief. Some people will recover without formal help, and others might need some extra support to help get things back on track.

If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope, reach out to local services that can provide mental health and wellbeing support – they're here to help.

When a disaster happens, it is common to feel stress and grief. Some people will recover without formal help, and others might need some extra support to help get things back on track. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope, reach out to local services that can provide mental health and wellbeing support – they're here to help.

Click here to view the [Riverlands and Murraylands mental health support fact sheet](#) where you will find all the relevant contact information for each service and provider.

Contact - Marine safety hazard reporting



As the water subsides, people are back on the water, and clean-ups begin, you may notice some substantial debris either in the water or submerged. If you do, and believe it to be a safety hazard created, please do not hesitate in reporting it. The most effective method to do this is via the Report a marine safety concern link (listed below). This will ensure that the report is directed to the appropriate place to have it assessed and dealt with as necessary.

[SA.GOV.AU - Report a marine safety concern \(www.sa.gov.au\)](http://www.sa.gov.au)

Info - Visit a Recovery Centre



Recovery centres are operating in Mannum and Murray Bridge, with recovery services also available at the Berri Housing SA office. A range of agencies are available through these centres including Disaster Ministries, Services Australia, Good Shepherd, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS).

In addition, another round of pop-up recovery centres are continuing. Have a chat with a friendly Recovery Officer who can help with:

- Access to recovery information and referrals
- Quick and easy grant assessments
- Well-being check-ins and referral if needed
- GISA clean-up registrations and assistance with follow up
- Access to clean up suits, paint brushes and cleaning products
- A friendly ear to talk to
- Assistance with recovery grant applications

Berri

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm
 Housing SA office
[29 Vaughan Terrace, Berri](#)

Mannum

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
 9:30am to 4:30pm
 Mannum Institute
[47 Randell Street, Mannum](#)

Murray Bridge

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm
[28 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge](#)

Info - PIRSA's flood recovery update



Government of South Australia
 Department of Primary Industries
 and Regions

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[Structural assessments for flood-affected properties](#)

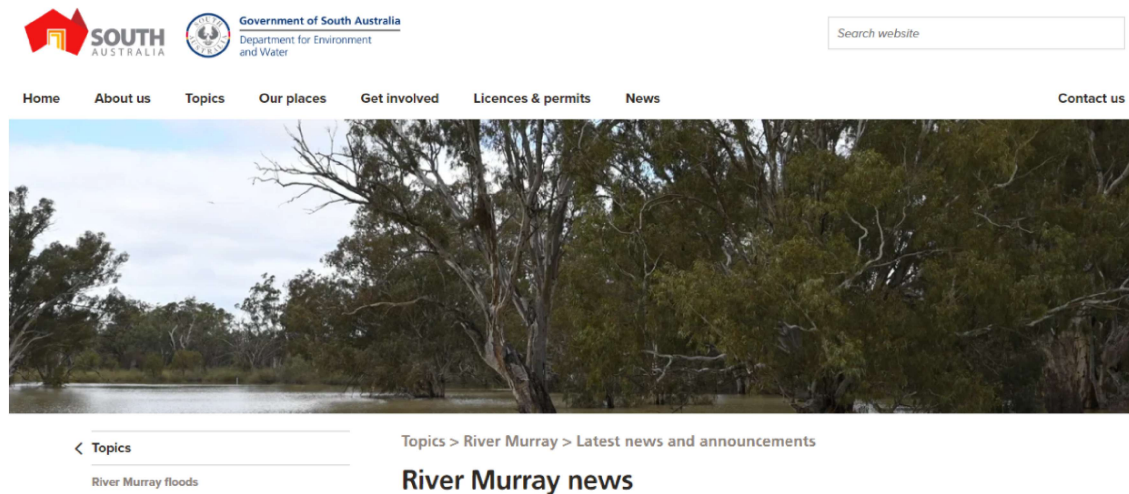
The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) continue to provide regular updates through their flood recovery update web page.

The web page provides important information on flood recovery activities undertaken by the PIRSA and the Department of Environment and Water

(DEW), including the dewatering progress and levee assessment and stabilisation. Key flood recovery contacts are also provided.

[Click here](#) for more information and to view the latest updates.

Info - DEW River Murray SA newsletter



The *River Murray SA* newsletter will help keep you updated on the latest environmental projects, opportunities and events for industry and community in the River Murray area. The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) send the newsletter to subscribers once a month.

To read more or to subscribe, [click here](#) or the click the image above.

