

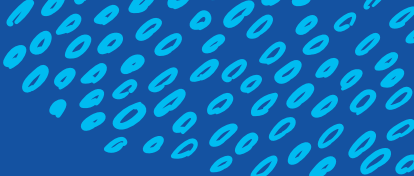


Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency


Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience 

Annual Report 2023-24





*The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience
acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country
throughout Australia and recognises their continuing
connection to land, waters, and culture.
We pay our respects to Elders past and present.*



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this report
may contain images of people who may have since passed away.

Contents

1

AIDR Foreword

4

About AIDR

5

Influencing Strategy –
Thought Leadership

8

Influencing Strategy –
Networks

9

Influencing Strategy –
Capability

12

Influencing Strategy –
Knowledge

13

Impact and engagement

15

Professional
development events

18

Australian Disaster
Resilience Conference
2023

19

DRANZSEN Forum

22

Australian Disaster
Resilience Handbook
Collection

23

Education for Young
People

26

Volunteer Leadership
Program

27

Australian Journal
of Emergency
Management

28

Major Incidents Report
2022-23

29

Australian Disaster
Resilience Knowledge
Hub

30

Glossary, Library and
Database

31

Resilient Australia
Awards



Foreword

Dr Margaret Moreton

Executive Director, AIDR



Reducing disaster risk, managing emergencies, supporting disaster recovery and strengthening disaster resilience are increasingly complex and challenging tasks. The environment in which we live and the hazards that are occurring are increasingly volatile, with more intense events occurring more frequently and resulting in greater losses. These losses include property, short- and long-term financial losses, human loss of life and injury, natural assets and species loss. This complexity is driven by systemic factors such as climate change, economic downturn and cost of living pressures, supply chain issues, diverse and competing interests from different regions and sectors of society, and a deteriorating international geopolitical context.

Across Australia, lives continue to be disrupted by the impacts of disaster, often with multiple events simultaneously. Communities and the organisations that support them often struggle to recover from disasters that occurred several years ago, while also dealing with more recent or even current disasters. The systems communities rely upon are increasingly under pressure and their ability to provide support can falter.

At AIDR, we know that evidence based, high-quality knowledge is the foundation for effective decision making, governance, policy, and practice. Building and maintaining this knowledge base is essential in our collective efforts to reduce disaster risk and disaster impacts. This is also recognised in Australia's Second National Action Plan for implementing the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework*. Outcome 2 calls for 'an effective and connected disaster risk reduction knowledge system that provides a solid foundation for action'.

AIDR continues to strengthen its position as a reliable, independent, and trusted source of knowledge and connection for a growing group of stakeholders. The stakeholders who attend AIDR events and utilise AIDR's products are increasingly diverse with a growing group of Indigenous practitioners and researchers, people with

disabilities and organisations working with them, businesses and corporations, local governments, neighbourhood centres, the health sector, academics and researchers, community organisations and community leaders.

During this financial year, AIDR is proud to have strengthened our connections with Indigenous disaster risk reduction practitioners and researchers. We supported the inaugural National Indigenous Resilience Summit hosted by the Fire to Flourish program at Monash University. AIDR is also sponsoring a Natural Hazards Research Australia research project being led by Indigenous researchers to explore and record the foundations of Indigenous disaster resilience. This work is demonstrating the long-held wisdom of Indigenous peoples across Australia, in reducing risk and building resilience.

Ultimately, reducing and managing risk and building disaster resilience, can only succeed if organisations and sectors across society engage in and support this work. Disaster risk reduction must therefore be mainstreamed and become everyone's business. AIDR works to support the system through the continued curation, production and sharing of knowledge, and by supporting capability development across a diversifying set of stakeholders.

We thank our primary funder and strategic policy agency, the National Emergency Management Agency. We also thank our key partners AFAC and the Australian Red Cross, for their support in the development and delivery of knowledge products and services for a disaster resilient Australia.





Australian Government

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



Australian Institute
for Disaster Resilience

2021-2025

OUR APPROACH

About AIDR



About AIDR

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) is the national institute for disaster risk reduction and resilience. We collaborate across sectors to strengthen the resilience of Australian communities to disasters. AIDR creates, grows, and supports a range of networks; provides opportunities for learning, development, and innovation; shares knowledge and resources to enable informed decision making and action; and facilitates thought leadership through national conversations.



Our partners

AIDR is funded by the Australian Government National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and is delivered through a consortium managed by AFAC and with its key strategic partner the Australian Red Cross. AIDR delivers a range of products and services on behalf of the Australian Government to support an increasingly disaster resilient Australia.



Influencing change

AIDR contributes to a more disaster resilient Australia through 4 key influencing strategies:

- Actively supporting, growing and sustaining a range of networks across sectors and jurisdictions.
- Enabling those with a role in disaster risk reduction and resilience to come together to learn, develop and innovate.
- Collecting, developing, curating and sharing knowledge to educate and promote good practice in disaster risk reduction and resilience.
- Providing a central focus point for national thought leadership on disaster risk reduction and resilience.



Our stakeholders include:

- Academia and education
- Business, insurance and finance
- Commonwealth, state and local governments
- Community and volunteer organisations
- Crisis and emergency management
- Emergency services and defence
- Environment and infrastructure
- Health and community care
- Media and communications
- Not-for-profits, NGOs, member bodies and peak bodies



AIDR delivers a range of services, including:

- Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection
- Professional Development Events
- Education for Young People Program
- Volunteer Leadership Program
- Knowledge Management products and services (Australian Journal of Emergency Management, Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub, Disaster Mapper)
- National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines
- Australian Emergency Management Library
- Resilient Australia Awards
- National Disaster Recovery Monitoring and Evaluation Database
- Major Incidents Report
- Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary

Influencing Strategy – Thought Leadership

AIDR influences national thought leadership on disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Key Statistics:

25

representations on national and state committees to influence change

7

conferences, panels or workshops where AIDR provided input

1

podcast

71

media mentions

AIDR continues to influence strategic thinking and systemic change by leading and participating in national forums focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience. AIDR's Executive Director and members of the AIDR team are active members or observers of national committees, influencing disaster risk reduction and resilience policy development, discussion and outcomes. These include:

- Community Outcomes and Recovery Subcommittee of ANZEMC
- National Emergency Management Agency's Charitable, Not-for-Profit and Philanthropic Roundtable

AIDR's inclusion in several expert advisory groups and committees is also seen to be highly valuable, as many organisations and sectors work to build knowledge and capacity in relation to disaster risk reduction and resilience.

