



Australian Government

National Emergency
Management Agency

Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

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Consent option: Publish with name

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

As A Recovery Support Worker, I support and empower clients in applying for Disaster Relief Grants, Back to Home Grants, Small Business Grants and other associated support as assessed for clients impacted by disaster (Storms and floods). My experience tells me that much can be done to stream line the red tape and onerous bureaucracy that furthers adds suffering to victims. In fact a trauma informed approach needs to be integrated in all processes. Funding responses need to be more adaptable to circumstances and realistic appraisals of individual circumstances need to be more compassionate (eg. having everything online disadvantages and denies access to someone who is computer illiterate or too poor to own and network a computer or like device).

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

1. Definitely preparedness education programs are useful. Tax deduction for having an accredited emergency bag with supplies in every residence.
2. Resources towards RFS, SES, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance, Community Health & Hospitals, Community Halls and Identified Evacuation Centres being equipped with optional, if required, off-grid solar and battery electrical systems, independent free-standing water-tank supply with filtration as needed for drinking supply, satellite internet connections for Wi-Fi hub, storage areas for Redcross, Foodbank, first aid supplies and a commercial kitchen to provide meals.
3. Shelters of last Resort to save lives in extreme events placed strategically in light of research and past experience of individual communities.
4. GET REAL ABOUT REDUCING CO2 Emissions!! We are heading for catastrophic climate change on the current legislated trajectory.

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

Confusing for clients and General Public. Better to have all funding being amalgamated into one body.

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

No. The average person is confused by all the layers of government in normal circumstances let alone in a traumatized state. Need to really simplify things. Also ask yourself do they really want to know that?





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They just need to hear from whoever is in charge to say we care and we are going to assist you in any way we can! Any then do it! :)

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

Have you considered building a process from the ground up? Meaning use the stories and experiences of disaster victims and their communities to tailor a disaster support payment process to specific regions and communities so as every next time it can only get better and we are not starting this process over and over again.

