

The Forgotten Heroes of the CFA

A CFA volunteer who fought the Black Saturday fires for three weeks has been left out of work, penniless and living in a caravan after government agencies denied him assistance.

The volunteer was ineligible for Centrelink assistance as he was self employed, requiring him to be without work for 8 weeks. However his business was destroyed as customers went elsewhere while he fought the fires.

The Country Alliance Party says the member ended up needing the assistance of friends and family, just to help feed his family.

Party spokesperson, Andrew Jones, says the rules have to change.

“CFA volunteers are a modest breed who will always put their communities first. The problem is that the government will assist those who don’t take out insurance, but won’t help those helping to save those same properties,” he said.

“This individual needed \$400 to feed his family but was turned down. Those evacuated were entitled to payments of \$1,000”.

“When they are not saving our lives, CFA personnel are out raising funds for equipment. When they knock on our doors, we give to them because we know they’ll be there when we need them.”

“We need the government to understand this.”

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