

EMA Update

Emergency Management Australia provides national leadership in the development of measures to reduce risk to communities and manage the consequences of disasters. EMA Update keeps AJEM readers abreast of the activities that assist this aim.

PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING PACKAGE REVIEW

The review of the emergency management competency standards of the Public Safety Training Package (PSTP) has now commenced. Emergency Management Australia (EMA) will coordinate the review as a project on behalf of the sector.

The project exists because of a major review of the PSTP being undertaken by Government Skills Australia (GSA). It is important for the emergency management sector to develop accurate competency standards that may assist with workforce planning, recruitment and performance management processes within the industry as well as providing outcome statements for the development of learning and assessment strategies.

The aim of the project is to produce a key issues paper, communication strategy and consultation plan for the emergency management sector that will contribute to the broader review of the PSTP.

The Phase II review, the development and validation phase, follows the completion of a first phase that analysed the endorsed components

against current and anticipated needs across all public safety industry sectors. Identification and initial recommendations for improvement have been proposed through comprehensive consultation, research and analysis that have been approved by the industry.

The communication strategy includes fortnightly updates that provide stakeholders with regular communication of the progress of the review and how they may contribute to the process. For more information including registering to receive the updates, please contact the Project Manager or visit the EMA website and follow the links.

Andy Smith has been seconded to EMA from the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner (Victoria) as Project Manager – Training Package Review.

Andy's contact details at EMA are:

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AJEM SURVEY – APOLOGIES TO OUR READERS

Included in the May issue of AJEM was a readership survey however due to a technical hitch the Reply Paid envelope which should have accompanied your AJEM was not included. We apologise for this oversight.

To ensure all readers have the opportunity to respond, another copy of the survey is included with this issue along with the missing envelope. The closing date for the survey has been extended to 19 October 2007.

Many thanks to those who have already responded either in print or electronically as we have recorded your comments and it is not necessary for you to respond again. If you haven't yet had the chance to complete our survey, here is another opportunity.

Thank you for your time.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL GRANT RECIPIENTS UNDER THE WORKING TOGETHER TO MANAGE EMERGENCIES INITIATIVE

On 18 July 2007 the Attorney-General, The Hon Philip Ruddock MP, announced details of 423 projects, valued at well over \$13.8 million to be funded in 2007/08 through the Local Grants Scheme (LGS) and National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NEVSF).

The two programs were developed in September 2004 as part of the Working Together to Manage Emergencies initiative which recognised the need to develop self-reliance at both the community and local government levels. The initiative provides funding to support local governments, communities and volunteer organisations to develop strategies to improve community safety and to improve recruitment, retention and training for volunteers involved in emergency management.

Successful projects for 2007/08 ranged in value from \$1,195 to outfit a Bush Fire Brigade training room to \$273,260 for the development of State and Region Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines by the cross-jurisdictional National Risk Assessment Advisory Group.

Each state and territory convened Selection Committees to prioritise all applications for funding received from local government areas, indigenous communities and volunteer agencies within the jurisdiction. This ensured that only those projects that were consistent with the emergency management priorities of the state or territory were successful.

The projects supported in 2007/08 provide a balance across rural and urban areas, and offer assistance to remote communities, indigenous communities and capital cities taking account of

the risks and vulnerabilities facing people living in those communities. The successful projects provide assistance to the full range of volunteer organisations active in the emergency management sector and support their endeavours to build safer sustainable communities.

The funding allocated to local governments and volunteer emergency management agencies will assist them to further develop their capability to undertake their responsibilities. The funding breakdown by individual jurisdictions as announced by Mr Ruddock was:

Jurisdiction	Total
NSW	\$3.2 million
Victoria	\$2.4 million
Queensland	\$3.0 million
SA	\$1.5 million
WA	\$1.9 million
Tasmania	\$0.7 million
NT	\$0.5 million
ACT	\$0.2 million
National Projects	\$0.4 million.

National projects are those assessed as having significant benefit across all states and territories.

2007/08 is the final year of funding through the Working Together to Manage Emergencies initiative. The Australian Government is currently considering options for possible replacement programs and any such programs will be promoted widely after a decision is made.

EMA'S INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WITH CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Part of the National Action Plan (NAP) to build social cohesion, harmony and security, the four-year program entitled EMA's Inclusive Emergency Management with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (CALD) Program is progressing towards its outcomes.

Since the last edition of this Journal the Program personnel undertook the following activities:

- A culturally specific national school education emergency management resource for youth, in particular years 8 -10, was drafted and piloted in a range of secondary schools.
- Jurisdictional working parties were established for three-year community-based action learning projects. Each participating jurisdiction developed a project plan and commenced implementation.

- Planning for workshops on recruitment and retention of CALD volunteers in emergency management commenced.

The revised Guidelines for Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities in Emergency Management was completed and published. The guidelines will be available on the EMA website as well as in hardcopy format following a launch of the guidelines that is planned for early November.