This financial year, the AIDR team participated in strategic advisory groups and committees at the national and state level including:

- Social Recovery Reference Group
- Natural Hazards Research Australia (NHRA) Disaster Challenge Steering Committee and Judging Panel

- Advisory Board for the National Centre for Outdoor Risk and Readiness
- Australian Civil-Military Centre and The Australian National University School of Regulation and Global Governance Project Advisory Panel
- National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Community of Practice
- Community Resilience Alliance
- Creative Recovery Network Taskforce
- Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) Expert Advisory Group
- Envisioning Change Leadership Group
- Gender and Disaster Australia Expert Advisory Group
- Mass Gathering Collaborative Advisory Group
- National Infant and Child Disaster Mental Health Advisory Committee
- NHRA Remote and Rural Lifelines Project Working Group
- Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) Peer Leadership Project National Advisory Group

- Queensland Inspector General of Emergency Management (IGEM) Research Advisory Panel
- Resilient Futures Investment Roundtable
- Schools in Fire Country Steering Committee
- Sustainability Victoria's Resource Smart School Awards Judging Panel
- Victoria University and Youth Affairs Council Victoria's Consultation for the National Centre of Excellence Young People and Disasters
- University of Melbourne's Beyond Disasters Working Group and Children and Disasters Advisory Committee
- NSW Chief Scientist's Natural Hazards STEM Support Program

- National Building Wellbeing into Policy and Practice Symposium
- NHRA Research Forum 2024: Chair of the Resilient Communities and Country session, and as MC of a breakfast hosted by Fire to Flourish
- Bureau of Meteorology on Human Impacts of Disaster
- University of Melbourne Recovery Short Course
- Climate Change Education Forum 2024

AIDR developed submissions to inquiries and participated in national consultations:

- Alternative Commonwealth Capabilities for Crisis Response
- Design of the National Emergency Management Disaster Ready Fund
- Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding
- National Disaster Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy Consultation and the first National Mental Health Plan for Emergency Services Workers
- National Housing and Homelessness Plan

AIDR presented at the following conferences or events:

- Australia and New Zealand Policing Advisory Association (ANZPAA) Conference
- Emergency Media and Public Affairs (EMPA) Future Focus of AIDR Webinar

BUILDING WELLBEING INTO POLICY AND ACTION IN AUSTRALIA

SECOND NATIONAL FORUM : SETTING AUSTRALIA'S WELLBEING AGENDA 26TH - 28TH JUNE 2024

VISUAL SCRIBE
BY
GAVIN BLAKE.COM.AU

WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE IN THE LAND OF DROUGHT AND FLOODING RAINS

JACKI SHIRMER
EARLY INSIGHTS FOR MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

LISA GIBBS
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

JOHN RICHARDSON
IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING WELL!

JOHN RICHARDSON
CHANGE THE NARRATIVE

RESILIENCE
THE CAPACITY TO PREPARE FOR, RESPOND TO, AND RECOVER FROM CHALLENGES

OUR DASHBOARD HAS LAUNCHED!

CLIMATE CHANGE - WE ARE SEEING THE EFFECTS OF OVERLAPPING NATURAL DISASTERS

POORER MENTAL HEALTH

POORER PHYSICAL HEALTH

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU... SOMETIMES MAKES YOU MORE FRAGILE!

GUIDE TO DISASTER RECOVERY CAPITALS

CLIMATE WILL BE A MAJOR INFLUENCER OF WELLBEING

AND NOW WE REBUILD...

IS IT ALL ABOUT REPLACING LOSSES?

CONTEXT: DISASTERS ARE NOT NATURAL

HAZARD

POPULATION

OUR RECOVERY SYSTEM IS SOMETIMES WORSE!

START AT THE END AND WORK BACK...

HOW DO WE COLLECT DATA WE DO IT?

START AT THE START AND ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

CHANGE HOW WE TALK ABOUT RECOVERY

RECOVERY CAPITALS

SENSE OF SELF AND COMMUNITY EFFICACY

HOPE

CONNECTEDNESS

SOCIAL

CULTURAL

NATURAL

FINANCIAL

BUILT

COMMUNITY

RESILIENCE

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS HELP US RECOVER FROM DISASTERS

RECOGNISE US FUND US HELP US CONNECT

IS RESILIENCE CHANGING IN OUR COMMUNITIES?

WHERE HAS RESILIENCE DECLINED?

LET'S GET SOME SUPPORT IN HERE

BEGA VALLEY: A NUMBER OF DISASTERS IN THE AREA

IF I CAN'T REBUILD HOUSES... PEOPLE MOVE OUT!

ACCESS TO EMOTIONAL SUPPORT IS UP!

DECLINE IN VOLUNTEERING

COULD HAS FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED THE SCHOOL LANDSCAPE

USE OF RESILIENCE RESOURCES

HUMAN AND SOCIAL RESOURCES

OUR RECOVERY SYSTEM IS SOMETIMES WORSE!

WHAT DO WE VALUE?

A LIFE THAT I LOVE LEANING

LIVE LONG AND PROSPER.

supported by

VicHealth

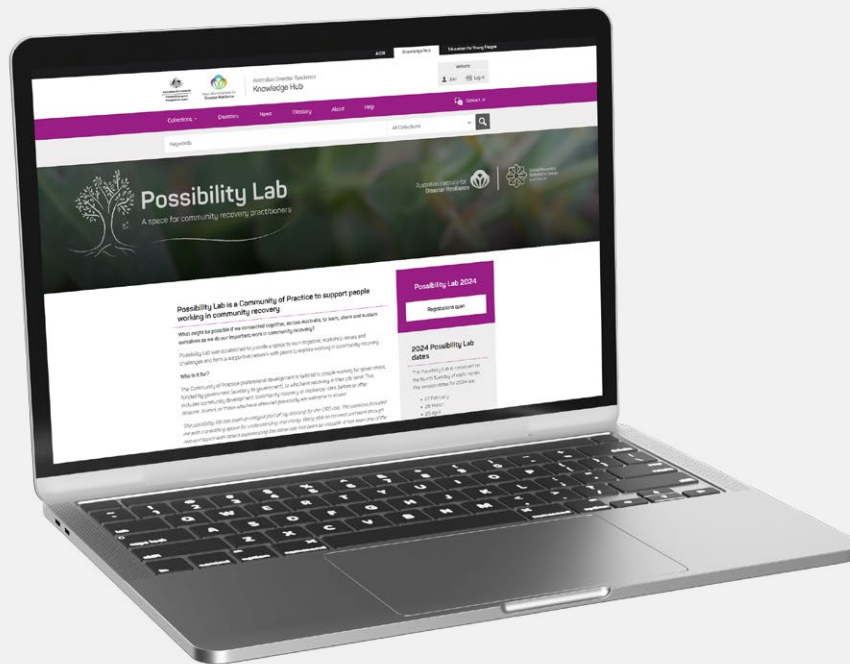
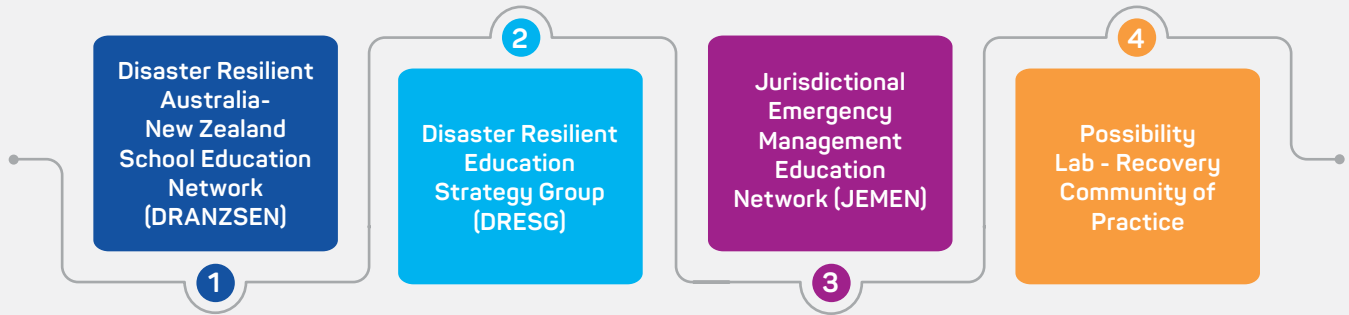
Cpd CENTRE FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Australian Unity Real Wellbeing

