



Masonic Fund of Benevolence (MFoB) Pty Ltd

Necessitous Circumstances and Disaster Relief

Guidance and Application Pack

Necessitous Circumstances and Disaster Relief Program Guide

The Masonic Fund of Benevolence Pty Ltd (MFoB), the Charity Fund for Queensland Freemasons, Including PNG Lodges provides Benevolence Assistance. It comprises two separate programs:

Note: It is understood that PNG Lodges are a part of UGLQ and as such are entitled and encouraged to participate in Masonic Fund of Benevolence activities and benefits.

1. Necessitous Circumstances

MFOB provides Benevolence assistance to Queensland Freemasons (Subscribing Members as defined in the Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland) and their dependant immediate family members, in Necessitous Circumstances who meet residency tests and ordinarily reside in Queensland.

This program is administered by the Masonic Fund of Benevolence Pty Ltd (MFoB), as Trustee, providing assistance to eligible recipients, who find themselves in Necessitous Circumstances with modest support for essential living costs.

- a) As a means of achieving this purpose, MFOB Pty Ltd offers a program under which persons in need of benevolent relief may apply for financial assistance.
- b) How does the program work?
 - The program consists of **Necessitous Circumstances Grant (one-off/emergency)** which provides assistance to those, who are in necessitous circumstances
 - Queensland Freemasons and their immediate dependant family members are welcome to apply for any type of assistance. Assistance will be granted to those who meet the requirements for the type of assistance sought.

1.2. Purpose of the program

The purpose of the program is for the Masonic Fund of Benevolence to achieve its purpose of providing necessitous circumstances relief to Queensland Freemasons and immediate families in need.

1.3. Eligibility requirements

- a) To be eligible for assistance, the recipient and form of relief sought must be consistent with the fund's objects as set out below.
- b) This means the Masonic Fund of Benevolence can only provide assistance where:
 - the beneficiary/ies are person/s in need, and they do not have sufficient resources to meet their needs; and

- the grant will provide relief to the beneficiary/ies directly related to the necessitous circumstances.

General or abstract purposes such as promoting social welfare in the community will **NOT** meet the Masonic Fund of Benevolence requirements. Further, it is not sufficient that a group of people are in need: the assistance needs to be for the relief of suffering and distress experienced by those people.

1.4. The application processes

- All applications for assistance must be submitted in the approved form.
- Applications are considered and processed by MFOB Pty Ltd monthly or by exception on a necessitous need basis.
- If the application is approved, all payments are electronically transferred soon after requisite approval has been given. A member of staff will contact you in regard to your application and if successful, request your bank account details.

1.5. Assessment

- MFOB Pty Ltd will assess applications and consider the particular circumstances of each applicant to determine if the application meets its requirements.
- Some factors which MFOB Pty Ltd must consider in the application are:
 - whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements set out above.
 - the beneficiary/ies are person/s in need, and they do not have sufficient financial resources to have a modest standard of living (not just being without luxuries) in Australia.
 - the particular circumstances giving rise to financial necessity will not necessarily be permanent. For example, floods, cyclones, and other disasters can cause people to be in short-term financial need.
 - the need must not arise due to normal human experiences such as failure, loss of status etc; and
 - the beneficiary must be financial members of UGLQ.

Definition of Necessitous circumstances

Necessitous Circumstances means financial necessity, not needs in general, and will always involve some degree of poverty. This is where a person's financial resource is insufficient to obtain all that is necessary for a modest standard of living in the Australian community.

2. Disaster Relief

Masonic Fund of Benevolence (MFoB) provides Benevolence assistance to Queensland Freemasons (Subscribing Members as defined in the Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland) and their dependant immediate family members, living with them, with Disaster Relief, and who meet residency tests, and ordinarily reside in Queensland.

This program is administered by the Masonic Fund of Benevolence Pty Ltd (MFoB), as Trustee, to provide assistance to eligible recipients, who find themselves in need of Disaster Relief, enabling modest support for essential living costs.

This payment by Masonic Fund of Benevolence (MFoB) is a one-off payment for Queensland Freemasons and their immediate family members, residing with the affected Queensland Freemason. It is a separate payment, to any other payment, or donation, made by any other charity, and including Queensland Local and State Government or the Australian Government.

We recognise that anyone affected by a Natural Disaster, may not have access to a computer, or capacity to download a form, so as to lodge a claim. In these instances, we request you call UGLQ Membership on 07 32293533 or After Hours, Contact David Roberts, on Mobile 0419672826.

Following notification to ourselves, we encourage you to contact your Lodge Almoner, Master, or Secretary, to render "On-Ground" assistance and support to you, in this difficult time.

Definition of Disaster Relief

Disaster Relief means: a natural disaster for which the Governments provides relief and recovery payments.

Eligible Disasters include:

Bushfire, landslip, cyclone, meteor strike, earthquake, storm, flood, storm surge, tsunami