

Money Worries

CentreLink

Ask for: Rural Services Officer (RSO) At a Centrelink office or on farm
 Phone: To speak to a RSO phone (03)5551 7048 or (03)5336 5217 Or Drought Assistance Hotline 132316

Website: www.centrelink.gov.au
 Cost: Free Service

What:
 Farmers Exceptional Circumstances Payments
 Certificate Exceptional Circumstances
 Small Business Exceptional Circumstances Payments
 Farmers Climate Change Adjustment Program Advice and Training Grant
 Professional Advice & Planning Grants
 Health Care Card – Eligible for concessions on your electricity & phone accounts
 Youth Allowance

Salvation Army Drought Support Program

Ask for: Betty and Doug Baker
 Where: Will come to you
 Phone: 0407 333544
 Cost: Free Service

What:

- Financial Assistance With Household accounts
- Pastoral Care and Emotional Support
- Thrift Shop at 87 Vincent Street Ararat

Department of Education

Ask for: Principal
 Where: At your School
 Cost: Free Service
 Website: www.education.vic.gov.au
 What:

- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
- An annual allowance of \$105 for primary school students and \$210 for secondary students. Payments are made half yearly (EC certificate holders eligible).
- School Start Bonus of \$300 (one off payment) for students beginning grade prep and year 7 in 2008. Application forms are available on their website - follow the link to 'School Start Bonus'.

Rural Financial Counselling Service

Who: Debbie Milne - 03 55730906 or 0407 724066
 Greg Lowe - 03 5573 0941 or 0408 347000

Where: On farm/business visits
 Cost: Free Service
 Email: rfcshamilton@bigpond.com
 Website: www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/aaa/rfc

What: Assistance for farmers and small rural businesses including; applying for the EC Interest Rate Subsidy (completing the claim form), cash flow budgeting, farm financial planning and debt management.

Rural Finance Corp

Where: 57 View Street, Bendigo
 Phone: 03) 54482600
 Email: admin@ruralfinance.com.au
 Website: www.ruralfinance.com.au
 What:

- Interest Rate Subsidy payment for farmers who are EC declared.
- Application form and guidelines are available on their website.

Health & Wellbeing

Grampians Community Health Centre (GCHC)

Ask for: An Intake Worker who will link you with the Social Support & Counselling team

Where: 60 High Street, Ararat
 Phone: (03)5352 6200
 Email: gchcararat@gchc.org.au
 Website: www.gchc.org.au

Cost: Free Service
 What: Counselling Services provided for;

- Drought related issues
- Relationships
- Rural Outreach (they will come to you!)
- Gambling
- Alcohol and Other Drug

East Grampians Health Service (EGHS)

Ask for: Social Worker – Samantha Higgins
 Service Hrs. 8.30am - 5.00pm
 Tuesday to Friday

Where: Centre of Community Health, Girdlestone St. Ararat
 Social worker can see you at home, work or at EGHS and outreach to rural areas.
 Services provided to all towns within the Ararat Rural City boundaries.

Phone: (03)5352 9327
 Email: shiggins@eghs.net.au
 Website: www.eghs.net.au

Cost: Free
 What: Social worker available

Churches

What: Pastoral Care and Emotional Support
 Cost: Free Service

Church of Christ: 88 High Street, Ararat
 Phone: (03)53222435

Catholic Church: 304 Barkly Street, Ararat
 Phone: Presbytery (03)53521110 or Office (03)53525460

Anglican Church: 49 High Street, Ararat
 Phone: Rectory (03)53521109

Uniting Church: 277 Barkly Street, Ararat
 Phone: Minister - 53521131
 55 Banfield Street, Ararat (office)
 Phone: Office (03)53525930

Presbyterian: 330 Barkly Street, Ararat
 Phone: Manse (03)53524054

Lutheran Church: 108 High Street, Ararat
 Phone: Manse (03)5352 1236

Seventh Day Adventist Church: Cnr Moore & Albert Street Ararat
 Phone: 0412 506 767

Ararat Christian Fellowship: 45 Queen Street, Ararat
 Phone: (03)53523268

Salvation Army 87 Vincent Street, Ararat
 Phone: (03)53522720

Infrastructure & Services

Ararat Rural City

Ask for: Rural Business Development Officer Ann-Maree Browne
 Where: Municipal Offices, Vincent Street, Ararat
 What: For all drought and business related enquiries and information.
 Phone: (03)5355 0267
 Email: abrowne@ararat.vic.gov.au

Ask for: Corporate and Customer Service Department
 Where: Municipal Offices, Vincent Street, Ararat

What: 50% subsidy on council rates for rate payers who are receiving (or have received in the last 90 days) EC payments at the time they pay their municipal rates.
 Phone: (03)5355 0200
 Email: gwalls@ararat.vic.gov.au
 Website: www.ararat.vic.gov.au

Emergency Water Supplies

Ask for: Natural Resources Officer, Daryl Scherger
 Where: 7 outlets across the Ararat Rural City Council area
 What: Emergency water outlets for stock & domestic (not potable) water.
 Phone: (03) 5355 0082 or 0428 535 092
 Email: dscherger@ararat.vic.gov.au

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water

Where: 11 McLachlan Street, Horsham
 Phone: (03) 53819881
 Email: info@gmwwater.org.au
 Website: www.gwmwater.org.au

What: Rebate for fixed water charges for rural water customers

- All permanent grey water systems \$500
- Rainwater tanks \$150-\$1,000
- Tank to toilet connection \$150
- Dual-flush toilet \$50
- Hot water recirculator \$150
- Water conservation audit \$50
- Water-efficient showerhead \$10 or \$20 (limit 2 per property)
- Basket offer (1 rebate per eligible customer per calendar year) \$30 when purchasing \$100 worth of goods

Department of Primary Industries (DPI)

Where: Barkly Street, Ararat (Old Shire Offices)
 Phone: 53550520
 Website: www.dpi.vic.gov.au

What: **Future Farm Planning** – assistance with advice to help make decisions on crops & production in the short, medium & longer term.

CMA Drought Employment Program 07/08 – Provides income for drought affected rural Victorians while assisting local communities maintain and restore natural assets on public & private land.

Information on:

- Drought Feeding and Management of Sheep
- Drought Feeding and Management of Beef Cattle
- Managing Farm Water Quality
- Drought Weed Prevention and Management
- Stock Containment Areas

DPI and DSE Victorian Drought Information Line 136 186

- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority 5382 1544
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority 5355 0530