



Australian Government

National Emergency  
Management Agency

# Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

**Response ID:** IRCDF\_1054\_25

**Consent option:** Publish Anonymously

**Submitted by:** Anonymous

## **Q1. What experience have you had with Commonwealth disaster funding support?**

I have managed evacuation centres during times of disaster as a paid employee, provided services and food drops to communities of Northern NSW as a volunteer, been a victim of disasters and provided support to my people as a First Nations representative trying to navigate systems and services in overcrowded and hostile environments. I have tried to reason with service providers for access to service for families where they had lost all identification with no rational or reasonable outcomes. I have delivered child protection services and intervention where children were deemed at risk because of 'neglect' when the only evidence was 'poverty' because of homelessness and lack of access to services.

## **Q2. How could Commonwealth funding support communities to reduce their disaster risk?**

If Aboriginal Community controlled organisations were able to directly service communities (especially in rural and remote areas) we would be able to ensure timely and purposeful delivery as we know our populations. Community services are able to meet the needs of communities by meeting them in their space with their needs as the priority unlike Govt services which prescribe service delivery and blanket responses to families without taking into consideration individual need and purpose.

## **Q3. Please describe your understanding of Commonwealth disaster funding processes.**

As I understand the Commonwealth leaves responsibility with the State who engage 'volunteers' (some skilled but many not skilled - known as SES) in delivery of crisis intervention and disaster. The Commonwealth could send out the reserves or army to help but did not do that in Northern NSW 2022 which was a huge error because we were all very afraid and the SES said it was too dangerous for them... Other than that the Commonwealth gives out small amount of money through centrelink to families to help in the crisis phase (at the point of declaring a 'state of emergency' only)

## **Q4. Are the funding roles of the Commonwealth, states and territories, and local government, during disaster events clear?**

Never

## **Q5. Is there any further information you would like to provide?**

Take a look at this - this is what community organisations like Ngunya Jarjum do to support prevention of crisis in our communities: [www.disasterplan.info](http://www.disasterplan.info)