If you would like more information on the EMA's Inclusive Emergency Management with Culturally Diverse Communities (CALD) Program, please contact **Judy Parker** at EMA by:

Tel: 03 5421 5229

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MARGERY WEBSTER



Margery Webster has announced her resignation from EMA effective as at 31st August 2007. Margery has worked at EMA since 27th August 2001, when she commenced as Assistant Director, Educational Development, and she has been Director of Education and Training since 20th January 2005.

Margery has been a driver of many changes at the EMA Institute and the way it does business. Some of her most significant work has been: the development of EMA courses to align with nationally recognised competency standards; the introduction of the Advanced Diploma (Public Safety – Emergency Management) and Graduate Certificate (Emergency Management), and the development and implementation of the EMA Strategic Directions Paper.

Coming to EMA with high level, and relevant educational experience and excellent networks she has been a leader in the wider emergency management education and training field. She has been instrumental in the maintenance, review and enhancement of the Public Safety Competency Standards, in particular for the emergency management sector. Especially significant was her stewardship of the project that developed competency standards for recovery management through a rigorous and inclusive consultative process.

Her role was a watershed for the emergency management industry in facilitating the introduction of learning and assessment strategies to create formal career pathways for personnel in the Industry.

Margery was the emergency management representative on the working group, and then the Board, of the Public Safety Industry Training Advisory Board (PSITAB) and has more recently been the public safety representative on the Board of the Industry Skills Council Government Skills Australia (GSA).

AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY MANUALS

The Australian Emergency Manuals series comprises a Principles and Reference and Skills for Emergency Service Personnel set. For ease of access, the manuals are listed below in alphabetical order by title. You can read these electronically on the EMA website (<http://www.ema.gov.au>), or can request print copies via our print-on-demand service which can also be accessed on the EMA website.

AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY MANUALS SERIES STRUCTURE AND CONTENT PRINCIPLES AND REFERENCE

Australian Emergency Management Arrangements	Manual 2	Flood Warning	Manual 21
Australian Emergency Management Glossary	Manual 3	Guidelines for Psychological Services: Emergency Managers Guide	Manual 25
Australian Emergency Management Terms Thesaurus	Manual 4	Guidelines for Psychological Services: Mental Health Practitioners Guide	Manual 26
Community and Personal Support Services	Manual 18	Health Aspects of Chemical, Biological and Radiological Hazards	Manual 13
Community Development in Recovery from Disaster	Manual 29	Implementing Emergency Risk Management: a Facilitators Guide to Working with Committees and Communities	Manual 6
Community Emergency Planning	Manual 15	Managing Exercises – under review	Manual 42
Disaster Loss Assessment Guidelines	Manual 27	Managing the Floodplain	Manual 19
Disaster Medicine	Manual 9	Multi-Agency Incident Management	Manual 17
Economic and Financial Aspects of Disaster Recovery	Manual 28	Operations Centre Management	Manual 31
Emergency Catering	Manual 8	Planning Safer Communities: Land use Planning for Natural Hazards	Manual 7
Emergency Management Concepts and Principles	Manual 1	Post Disaster Survey and Assessment	Manual 14
Emergency Management Planning for Floods Affected by Dams	Manual 23	Recovery	Manual 10
Emergency Planning	Manual 43	Reducing the Community Impact of Landslides	Manual 24
Emergency Risk Management – Applications Guide	Manual 5	Safe and Healthy Mass Gatherings – under review	Manual 12
Evacuation Planning	Manual 11	Small Group Training Management Manual	Manual 41
Flood Preparedness	Manual 20	Urban Search and Rescue: Capability Guidelines for Structural Collapse	Manual 16

Flood Response	Manual 22		
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SKILLS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL

Communications	Manual 38	Leadership	Manual 32
Four Wheel Drive Vehicle Operations	Manual 37	Map Reading and Navigation	Manual 36
Flood Rescue Boat Operations	Manual 39	Road Accident Rescue	Manual 34
General and Disaster Rescue 5th ed.	Manual 35	Storm and Water Damage Operations - 3rd ed.	Manual 30

USEFUL INFORMATION

Australian Journal of Emergency Management

The Journal is published quarterly and is disseminated throughout the emergency management community and related disciplines, in Australia and overseas. Articles identifying and discussing issues, policies, planning or procedural concerns, research reports and any other information relevant to the emergency/disaster management community are welcome.

Refer to the EMA website (www.ema.gov.au/ajem) for current and past issues and information on how to subscribe and contribute.

Letters to the Editor

The Journal welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please note that letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters exceeding this limit may be edited or refused. Letters must be in good taste and focus on issues of emergency management or past AJEM content.

Letters must contain a name, address and daytime phone number of the author. Unsigned letters or those submitted without a phone number will not be considered.

Regular contributors should submit letters on varied subjects. Letters by the same author that reiterate opinions previously expressed may not be published. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit any Letter to the Editor.

Advertising in AJEM

Display and classified advertising may be accepted for publication with the agreement of the Editor-in-Chief. The editor reserves the right to insert the word "Advertisement" above or below any copy.

Conference Diary

Full details of local and international conferences relating to emergency management are available from the EMA website. For information, please visit www.ema.gov.au.