



Australian Government

National Emergency  
Management Agency

# Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

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**Consent option:** Publish Anonymously

**Submitted by:** Anonymous

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

I have been employed by a state community sector peak body (no longer in the position and writing this NOT on the organisations behalf. In 2020 ,May 2023, my role was to utilise the organisation's considerable food security expertise, tools and resources to support state efforts to coordinate across food system disruption. Recognising future food security disaster risk, the lack of a national and state food security strategy is alarming. Especially for at risk communities and populations who will be disproportionately impacted.

Between 2021-2023 I managed a NDRR funded food security preparedness project. Despite having a lot of intersector support for the project, we weren't able to meet the original funded outcomes. This is because, in my opinion, intersector strategic partners at every level of government were so poorly resourced that they could not undertake activities they agreed to. These key future state planners were too busy coordinating front line disaster responses or keeping up with routine emergency management policy activities.

Furthermore, our state government made no investment into disaster risk reduction, community resilience or preparedness. Instead funding huge recovery amounts to disaster impacted areas.

Finally, while NDRR & DRA is something, states so have measuring and monitoring systems in place to identify project impacts. Even if they did, our state doesn't have the strategic policy landscape to implement and integrate project level impact to reduce further risk.

EM systems here, still exclude community services and at risk communities from EM Planning. Any state reform is currently excluding the nfp and community sector despite the considerable capacity and capability the sector could contribute.

In our state, the dept emergency service is the body that recipients almost all funding for disasters, even tho their command and control processes and systems are completely inadequate to build and strengthen relationships with communities for disaster continuum impacts.

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

Establish moniting and evaluation systems for states to use to measure DRR, preparedness and community resilience. Ensure all states data can be translated for a national measure. To identify where





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communities are reducing risk, preparing and are resilient. Target additional funding to vulnerable and at risk communities where gaps exists.

Set measurable strategies and frameworks that align with Sendai that states report too. Include indicators of community and nfp sector partnerships.

Encourage and promote the meaningful reduction of poverty as an essential component of DRR.

Integrate disaster policy with broader national social policy to strengthen the nation's commitment to reducing poverty and disaster risk.

Ensure national planning strategies encourage and promote disaster risk disclosure.

Role model, promote and encourage systemic risk governance. Ensure the national community understands what they should expect from decision makers and hold decision makers to account for the exacerbation of disaster risk from their decisions.

Ensure the businesses and sectors whol contribute the most to increasing disaster risk, contribute the appropriate amount to reducing risk, responding to and recovering from climate induced disaster risk.

Role model, promote and encourage funding for disaster mitigation and adaptation for the nfp sector and community.

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

That states, under resourced local government, the nfp sector and communities are responsible for funding disaster response and recovery activities. That the commonwealth will provide additional funding for discrete response activities to the state in a refund process.

These arrangements do not include the cost recovery processes for the nfp sector, even tho it is this sector that mobilises across gaps, secondary impacts and the medium and long term recovery.

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

No, understanding disaster roles and responsibilities is poor for most sectors outside of emergency management.

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

We need meaningful strategic and operational DRR and EM policy and funding investment at every level of government. We need to reform the current system, prepare sectors and communities for a future of increasing, concurrent and cascading disaster events. We need to make a commitment to people and communities who will be disproportionately impacted, ensuring those who are least able to reduce risk, mitigate and adapt are protected from paying the highest price of response and recovery.