SEED LIFESPAN

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

4 active networks:



Highlights:



Influencing Strategy – Networks

Actively support, grow and sustain a range of networks across sectors and jurisdictions.

Every Australian jurisdiction is represented in AIDR's network membership including representatives from all levels of government, not-for-profit groups, emergency management agencies, other sectors (e.g., education and volunteering), various charitable organisations, and the private sector. These networks provide opportunities for members to support one another, learn from each other and share experiences.

JEMEN provides connections across jurisdictions and enables those in the emergency management sector to share knowledge, training information, research, and educational programs. In a planning session in February 2024, JEMEN agreed its role and function is to provide a forum for each Australian jurisdiction, representing key emergency management education agencies, with the aim of the network being to collaborate and share knowledge and initiatives, developing national consistencies in collaboration and knowledge sharing, governance arrangements and technology.

AIDR maintained its partnership with the Social Recovery Reference Group (created under the auspices of the Community Outcomes and Recovery Subcommittee (CORS) of the Australia and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC)) to host 9 'Possibility Lab' Recovery Community of Practice sessions. Possibility Lab provides a space for learning, workshoping issues and forming a supportive network with peers. Throughout the year, 342 members from the target audience of community-facing government and non-government recovery workers participated in sessions across themes of successful disaster recovery, preparing high-risk communities, recovery funding, collaboration, community-led recovery, rebuilding, supporting recovery transition and creating a culture of inclusion in disaster preparedness. Participants attended from all Australian states and territories.

The 2023 National DRANZSEN Forum brought together 80 people across emergency management, government, not-for-profit and mental health in Meanjin (Brisbane) following the Australian

Disaster Resilience Conference and AFAC23. For more information see page 19.

A DRANZSEN Webinar on 26 June featured the winner and finalists of the 2023 Resilient Australia National School Award, showcasing programs implementing disaster resilience education in action across the country.

Multiple stakeholder meetings have been held over the past year with an intent of linking up the system and building the Education for Young People network. AIDR engaged with the following organisations on education for young people:

- Minderoo Foundation Fire and Flood Resilience Initiative
- YACVic Youth Participation Practice Network
- Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart Schools
- University of Melbourne Children and Disasters Advisory Group
- Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS)
- Nillumbik Shire Council
- Schools in Fire Country Steering Committee
- Emerging Minds
- University of New South Wales
- Triple Zero Kids
- Cool.org
- Deakin University
- RMIT University
- Victoria University and Youth Affairs Council Victoria
- Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Griffith University
- New Zealand National Emergency Management Agency.

Influencing Strategy – Capability



Enable those with a role in disaster risk reduction and resilience to come together to learn, develop and innovate.

MORE THAN 4,000 people connected from a broad range of sectors and jurisdictions

50 professional development events

8 volunteer leadership programs

Building capability across the system is a key element of AIDR's approach to creating a more disaster resilient Australia. This is accomplished by running professional development events such as masterclasses and webinars, hosting nationally significant events including the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference and the Resilient Australia Awards, and running programs such as Education for Young People and the Volunteer Leadership Program. These initiatives enable people to learn from each other and from specialists, share knowledge, form or strengthen relationships, and contribute to national disaster resilience and risk reduction outcomes.

AIDR's professional development program builds capability for both newcomers and seasoned emergency and disaster resilience practitioners in both paid and voluntary roles.

Evidence gathered through our professional development event surveys and annual stakeholder survey demonstrates that AIDR effectively supports a community of people to be connected, informed, knowledgeable and capable of evidence and values-based decision making for improved disaster resilience.

Key outcomes include:

- Those new to disaster resilience are building their networks and knowledge base.
- People have a better understanding and awareness of good practice, and share insights and learnings across communities and sectors.
- People working across the resilience system better understand their interconnected roles and contribution to disaster risk reduction.

In 2023-24, AIDR delivered and facilitated 50 events and 8 Volunteer Leadership Programs that were attended by more than 4,000 people. Of these, 94% strongly agreed that their knowledge was improved; 94% stated they would recommend the event they attended to others; and 95% rated the event they attended as very good or excellent.

“

'I learnt so much from this masterclass and the resource is brilliant.'

– Leadership in Crisis and Adversity masterclass

”

“

'I feel very privileged to attend these webinars and learn from these experts in the field. Thank you so much for hosting.'

