



Australian Government

National Emergency  
Management Agency

# Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

**Response ID:** IRCDF\_1389\_136

**Consent option:** Publish Anonymously

**Submitted by:** Anonymous

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

I have been working in the emergency management and recovery sector for many years. I have worked in government agencies who are responsible for administering various DRFA grants.

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

State and Federal Government needs to resource their communities through local governments and community-based organizations such as community and neighborhood centers to enable them to deliver preparedness and resilience building activities within their communities all the time. This funding needs to be recurrent and ongoing and not just following disasters. Great works happens in the 2 years post disasters due to large amounts of DRFA funding poured into disaster impacted communities but then this ceases when the funding runs out or the 2 years funding window ends.

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

To have funding activated for Counter Disaster Operations and Restoration of Essential Public Assets the \$ amount of damages has to be reached. When local services and local government reach capacity to support their community, they request support from the state government and can request funding activated for personal support and other measures as required. State requests this activation from the commonwealth government.

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

No. Most agencies have no idea how the funding is released and who to be reimbursed for eligible items.

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

Administering agencies such as the Department of Communities (Qld) apply eligibility criteria for grants in an inconsistent manner. This is due to inexperienced and untrained temp agency staff engaged following a disaster event.

