

**BEGA – 20TH MAY
MORUYA – 22ND MAY**



EDEN COMMUNITY ACCESS CENTRE

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS

**What is possible
when we work
together to support
vulnerable people to
be well prepared for
future disasters?**

Two workshops were conducted in the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla shires. The workshops, one in Bega and one in Moruya, were about strengthening the connections between the local community, local community organisations and emergency management systems in the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Shires, to take action to reduce local disaster risks.

This project aims to build a collaborative, networked approach to local disaster management, providing an opportunity for local community organisations, and the communities they support, to bring their knowledge and connections into play and take action to reduce local disaster risks.

The two workshops were part of the Community Sector Disaster Capability Project, being delivered across three locations in NSW.



New Partnerships Formed

Why am i Here?

A diverse range of service providers, NGO's, emergency services and government agencies attended to:

- Connect with others so I can call on when I am running an evac centre.
- Connect with services
- To see what others are doing in emergency management and preparedness
- Connect with other service provicers in the community, create better processes for future disasters.
- Dispell myths and assist in understanding
- Interested in all organisations in our communities - contact is essential in disasters

PRINCIPLES for good conversations.

- Listen with attention.
- Speak with intention.
- Be aware of your impact.
- Responsibility is shared for the outcomes.
- We invite collective wisdom.
- Ensure every voice is heard.

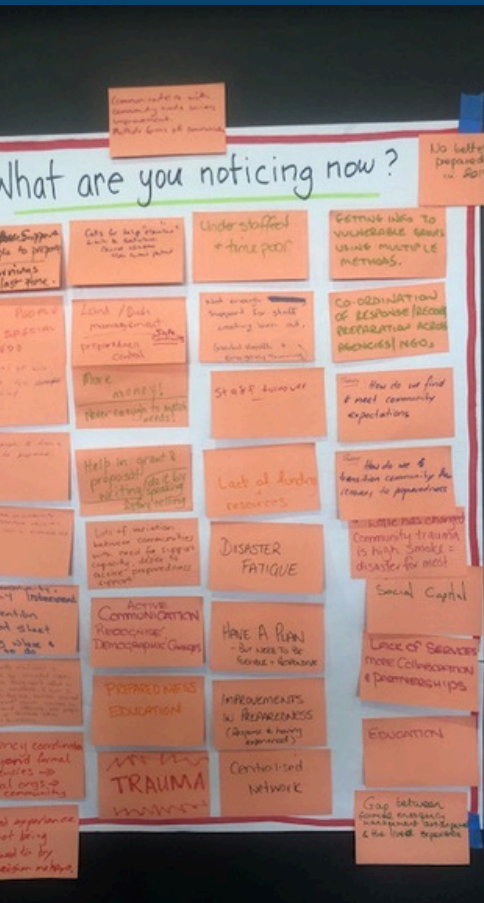


UNDERSTANDING THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Both workshops presented with an overview of how emergency services are activated when an emergency is declared. Explanation of how activation happens, who is responsible for what.

Thank you to both Ian MacFarlane - BVSC and Chief Inspector Shane Sheen - Batemans Bay for attending and giving these presentations.

What are you noticing now?



Some of the comments made at both the workshops after the round table discussion

- **Poor communications**
- **Apathy**
- **Difficult to engage people around Preparedness**
- **More funding needed**
- **Staff turnover**
- **Disaster fatigue**
- **Understaffed and time poor**
- **Education needed**
- **Resources**

The most common themes identified were the need for communications, recurrent funding, improved training and education.

What does being, really, well prepared look like?

- **HAVE A PLAN**
- **Early communication**
- **Better educated**
- **Flexibility from local/state agencies**
- **Learnings realised from previous emergencies**
- **Funding to NGO's to work in communities to build capacity**
- **Self resilience**
- **Collaboration within the sector, EM services and government agencies**