– Gender and sexuality in disaster risk reduction webinar

”

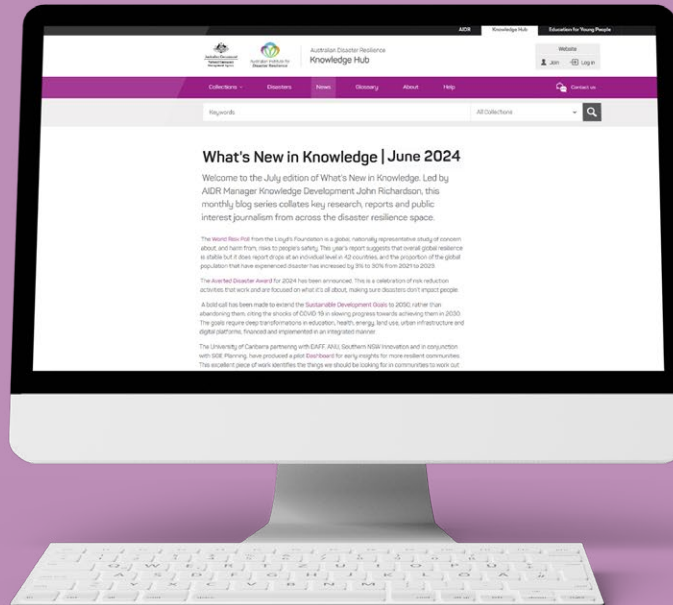
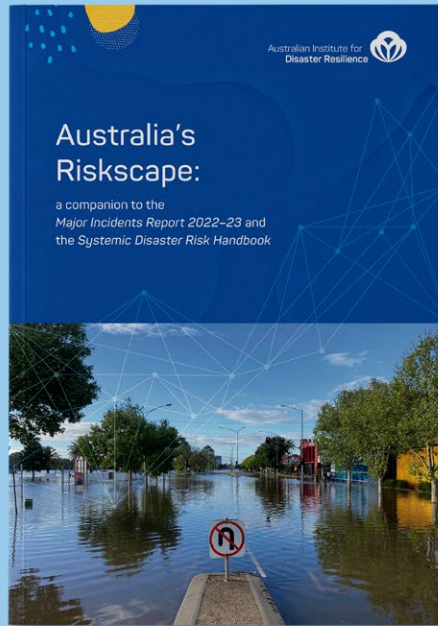
your worth.

Address policy and strategy which may require more time than money

Collaborations need facilitation and it must be resourced.

Include actions at all levels: from individual to statewide, or from getting it on the agenda to delivering broad strategies





Influencing Strategy – Knowledge



AIDR continues to lead the development and promotion of knowledge and good practice for disaster resilience and risk reduction.

AIDR delivers evidence based, high-quality and trusted resources through the Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection. AIDR's knowledge products and services are valued as high quality, credible and practical.

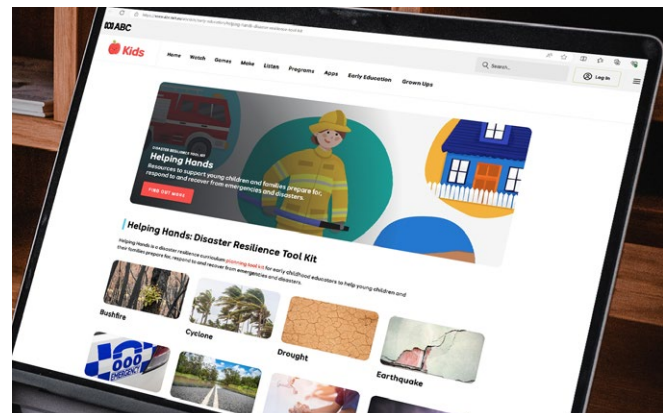
Almost 594,311 people accessed materials across the three AIDR websites, with 3,809,800 pageviews on the Knowledge Hub, 505,794 pageviews on the corporate AIDR website and 40,990 page views on the Education for Young People website. The Australian Disaster Mapper was the most accessed resource with 449,400 pageviews.

The Major Incidents Report 2022-23 was launched at the National Disaster Preparedness Summit hosted by the National Emergency Management Agency in September 2023. The report was downloaded 1,314 times 2023-24. 613 people registered for the showcase webinar with 264 attending the event live.

AIDR also introduced two new knowledge products in 2023-24 to support systemic and strategic thinking. The first *Australia's Riskscape Report* was published as a companion to the 2022-23 *Major Incidents Report* and the *Systemic Disaster Risk Handbook*. In addition, a monthly roundup of national and international reports, research, and public interest pieces in the blog series 'What's New in Knowledge' was launched in January 2024. What's New in Knowledge has quickly built a following, with over 1,000 people accessing it monthly.

In 2023-24, 4 editions of the *Australian Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM)* were published, including research papers and case studies that demonstrate the commitment to sharing best practice and thought leadership for disaster risk reduction and resilience.

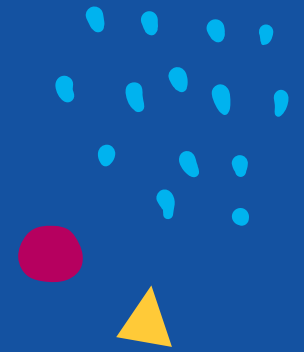
For younger learners, AIDR partnered with ABC Kids Early Learning to develop the ABC Kids the Helping Hands: Disaster Resilience Tool Kit which was published late December 2023.



Helping Hands Disaster Resilience Tool Kit - Early Education - ABC Kids

The Disability Inclusion and Disasters Collection was published on the Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub in June 2024. This collection was published to coincide with the launch of the *Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and Toolkit for Collaborative Action* developed by the Collaborating4Inclusion research team at the University of Sydney. AIDR partnered with the University of Sydney to launch this important resource, supplemented by the new collection, to promote good practice in disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction across Australia.

Impact and engagement



Events



connecting more than **4,000** people

over **94%** of participants agree or strongly agree the event they attended increased their knowledge.



36
online events



12
face-to-face



2
hybrid events

Participants

top three sectors in attendance

State government
15.9%

Local government
15.2%

Emergency services
10.6%

VLP **193** volunteers participated

97%
respondents reported an increase in local leadership

100%
respondents reported an overall improvement of their knowledge

99%
respondents indicated they would recommend the program to others

ADRC

89%
rated ADRC as a whole excellent or very good

91%
said that they would recommend the conference to others

96%
said the conference met or exceeded their expectation

Knowledge Hub

accessed over

3.8 million

times by
more than **525,000**
people



Australian Disaster Mapper

has more than

449,000
engagements



Thought Leadership

7 Conferences, panels or workshops where ADR provided input

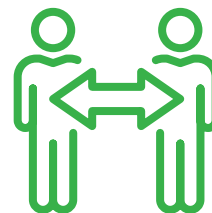
25 Representations on national committees to influence change

71 Media mentions



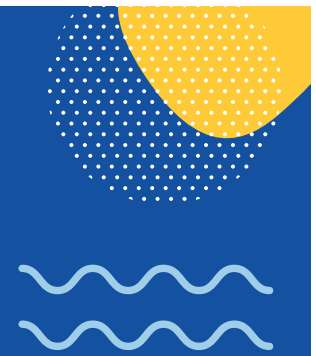
Engagement

27 Sectors across **9** Australian jurisdictions engaged



23,843
Stakeholders engaged

Professional development events



During 2023-24, AIDR delivered 50 professional development events in person and online. These events included:

- Australian Disaster Resilience Conference | August 2023
- National DRANZSEN Forum | August 2023
- Lessons Management Forum | May 2024
- Resilient Australia Awards National Ceremony | November 2023
- 9 Possibility Lab Recovery Community of Practice sessions | Fourth Tuesday of most months
- 30 Masterclasses
 - » 5 Decision Making Under Pressure: New Skills for the New Normal | October 2023, November 2023, March 2024, May 2024 x 2
 - » 5 Facilitating Successful Debriefs | August 2023, November 2023 x 2, December 2023, June 2024
 - » 3 Leadership in Crisis and Adversity | November 2023, April 2024, May 2024
 - » 10 Leadership in Disaster Recovery | July – August 2023
 - » 2 Managing Organisational Crises | November 2023, April 2024
 - » 5 Meteorology for Disaster Managers | July 2023, September 2023, November 2023, March 2024, April 2024

- 7 Webinars
 - » International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction: Fighting inequality for a Resilient Future | October 2023
 - » Major Incidents Report and Riskscape Report | November 2023
 - » Recovery Uncovered webinar series:
 - Introduction to Community Disaster Recovery | March 2024
 - Understanding Community Dynamics, Grief and Mental Health Impacts of Disasters | May 2024
 - » Gender and sexuality in disaster risk reduction | April 2024
 - » Leave Nobody Behind webinar series: DIDRR Framework and Toolkit for Collaborative Action Launch | June 2024
 - » DRANZSEN Event: Resilient Australian Schools webinar | June 2024

Online events continue to be a popular and accessible way for people across Australia to engage with disaster resilience learning. Participants came from all states and territories, as well as overseas. The top three sectors in attendance were:

- State government (15.9%)
- Local government (15.2%)
- Emergency services (10.6%)
- Other key sectors were emergency management (10.2%), not-for-profit and NGO (9.9%) and community (5.8%).

Post event surveys indicate that attendees continue to highly value AIDR's professional development events, with 94% of participants stating that they agree or strongly agree the event they attended increased their knowledge.

Online events continue to be a popular and accessible way for people across Australia to engage with disaster resilience learning. Participants came from all states and territories, as well as overseas.

Post event surveys indicate that attendees continue to highly value AIDR's professional development events, with 94% of participants stating that they agree or strongly agree the event they attended increased their knowledge.

ADRC23:

91%

would recommend

RAA23:

188

attended hybrid

LMF24:

213

attended hybrid

9x

Possibility Labs

Masterclasses:

- 5 Decision Making Under Pressure: New Skills for the New Normal
- 5 Facilitating Successful Debriefs
- 3 Leadership in Crisis and Adversity
- 10 Leadership in Disaster Recovery
- 2 Managing Organisational Crises
- 5 Meteorology for Disaster Managers





Opening of Resilience Lane, Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2023

Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2023



In August 2023, AIDR hosted the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The conference brought together a diverse and passionate crowd from a range of sectors to share knowledge and build connections for a disaster resilient Australia. The conference explored the theme *Resilience Reimagined* through 2 presentation streams across 2 days and attracted 596 registered delegates.

There was great excitement around the debut of Resilience Lane in the AFAC23 Exhibition Hall, sponsored by NRMA Insurance. Resilience Lane featured 15 community and not-for-profit organisations, including: Australian Business Volunteers; Australian Red Cross; Disaster Relief Australia; Disaster Wise; Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal; Gender & Disaster Australia; GIVIT; Good Grief – The Mackillop Institute; Headspace; Lions Club; Mountains Community Resource Network; Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health; Queenslanders with Disability Network; Resilient Building Council and Resilient Ready.

- The post conference survey reveals approximately 74% of attendees were attending for the first time. The top sectors in attendance were local government (20%) and the community (13%) and not-for-profit (9%) sectors.
- The overwhelming majority (61%) of attendees attended the conference because the program was relevant and of interest to them. Networking was also chosen as a primary reason for attending (15%).
- 88% of survey participants agreed the conference was very well or excellently organised and 89% rated the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference as a whole excellent or very good.
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed their disaster resilience knowledge was increased by the topics discussed and 96% state the conference met or exceeded their expectations.
- 91% would recommend the conference to others.

Testimonials from the 2023 Australian Disaster Resilience Conference



'I found this event an incredible opportunity to hear some highly inspiring speakers and gain fresh knowledge of available networks and resources.'

'This conference has changed my approach by learning to never be afraid to listen to different approaches, not be afraid to pivot and to be open and empathetic when things don't go as planned.'

'The conference gave me an overview of different perspectives (community, councils, government, funding and research bodies).'

'I have drawn a lot of inspiration and hope from this conference. I also feel that this conference has given me a lot of knowledge regarding recovery and resilience which I would incorporate in my work.'



DRANZSEN Forum

The 2023 National DRANZSEN Forum brought together 80 people across emergency management, government, not-for-profit and mental health in Meanjin (Brisbane) following the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference and AFAC23.

“

'It was great to see a new group of people at DRANZSEN and see how we are broadening our base. It was wonderful to connect to others and find some of our WA young people at the forum. Many thanks for a great program and for the invite to present.'

– National DRANZSEN National participant

”

The program included strengths-based programs for children and young people, resilience for early childhood, why it is important to support school leaders, the role of families following a disaster and how emergency management agencies are engaging young people. AIDR engaged two young people in a panel to learn how they are making differences in their communities, driving new initiatives, and taking action to prepare for and respond to disasters.

During the 2023 National DRANZSEN Forum attendees participated in a group reflection session to discuss what has worked, or is working well, in disaster resilience education and engaging children and young people. The session also explored what is needed to effectively engage with children and young people, and priorities for the next 12 months.

1

Approaches that work well: Projects and activities that are flexible, adaptable, child-centred, inclusive, play-based and interactive, use networks and partnerships, highlight mental health and wellbeing, support and provide safe spaces.