Info - Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine (JEV) still available

★ ★ ★ ★ **AT HOME OR ON HOLIDAY** ★ ★ ★ ★

★ **FIGHT** *the* **BITE** ★

PROTECT YOURSELF *against* **DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES**

★ **COVER UP. REPEL. ELIMINATE.** ★

 **WEAR LONG, LOOSE FITTING CLOTHING.**

 **USE INSECT REPELLENT.**

 **ELIMINATE THE WATER THEY BREED IN.**

Mosquitoes spread serious and potentially even deadly diseases when they bite. For more important information on how you can Fight the Bite, contact your local council or visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite


Government of South Australia
 SA Health

Eligible people are encouraged to book their vaccination now.

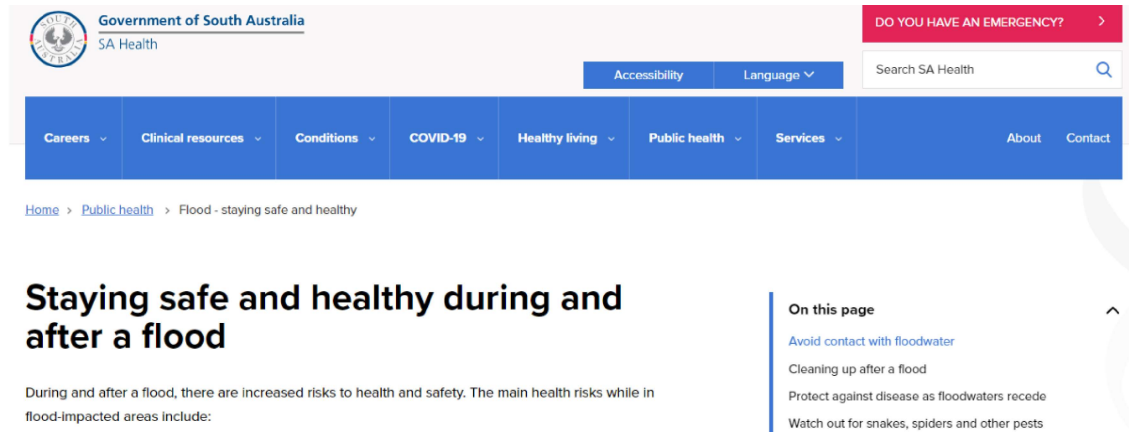
Eligibility:

- regularly spend time outdoors placing them at risk of mosquito bites, or
- are experiencing homelessness, or
- are living in conditions with limited mosquito protection (e.g. tents, caravans, dwellings with no insect screens), or
- are engaging in outdoor flood recovery (clean-up) efforts, including repeated professional or volunteer deployments.

For more information about JEV, eligibility, and where to get vaccinated please follow the link below:

[Japanese encephalitis virus \(JEV\) vaccine | SA Health](#)

Info - Flood recovery health fact sheets



The screenshot shows the SA Health website interface. At the top left is the Government of South Australia logo and 'SA Health' text. A red emergency button is on the top right. Below is a navigation menu with categories like 'Careers', 'Clinical resources', 'Conditions', 'COVID-19', 'Healthy living', 'Public health', and 'Services'. A search bar is also present. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Public health > Flood - staying safe and healthy'. The title is 'Staying safe and healthy during and after a flood'. A sub-header reads: 'During and after a flood, there are increased risks to health and safety. The main health risks while in flood-impacted areas include:'. To the right, an 'On this page' sidebar lists: 'Avoid contact with floodwater', 'Cleaning up after a flood', 'Protect against disease as floodwaters recede', and 'Watch out for snakes, spiders and other pests'.

SA Health has developed a series of fact sheets to assist flood-affected communities recover from the River Murray flood event. These fact sheets cover a range of topics including managing flies after flooding, dealing with mould and snake bite first aid advice.

For more information and to view these fact sheets [click here](#).

Info - Keep informed



The banner features the Government of South Australia logo on the left. The main text reads: 'Helping flood-affected River Murray communities recover'. Below this, there are two contact options: a phone icon with '1800 302 787 State Relief and Recovery Infoline' and an information icon with 'sa.gov.au/floods Latest recovery information, financial assistance and support'. On the right is a photograph of a river with a boat and people. At the bottom, a blue call-to-action button says: 'For clean-up information and assistance, call the State Relief and Recovery Infoline on 1800 302 787'.

Recovery can be complicated so we are frequently updating our website to ensure you remain up to date.

Visit sa.gov.au/floods for information on the River Murray flood recovery. You

can also view details of upcoming community meetings, subscribe to this newsletter and view previous editions.

Feedback - Tell us what you think

Please use the link below to let us know what you would like to see in upcoming newsletters.

[Provide your feedback](#)

Catch up - Missed a newsletter?

Missed a previous edition of the recovery newsletter? Catch up on all the recovery news.

Please share this newsletter with anyone interested in the River Murray flood recovery.

[See previous editions](#)

[Sign up for future newsletters](#)

 **Share this newsletter**





Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier
and Cabinet

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