

Census data helps communities recover from Black Summer

Almost a year after the devastating 2019-20 bushfire season, the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA) continues to lead and coordinate the national response to rebuilding affected communities.

To achieve its vision of empowering bushfire-affected communities to recover and build a resilient future, the NBRA is delivering recovery efforts across all levels of government and in partnership with local communities.

ABS and Census data are playing an important part in the long journey to recovery and rebuild.

Acting Director of Data Analytics at the NBRA, Christine Atyeo, said the data is primarily used to provide demographic information for the Agency's Local Government Area (LGA) profiles.

"More than 100 LGAs were impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires, resulting in loss of life, widespread property and infrastructure damage and destruction of environments and wildlife," Ms Atyeo said.

"Using Census and other data, we provide detailed information on bushfire-affected LGAs, including demographic data, business and industry make-up, as well as information on bushfire impact, relief and recovery support."

The [interactive map](#) on the NBRA website is an example of how the Census data is used.

"It provides a high-level overview of the population, including demographic, income and employment industry information," Ms Atyeo said.

"This information helps characterise affected communities, including identifying those that may be more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters, or that may benefit from targeted supports.

"For example, we have in-depth analysis of non-English speaking populations within affected LGAs, comparative to the level of bushfire impact. We have also analysed which LGAs have more people than the national average with a disability or needing assistance with everyday activities.

"This helps us to better target these groups with information about local assistance and support services available. These range from financial and accommodation assistance, to food, clothing and health services, and business and emotional support.

"Bushfire recovery is different in each community. We need a detailed picture of local areas and local recovery needs so communities can move forward.

"Census data is an important source of data about small population groups and geographic areas. When combined with other sources of information, it gives us this picture," Ms Atyeo said.