



Australian Institute of Emergency Services Queensland Division

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Website: www.aies.net.au

Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services – Queensland Division for 2011.

Queensland has seen its share of incidents and natural disasters since Christmas ranging from little events to big events. Our members throughout Queensland became involved in many ways and support is extended to those members who suffered personal losses during this time.

Our thanks are also extended to other AIES Divisions for their assistance to Queensland.

The Challenges of 2010/11

Tropical Cyclone Tasha crossed the Queensland coast on Christmas Day which was followed by severe weather events which resulted in flooding and the subsequent evacuation of Theodore giving this community to be the first town to experience a mass evacuation, which was then followed by the Condamine community also being evacuated. Dalby and Chinchilla then become the focus with flooding on the Darling Downs.

Bundaberg then became inundated with flood waters, as was Emerald which required approximately 1500 evacuations.

Rockhampton then became flooded resulting in the closure of the airport.

The worst was yet to come when the “inland tsunami” struck on 10 Jan in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley resulting in devastation and

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significant loss of life in the communities of Toowoomba, Grantham, Murphy's Creek, Postman's Ridge.

Flooding then occurred in towns such as Laidley and Forest Hill leading to major flooding in the cities of Ipswich and Brisbane.

Then, came the challenge when Tropical Cyclone Yasi threatened and struck the Queensland coast resulting in massive destruction to homes in the Tully – Cardwell area.

The challenge was not complete when tragedy struck Christchurch which resulted in a response by emergency and health services to the Christchurch earthquake.

Then, the Japan earthquake struck which resulted in a response by Government and Non – Government organizations.

However, a gentle reminder that Queensland is not immune to earthquakes occurred when Bowen to Cairns shook on Saturday 16 April as a result of a 5.1. earthquake 60km west of Bowen.

The Recovery

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Queensland Premier Anna Bligh recently announced a \$39 million package to support the recovery and wellbeing of people in Queensland following the State's worst-ever summer of natural disasters in recent memory.

The package was launched under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements in Queensland today to assist communities to confront the challenges associated with long-term recovery.

The Prime Minister said the support will help Queenslanders confront the long-term challenges of the recovery process that go beyond bricks and mortar.

The package includes:

- \$20 million for community development and recovery funds on the ground to provide intensive support to the State's most highly impacted local communities, including supporting not-for-profit community groups, events and memorials;
- Up to \$10 million for a Mental Health Disaster Recovery Package to support mental health services in disaster-affected communities in Queensland on top of \$1.2 million in funding announced earlier this year. Local organisations on the ground within the mental health sector will receive much needed funding to bolster their excellent work within severely affected communities.
- Up to \$5.8 million Financial Counselling to provide support to families and individuals affected by the disasters who are experiencing financial problems.

- A \$2 million Disabilities Care Plan to help a number of non-government organisations across Queensland to deliver crisis accommodation and respite care for people with a disability.

For further information:

<http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/community-recovery-and-wellbeing-package-launched>

Reconstruction

The Queensland Government established the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. The Authority was established to develop, implement and manage a state-wide plan for rebuilding and reconnecting communities affected by the floods and cyclones

Operation Queenslander is the State-Wide Community, Economic and Environmental Recovery and Reconstruction Plan. The State Plan outlines Queensland's reconstruction road to recovery which centres on six lines of reconstruction; Human and Social, Economic, Environment, Building Recovery, Roads and Transport, Community Liaison and Communication.

Further information can be obtained at:

<http://www.qldreconstruction.org.au/>





Australian Institute of Emergency Services

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **The Public Interest**

Members must at all times safeguard the interests of the Institute, provided that they do not conflict with the duties and loyalties owed to the community and its laws.

2. **Integrity**

Members must be straightforward, honest and sincere in their approach to professional work.

3. **Objectivity**

Members must be fair and must not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to override their objectivity.

4. **Independence**

Members must be and should be seen to be free of any interest which might be regarded, whatever its actual effect, as being incompatible with integrity and objectivity.

5. **Confidentiality**

Members must respect the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of their work and must not disclose any such information to a third party without specific authority or unless there is a legal or professional duty to disclose it.

6. **Professional Standards**

Members must carry out their professional work in accordance with the professional standards relevant to that work.

7. **Competence and Due Care**

Members must perform professional services with due care, competence and diligence.

8. **Ethical Behaviour**

Members must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the good reputation of their profession and refrain from any conduct which might bring discredit to their profession, including any potential or real conflict of interest.

Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry provide for an independent and thorough examination of the chain of events leading to the floods, all aspects of the response and the subsequent aftermath of the 2010-11 flood events.

With all the powers of a Royal Commission, the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry will take public submissions from across Queensland and hold public hearings in affected areas.

The Commission of Inquiry will deliver an interim report in August 2011, covering matters associated with flood preparedness to enable early recommendations to be implemented before next summer's wet season. The final report will be delivered by January 2012.

Further information can be obtained from:
<http://www.floodcommission.qld.gov.au>

Coping after Disasters

Most people involved in a traumatic incident experience some kind of emotional reaction. Although each person's experience is different, there are a number of common responses that are experienced by the majority of those involved.

It is reassuring to know that, even though these feelings can be very unpleasant, they are NORMAL reactions in a normal person to an ABNORMAL event.

Further information can be obtained from:
http://www.health.qld.gov.au/mentalhealth/useful_links/disaster_facts.asp

Psychological First Aid

The Psychological First Aid – An Australian Guide was released earlier this year. The purpose of the guide is to provide an overview for people working in disaster preparedness, response and recovery about best-practice in psychological first aid following disasters and traumatic events.

The booklet can be downloaded from:
<http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Re-d-Cross-Psychological-First-Aid-Book.pdf>

AIES Qld Upcoming Event

Agencies Prepare for an Uncertain Event

Guest Speaker: Harold Wolpert
Chief Executive Officer
Avalias
Date: Wednesday 18 May 2011
Time: 1800 hours
Venue: Emergency Services Complex
Kedron Park
Room Auditorium

Qld Branch Contacts

President: Mick Davis
Vice President: Bob Hartley
Registrar: Greg Eustace
Treasurer: Jenny Crump
Committee: Aprel Dawes
Meg Garbutt

If you would like to contribute with articles in future editions of the newsletter please email the editor at: registrar.qld@aies.net.au