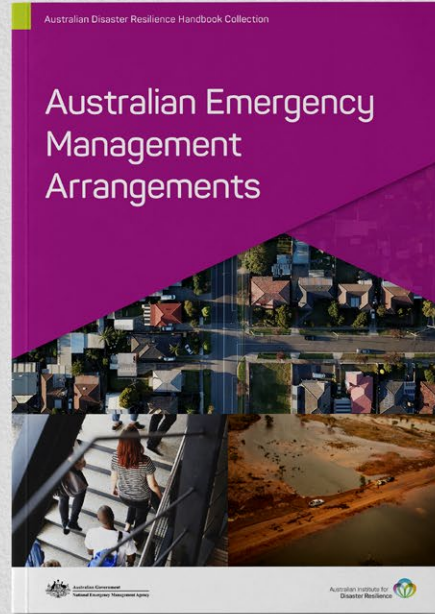
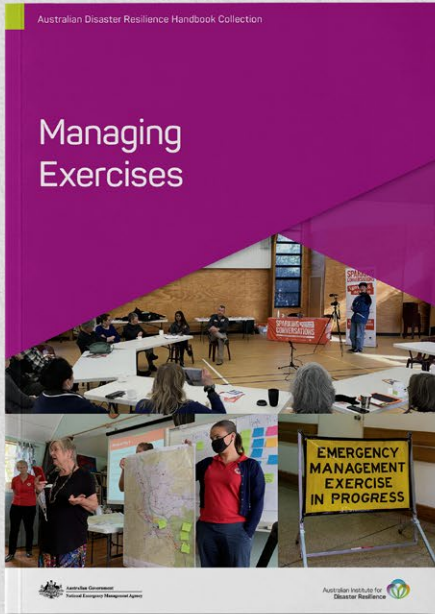
2

What is needed: Communication, collaboration, networking, resources, early childhood focus, community support and inclusion, skills development, innovative approaches and technology, policy advocacy and leadership, youth engagement, empowerment and co-design, long-term vision and funding.

3

Priorities: Increased engagement and collaboration (including rural), evaluation and feedback, shifting the paradigm, finding funding and resources, skills development and training, youth empowerment and representation, long-term impact and support, resource development.





Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection

The Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection provides a national focal point to coordinate, develop, and endorse national principles and approaches that set the standard for good practice in disaster risk reduction and resilience across Australia.

Each handbook is developed and reviewed through a rigorous process of national consultation with key stakeholders and subject experts from diverse sectors and jurisdictions across Australia.

In 2023-24, AIDR undertook a strategic review of the Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection to ensure that they are fit for purpose and contribute to Australia's disaster management frameworks. The review shows strong alignment with Australia's disaster management frameworks and identified gaps to be addressed in future years.

Quick Guides have now been published for the majority of the handbooks, providing stakeholders with brief summaries of the key concepts and principles in each of the Handbooks.

In 2023-24, AIDR also published the updated *Managing Exercises* and *Evacuation Planning* handbooks. In total, handbooks from the collection were downloaded 21,788 times.

The most downloaded handbooks were:

1. *Australian Emergency Management Arrangements* (2157 times)
2. *Lessons Management* (1953 times)
3. *Emergency Planning* (1925 times)
4. *Incident Management* (1709 times)
5. *Community Recovery* (1620 times)

The handbooks have been cited in the following reports:

- Post Disaster Temporary Housing: An Applied Literature Review for Social Recovery Reference Group (SRRG) (*Community Recovery and Lessons Management*)

- Inspector General Emergency Management Queensland: 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Event Formal, independent report on the effectiveness of recovery after three years Report 1: 2023–24. (*Systemic Disaster Risk*).
- NSW State Mitigation Plan 2024-26 (*Evacuation Planning, National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines and Public Information and Warnings*)
- Lessons Management Review of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response (*Lessons Management*)



'I access this weekly to support work that I am doing in my current role.'

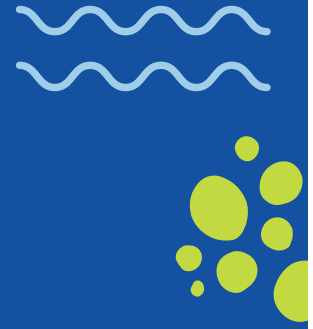
'The Handbooks underpin policy and practice for State Governments.'

'These have been great as a reference to check that policy and procedure that we are developing is in line with current best practice and so that we can ensure we are consistent. e.g. we recently updated our community warnings SOP, and it was good that I could quickly and easily access all of the information on the Aus Warning System in one spot to confirm that our current SOP was up to date with that.'

'We regularly use the Community Recovery Handbook as well as Emergency Planning, Lessons Management and Exercising Toolkit.'



Education for Young People



AIDR provides strategic support for stakeholders from the education sector, emergency services, and youth-focused organisations to facilitate networks and professional learning around disaster resilience education for children and young people.

The Disaster Resilience Australia-New Zealand School Education Network (DRANZSEN) has remained stable at over 500 members. The quarterly Education for Young People newsletter remained steady with 7,977 subscribers and open rates at 36%. October 2023 saw the highest performing newsletter with 6,616 opens. The top item accessed was the presentations from the National DRANZSEN Forum.

The majority of materials accessed on the Education for Young People website were teaching resources, which demonstrates AIDR's ability to provide materials to stakeholders who engage and educate young people in disaster risk reduction activities. This high use informed the major review of the Education for Young People website 'Teaching Resources' page update. Educator resources now include resources for early years, primary and secondary students in, and out of school settings.

AIDR partnered with ABC Kids Early Learning to develop the ABC Kids the Helping Hands: Disaster Resilience Tool Kit which was published late December 2023. Helping Hands is a disaster resilience curriculum planning tool kit for early childhood educators to help young children and their families prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. The toolkit includes video links, factsheets, play based ideas and teacher notes. The toolkit was featured in live ABC radio interviews in Adelaide and Tasmania, and ABC department head Libbie Doherty gave a live interview on ABC News Breakfast. Additionally, a digital news story by reporter Nathan Morris on the topic is online.

AIDR was asked to be on the panel of judges for Sustainability Victoria's ResourceSmart School Awards. AIDR was also invited to their second Climate Change Education Forum in May 2024. Through

these partnerships, the linkages between sustainability, climate and disasters are becoming more understood throughout the system.

