As natural disasters increasingly affect the population and operations of health care services, it becomes important to review the traditional roles of sectors and extend the capacity of agencies involved in mental health service provision. While the crucial importance of the primary care system has been widely recognized in extending mental health care services to those most in need in the general population, very little is known about the role of primary care in facilitating community mental health and recovery processes in the aftermath of large-scale natural disasters. Against the background of the wider literature and changing primary health care landscape, we present key findings and case studies from the evaluation of the Federal Government mental health response to the Victorian Black Saturday bushfires which highlight the extended role of primary care in mental health responses to natural disaster.