



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Australian Emergency
Management Institute

2011 National Management

'The future is in our hands'

The third National Emergency Management Volunteers Summit was held in Canberra on 30 and 31 May 2011. The event was hosted by the Attorney-General's Department, in partnership with the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum, and with the support of the Australian Taxation Office. Approximately four hundred emergency management volunteers, managers and leaders from across Australia attended to collaborate, share experiences, develop strategies and, importantly, to recognise the contribution of emergency management volunteers to Australian communities.

The theme was 'The Future is in our Hands' and concepts explored were Partnerships, Experiences and Solutions. This Summit coincided with the tenth anniversary of the United Nations' International Year of Volunteers and offered an exceptional networking opportunity for delegates, particularly those from remote areas of Australia.

In recognition that many volunteers may have been unable to attend, social networking tools were used throughout the Summit to facilitate online participation. Dedicated pages on Facebook and Twitter provided users with an opportunity to follow the program online, to communicate and share information with others, and to build networks both locally and nationally. This was a first in the history of the Summit, and achieved over 15,000 post views on Facebook and reached over 17,000 people with 658 tweets.

The Summit was officially opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Australian Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP, followed and formally commenced proceedings. Keynote speakers explored the past and current state of the sector, identified challenges and suggested strategies for the future.

A volunteer panel discussion saw six representatives from different organisations share their personal volunteering experiences. A similar opportunity was extended to all participants during nine interactive breakout discussions, held concurrently on both days of the Summit. Drawing on personal experiences and



Emergency Volunteers Summit

ideas, groups discussed key issues within the sector and debated how to build a stronger emergency management volunteer movement into the future.

As a result of the breakout discussions, key recommendations around the issues of time, cost, recognition, training, people, research, and the role of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (AEMVF) were developed. The recommendations will assist individuals, volunteer organisations and agencies, and governments, in building a stronger

emergency management volunteer sector and, ultimately, a more resilient Australia.

The Attorney-General's Department would like to particularly thank the AEMVF, the South Australia Fire and Emergency Services Commission and the Department of Community Safety Queensland, for their contributions towards this important event.

A copy of the summary and transcript reports, including recommendations, can be viewed at www.ema.gov.au/volunteers



INTERESTING WEBSITES:



TOWARDS A MORE DISASTER RESILIENT AND SAFER VICTORIA

Victoria's emergency services are among the best in the world, but like many places, Victoria will continue to face significant emergency risks. Victoria needs a modern 'all-hazards' (both natural and man-made) emergency management system to better prepare Victorians for the future.

As a consequence, The Victorian Government has developed a green paper entitled Towards a More Disaster Resilient and Safer Victoria and it is interested in your views on how Victoria can better prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from emergencies.

You can share your opinion on the questions and options contained in the Victorian Government's green paper located at this URL:

<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/featured/reforming-victorias-crisis-and-emergency-management-framework/green-paper-introduction>



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Pictorial community safety action guides

Building resilient communities

Six pictorial action guides have been developed for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Each guide depicts a different hazard and shows through images and clear messages how best to be prepared and act to minimise any adverse effects.

In support of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience, the guides aim to raise awareness of natural hazards that may occur in Australia and present the information in a meaningful format for those who speak English as a second language.

They are available on the Emergency Management in Australia website, www.ema.gov.au.



Storm Flood Earthquake Cyclone Lightning Heatwave

Project Red

The Centre for Multicultural Youth conducted a consultation with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to discuss emergency management volunteering – their awareness and understanding of the roles; interest in, barriers to and opportunities for active participation.

A report is available from the Emergency Management in Australia website, www.ema.gov.au

For further information email: communities@ag.gov.au



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The Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI) is a Centre of Excellence for education, research and training in the emergency management sector. In support of the COAG National Strategy for Disaster Resilience, 2011 AEMI:

- provides education and training.
- undertakes applied research.
- conducts strategic activities resilience.
- promotes community awareness and resilience.

Advanced Diploma Public Safety v8 Units of Study (AEMI)

- Work in an emergency management context and Build and maintain community relationships
- Develop and use political nous
- Facilitate emergency risk assessment and determine treatment options
- Facilitate emergency planning processes
- Coordinate resources for a multi-agency incident
- Develop and maintain business continuity plans
- Manage recovery functions and services
- Design and manage activities which exercise elements of emergency management
- Establish and review the business continuity management framework and strategies
- Develop and organise public safety awareness programs
- Establish and manage a recovery centre

Upcoming Units of Study

Develop and use political nous 10-12 January 2012

The development and use of political nous assists in navigation and success within the political environment of the public sector. This Unit includes identifying the political terrain, evaluating the political environment, forming alliances, and bargaining and negotiating to achieve outcomes.

Facilitate emergency planning processes 6-9 February 2012

This unit covers the competencies required to collaboratively facilitate the development of new, and the revision of existing, emergency plans by organisations such as: local government; emergency services or government agencies and departments; event organisers; managers of utilities, critical infrastructure or high occupancy buildings; private sector and industries.

For more information on these units of study, and other workshops please visit our website

**For further information visit www.ema.gov.au/aemi
email aemi@ag.gov.au or phone 03 5421 5100**