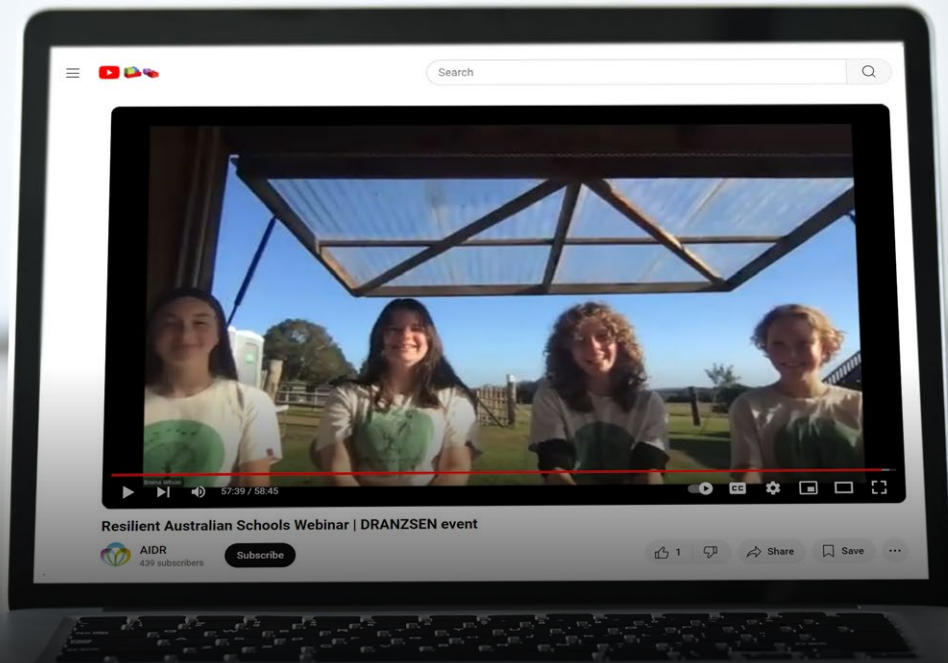
AIDR hosted a DRANZSEN Webinar on 26 June. The webinar featured the national winner and finalists of the 2023 Resilient Australia School Award, showcasing programs that implement disaster resilience education in action across the country. Victoria's Harkaway Primary School, winner of the 2023 National Resilient Australia School Award, presented their Schools in Fire Country Program and their Bushfire Manifesto that was developed by the students. Western Australia's Port School shared their flexible Cadet Program for students with complex needs, that led to an increase in student confidence and collaboration with emergency services. Queensland's Woodridge State High School spoke about their experience with a tornado, flood and COVID-19, all in the same year. New South Wales' Living School discussed their disaster response initiative in Lismore, integrating content in English, Maths, Science, History and Arts.

“

When asked what we as practitioners can do, Living School students said:

'I think helping give us a voice really helps us gain confidence and be ready to tackle problems [and giving us the opportunity] to actually contribute.'

”



Living School students participating in DRANZSEN Webinar (2024)



ABC Early Education Helping Hands: Disaster Resilience Tool Kit (2023)



Volunteer Leadership Program

AIDR's Volunteer Leadership Program (VLP) supports the local leadership capability of disaster resilience and emergency management volunteers amongst community organisations, not-for-profits, disaster relief organisations and local government.

The VLP equips participants with the skills and confidence to grow as leaders. The VLP experience is immersive and collaborative, bringing together volunteers from different organisations and agencies to build knowledge and share experiences with each other.

The VLP is facilitated by the Australian Red Cross on behalf of AIDR. Across the 193 volunteers who participated in the 8 event programs:

- over 97% reported an increase in local leadership
- 100% reported an overall improvement of their knowledge

The program was held in the following locations across 2023 and 2024:

- Wagga Wagga, NSW from 7 July to 9 July 2023
- Newcastle, NSW from 4 August to 6 August 2023
- Melbourne, VIC from 1 September to 3 September 2023
- Hobart, TAS from 22 September to 24 September 2023
- Perth, WA from 12 April to 14 April 2024
- Adelaide, SA from 19 April to 21 April 2024
- Darwin, NT from 17 May to 19 May 2024
- Sunshine Coast, QLD from 7 June to 9 June 2024

“

'I valued the knowledge and skills set that was demonstrated and information provided to gain a better understanding on the various aspects of leadership.'

'I have changed the way I lead and my expectations of others. It has given me a better understanding of where I fit I and where I can be useful. Before this course I felt a little lost as a volunteer as I felt I wasn't sure how or in what capacity I could best use my skill set and experience. I feel more comfortable and confident knowing I can be useful.'

'I value having the opportunity to come together with other subject matter experts to share my knowledge with them and learn from them in return.'

”

Australian Journal of Emergency Management

The *Australian Journal of Emergency Management* (AJEM) is Australia's premier journal for emergency management.

AJEM is peer reviewed, published quarterly and features news, reports, and research from all areas of emergency management theory and practice, with a focus on risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery. Four editions of AJEM were published in 2023-24 and are freely accessible on the Knowledge Hub. Selected AJEM articles can also be accessed in themed collections on the Knowledge Hub for people searching for information on specific topics such as recovery, volunteering and emergency planning.

Online subscriptions have remained steady, with 4,381 people

Top AJEM downloads:

1. October 2023 edition
2. July 2023 edition
3. *PPRR and AIIMS: a whole-of-government strategy in NSW*, in July 2022 edition
4. *The hidden disaster: domestic violence in the aftermath of natural disaster*, in April 2023 edition
5. April 2024 edition

While the top downloads reflect the most recent editions, it is also noteworthy that people are accessing prior editions of the journal to inform their practice. The AJEM contributor guidelines were accessed over 200 times, reflecting a strong interest in publishing in the journal. In 2023-24, AJEM updated its editorial policy and contributor guidelines which were launched in the April 2024 edition. Through this clearer guidance, AJEM is better placed to promote new research and thinking to support disaster risk reduction and resilience in Australasia and beyond.



Major Incidents Report 2022-23

AIDR published the *Major Incidents Report 2022-23* in September 2023.

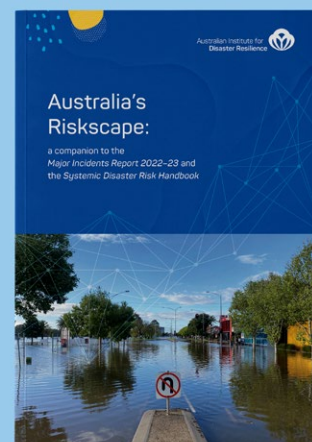
The seventh edition of the report provides an overview of 27 major incidents regarded as nationally significant by the emergency management sector over the financial year. The report provides detailed case studies for nine of those events, selected based on their uniqueness, duration, impacts, resourcing demands, tiers of government involved, specialist equipment required and learnings.

In the case studies there is background information about each incident, the impact, the response to it and, where identified, observations to assist the emergency management and disaster resilience sectors identify key themes for improvement in practice at a national level, across all hazards and jurisdictions. The report also provides a snapshot of the climate drivers that influenced the weather pattern across Australia, an overview of national resource sharing arrangements, and events internationally where Australia provided support.

As noted earlier, AIDR also published as a companion piece, *Australia's Riskscape Report*, examining some of the systemic risk drivers.

The Major Incidents Report was launched at the National Disaster Preparedness Summit hosted by the National Emergency Management Agency in September 2023. In 2023-24, the report was downloaded 1,074 times from the AIDR Knowledge Hub.

