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## Help sought for relief shelters

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THE Australian government will be approached for help over a shortfall in tarpaulins for temporary shelters following Cyclone Mick.

This as a report from the National Disaster Management Office saw 735 tarpaulin requests 570 for the Western and 165 for the Central Division.

"We will have to check with Red Cross then liaise with Australia if they can supplement the rest," acting National Disaster Management Office director Pajiliai Dobui said.

The tarpaulins were used to provide temporary relief for people whose houses were destroyed by Cyclone Mick.

"As from December 30 the first 60 tarpaulins were distributed to provincial administrator Serua and provincial administrator Namosi of which 30 will be distributed to Beqa based on the Initial Damage Assessment. The tarpaulin is part of a batch of 500 tarpaulins donated by the New Zealand Government."

Mr Dobui said the tarpaulins went to families whose homes were partly damaged to give owners relief until they could carry out repairs.

"Most of the tarpaulins will go to those who lost corrugated roofing iron," he said.

Mr Dobui said tarpaulins allocated to Naitasiri, Tailevu and Rewa would be kept in storage for distribution over the coming weeks.

"The Naitasiri area will have to be sorted out before we give them out and the same applies to Tailevu and Rewa," he said.

"Most of the hands that do the distribution are on leave at the moment."