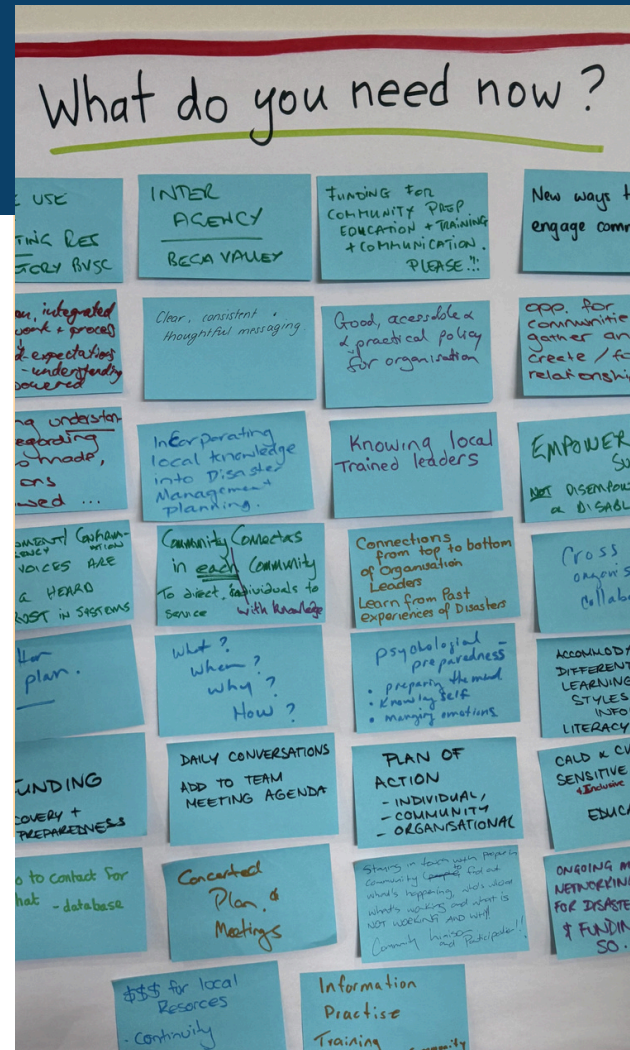
Again - common themes were communications, training, education, and \$\$\$



What do we need now?

- Funding and resources
- Contacts and connection
- Have a plan and action it
- Training
- Innovative ways to communicate with community
- Know your risks and your plan
- and of course funding \$\$\$\$\$

More and more of the post it notes indicated the same themes once again of - Funding, communication, training and connectiveness



How are we leaving today??

Some of the responses to how people were feeling at the end of the workshop:

- Encouraged
- Motivated to get my team together
- Hopeful
- Wanting to keep the conversation alive
- Connected with.....
- Need to develop a policies and procedures
- Excited to take action points back to team
- Hopeful that work in this space continues



Where to now ????????

The main themes identified gleaned from activities & discussions from both of the workshops were:

- Communications:
 - Across all sections dealing with vulnerable community sectors was of concern and needed to be improved
 - Between service providers - talking to each other and knowing what each of them do and services that they can provide
 - Between emergency services, government agencies and the service providers - having a more open way to communicate across all sectors. Especially with regards to how emergency services are activated, when and who is responsible
- Training and resources
 - More training and education for staff but having the resources to allow this to happen.
- Funding - the need for recurrent funding. Chasing short term funding for community-based service providers is unsustainable

How do we move forward?

1. Engage with the **local Inter-agencies** as a way of communicating between service providers.
One point of contact is :- Saphron Scott - E - Saphron.Scott@campbellpage.org.au
2. Lobby peak bodies: For example:-
 - Become a member of **NCOSS** - They are a peak body for the social services sector in NSW. NCOSS is uniquely placed to work together with our members, government, business and other stakeholders to strive for a more equitable and inclusive society. They provide a platform for sharing information and resources, developing agreed positions, progressing joint work and seeking greater transparency and delivery on commitments from government. NCOSS - NSW Council of Social Services - <https://www.ncoss.org.au>
 - Become a Member of **LCSA** - Local Community Services Association (LCSA) act as the representative coordinating body for neighbourhood centres. Member centres formed regional networks or forums which select a representative to the LCSA Management Committee. Regional Representatives maintain a direct information exchange between neighbourhood centres and LCSA, and amongst neighbourhood centres in their region.
 - Lobby **Reconstruction NSW** - The NSW Reconstruction Authority was established to proactively reduce the impact of future disasters across NSW and to help communities recover from them faster.
Carlin Stanford - A/Director-Illawarra and South East, Regional Delivery Recovery and Preparedness Group, NSW Reconstruction Authority
E carlin.stanford@reconstruction.nsw.gov.au
 - Lobby your local Government, state & commonwealth representatives
 - Be a champion for change - For example promote our services and their responsibilities with like minded organisations & individuals to ensure they are have the most contemporary information at their disposal.
 - Encourage individuals to support their local services
 - Come along to our coffee catch up next week.....

Acknowledgements



Megan Nicholson from NCOSS addressing the workshop giving an overview of the role NCOSS plays in advocating for community led responsibilities in Emergency Preparedness.

These workshops were facilitated by David Newell from Cobargo and Peter Pigott from Berry. We are grateful for their contribution to making these workshops such professional and successful events.

Thank you for attending and we hope that you made some lasting connections from these workshops, we also hope you continue the work in preparing yourself and your organisation for any future events or emergencies that may arise. If you would like a copy of the emergency procedures that were presented at the workshops, please email us and we will forward. If you have any resources that you would like to share you can also email them to us and we will forward around to one and all.

This project comes to a close at the end of this month. NCOSS have applied for more funding to continue this project - so watch this space.....

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In closing - we would like to acknowledge that these workshops were supported through the Community Sector Disaster Capability Project led by NCOSS with LCSA and AbSec. Funded jointly by the Australian and State Governments through the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund and delivery through a joint partnership between Katungul ACRH&CS and the Eden Community Access Centre

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