In November 2023, AIDR hosted a webinar to showcase key content of the *Major Incidents Report 2022-23* and the new *Australia's Riskscape Report*. The webinar included an in-depth discussion on the case study of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie and the associated Kimberley flooding in Western Australia. This webinar garnered widespread interest, with 226 attending the webinar live and over 250 views online following the event.



The Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub



The Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub is a national platform that supports and informs policy, planning, decision making and contemporary good practice in disaster resilience.

The Knowledge Hub is home to curated collections on disaster resilience topics and themes, as well as the Australian Disaster Mapper, the *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, the Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection and Glossary, and the National Disaster Recovery Monitoring and Evaluation Database. It is also a gateway to the Australian Emergency Management Library.

In 2023-24, the Disaster Mapper, a very popular resource, was updated with a number of new entries such as the May 2022–March 2023 Murray-Darling Basin flooding in NSW and the October 2022–January 2023 floods in Victoria.

A highlight this year was publishing the Disability Inclusion and Disasters collection, which brings together research, guidance, resources, and tools to support disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction in policy and practice. AIDR was pleased to work with the Collaborating4Inclusion team at the University of Sydney to finalise this important resource for people contributing to emergency management and disaster resilience.

Between July 2023 and June 2024, the Knowledge Hub had over 3.8 million engagements by more than 525,000 people.

Disaster mapper popular views – engagements



Indian Ocean Boxing Day Tsunami, 2004
– 167,474 total engagements



Christchurch New Zealand Earthquake, 2011
– 89,517 total engagements



Queensland Floods, 2010-11
– 56,244 total engagements



Black Summer Bushfires, 2019-20
– 54,457 total engagements



Black Saturday Bushfires, 2009
– 44,832 total engagements



Glossary, Library and Database

Glossary

The Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary is an integrated online glossary of over 2,500 disaster resilience and emergency management terms and definitions. The Glossary incorporates key terms from national and international glossaries. From July 2023 to June 2024 the Glossary was viewed 26,946 times by those seeking consistent, authoritative definitions for words and terms. This shows significant growth compared to previous years.

Over the 2023-24 financial year, the top five searched terms were:

- Disaster
- All hazards
- Response
- Emergency
- Resilience

Australian Emergency Management Library

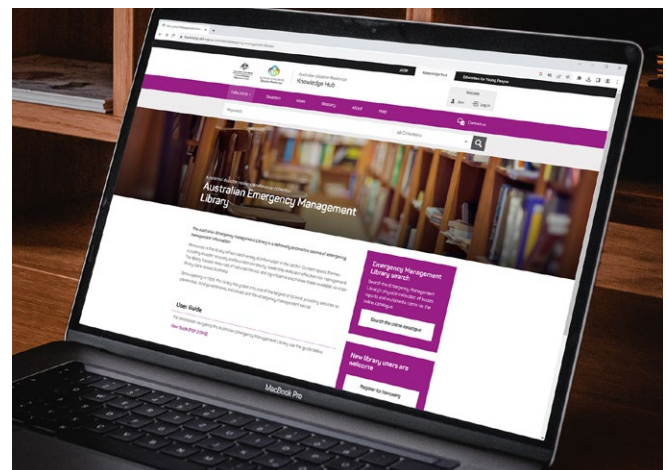
The Australian Emergency Management (AEM) Library uses the Koha borrowing system. A web-based, scalable library management software, Koha enables library patrons to efficiently browse the catalogue and borrow items. Users have increased to 198.

AEM Library patronage continues to grow slowly, and includes members from every Australian jurisdiction, and some international members, for example, New Zealand and India. Users accessed the EBSCO and AEM Library resources 33,521 times via the Knowledge Hub during the 2023-24 financial year, an increase of over 10,000 visits.

An issue was identified during the 2023-24 reporting period, that has been limiting online access for some AIDR stakeholders. AIDR worked with Koha and EBSCO to allow for EBSCO to be accessed via the AEML online platform allowing anyone with a login to access and use the system. This change went live in June 2023 enabling AIDR stakeholders to access a significantly broader set of reference materials online in this financial year.

National Disaster Recovery Monitoring and Evaluation Database

The National Monitoring and Evaluation Database is a tool to help design and evaluate disaster recovery programs drawing on the evidence base for successful recovery. It has been embedded within a Monitoring and Evaluation for Disaster Recovery Collection on the Knowledge Hub to provide extra context and guidance about how to make use of all that the database has to offer, as well as contribute evaluation reports to grow the evidence base. This year, work was done to further expand the recovery program design support area of the collection to provide an at-a-glance view of suggested recovery program outcomes, activities and indicators across social, economic, environmental and built environment recovery domains. In 2023-24, there were close to 12,000 total engagements for webpages directly associated with the database.



Resilient Australia Awards



The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate and promote initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as capturing images of resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across all sectors.

The Resilient Australia Awards are proudly sponsored by the Australian Government in partnership with the states and territories and managed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR).

Each year the awards program celebrates state and territory winners at the National Awards Ceremony. Winners of state and territory awards are automatically considered finalists across national award categories, with winners and highly commended announced during the ceremony.

In 2023, submissions were judged across seven jurisdictional award categories, jurisdictional finalists were then reviewed across six national award categories. The finalists were high calibre projects from all states and territories. The jurisdictional award categories are business, community, government, local government, mental health and wellbeing, schools, and a people's choice photography award.

The 2023 Resilient Australia Awards National Ceremony was held at Optus Stadium in Perth on 22 November 2023 and sponsored by Suncorp Group. The ceremony was livestreamed and attracted 103 attendees. The in-person event at Optus Stadium in Perth welcomed 95 attendees, bringing total event attendance to 198, up from 170 in 2022.

The ceremony was hosted by AIDR Executive Director, Dr Margaret Moreton. The event was a celebration of diversity and inclusion, with many projects engaging with diverse groups. The 2023 Resilient Australia Award winners and finalists featured in the January 2024 edition of the Australian Journal for Emergency Management; in print and online via the Knowledge Hub, with the winning photograph featuring on the cover.

Work occurred in early 2024 to review the RAA Guidelines. Through this review, AIDR was proud to introduce the new National Research for Impact Award. The new award category is open to tertiary institutions and recognises research that is having or will have a significant impact on knowledge, capability, and practice, and will enhance disaster resilience outcomes as a result.



2023 Resilient Australia Photography Award submission 'Unconventional Firefighting' by Stephanie Rouse.



committee

#RAA23

Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



Resilient Australia
Awards

**NATIONAL
CEREMONY**

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Ella Wilkinson, Senior Project Officer, Education and Engagement (AIDR) presenting Resilient Australia Schools Award to Leigh Johnson, Principal, Harkaway Primary School (VIC) in Perth 2023.



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Australian Government

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