



Communiqué

Charitable, Not-for-Profit and Philanthropic Roundtable

Date: 30/10/2024

Time: 9:30 – 18:00 AEDT

Location: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) hosted the Charitable, Not-for-Profit and Philanthropic Roundtable (the Roundtable) in Melbourne on 30 October 2024. The Roundtable supports the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements' Recommendation 21.3 to convene regular and ongoing national forums for charities, non-government organisations and volunteer groups.

The Roundtable provided an opportunity for representatives of Commonwealth, state and territory governments and representatives from the charitable, not-for-profit and philanthropic sectors to engage in dialogue on enhancing coordination across the emergency management continuum in order to improve outcomes for disaster-impacted communities. The full agenda and details of speakers in each session is at **Attachment A**.

Attendees at the Roundtable included representatives from 35 charitable, not-for-profit and philanthropic organisations, six state government agencies and five Commonwealth departments (see **Attachment B** for details).

Roundtable Overview

The Roundtable was structured around panel discussions and breakout sessions providing the opportunity for government and sector representatives to provide updates on recent developments and to share ideas and suggestions for how coordination and engagement can be enhanced.

NEMA Coordinator-General Brendan Moon AM also outlined the [Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#) (the Colvin Review) and the [Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements](#) (the Glasser Review), both released on 25 October 2024. Further engagement with the sector as the Australian Government develops its response to these reviews is welcomed.

A case study on the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Jasper in Far North Queensland provided an opportunity to hear perspectives of government and sector representatives involved in the recovery effort, and how coordination worked on the ground following that event.

Major themes discussed

- **The implications of more frequent and intense disasters.** Sector representatives noted the growing pressures from increasingly concurrent and cascading disasters, and the impact on their capacity to deliver services. Government representatives provided updates on initiatives that are working to address these challenges, including the Colvin and Glasser Reviews and the recent Department of Social Services' Commonwealth Funded Emergency Relief program review.
- **The significant role that the sector plays in supporting communities following disasters, including through volunteering.** Sector representatives noted the need for government to acknowledge and better support their role in disasters and more clearly define roles and responsibilities. The sector would like to see more opportunities to provide input into government programs and policy design. Participants spoke of the dwindling number of volunteers, and the need to invest in this essential capability for disaster response.
- **Levels of burnout and exhaustion among those working in disaster response and recovery, and in disaster-impacted communities.** With concurrent and more severe emergencies, communities are often not able to fully recover before the next disaster occurs.
- **The need for funding to be more flexible, with clearly defined outcomes.** Participants called for funding to be longer-term, allowing for greater collaboration between sector partners, rather than competition. There were also requests for simplified processes for funding, and a whole of government strategy for investment. A greater focus on reviewing and reporting on outcomes over time would help to enhance future funding and program design.
- **The importance of investment in social capital, through research and funding.** The social impact of disasters were identified as being as significant as infrastructure impacts. Social networks need to be developed before disasters strike so that communities know what outcomes they want and have already built resilience strategies.

Opportunities for future engagement:

- Continuing to explore mechanisms for enhanced coordination between government and the sector at national and state levels, including continuing engagement and opportunities to enhance the role of the Roundtable. The National Coordination Mechanism, coordinated by NEMA for crisis situations, was highlighted as a model that could be explored for coordination in recovery and resilience.
- Exploring new ways to enhance improved outcomes in funding, including through greater flexibility and collaborative approaches, and opportunities for funding for social capital.
- Identifying enhanced ways of listening and co-designing disaster response and recovery with all diverse elements of Australian society, including First Nations people, people with disability, youth and the elderly.

- Continued engagement to support the development of the government response to the Colvin and Glasser Reviews.

Attachments

- A. Charitable, Not-for-Profit and Philanthropic Roundtable Agenda, 30 October 2024
- B. List of Attendee Organisations and Apologies

Attachment A: Agenda

Charitable, Not-for-Profit and Philanthropic Roundtable

AGENDA

9.30 - 17:00 (AEST), Wednesday 30 October 2024

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Title	Lead	Time
1. Welcome and Acknowledgements <ul style="list-style-type: none">Acknowledgement of CountryWelcome to participants <ul style="list-style-type: none">Setting the Scene: updates from NEMA on key recent developments	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr Jill Charker, Deputy Coordinator General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery, NEMABrendan Moon AM, Coordinator-General, NEMA	9:30 – 9:45
2. Sector updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">Key recent developments in the disaster management context	Chair: Dr Jill Charker Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Andrew Coghlan, Australian Red CrossCarla Hall, Youth Affairs Council VictoriaNina O'Brien, Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)	9:45 – 10:30
Morning Tea 10:30-11:00		
3. Connecting initiatives across government and the sector and informing future action <ul style="list-style-type: none">Commonwealth government updates on reforms and initiatives impacting the not-for-profit sector in disaster managementQuestions and answers with panellists and Roundtable participants	Chair: Amanda Coghlan , Assistant Coordinator-General, National Governance and Reviews, NEMA Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Brendan Moon AMPhillip Kimpton, First Assistant Secretary, National Security Division, Home AffairsPatrick Burford, Group Manager, Communities Group, DSS To be involved in the Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none">Andrew Coghlan	11:00 – 12:00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carla Hall ○ Nina O'Brien 	
<p>4. Breakout discussions on initiatives across government and the sector and informing future action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming out of session 3, participants will have the opportunity to discuss sector priorities, challenges and future engagement opportunities and provide recommendations back in plenary discussion. 	<p>Chair: Amanda Coghlan</p> <p>Facilitated discussion at tables.</p>	12:00 – 13:00
Lunch 13:00 – 14:00		
<p>5. Case study - Tropical Cyclone Jasper Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reflection from key government and not for profit representatives engaged in the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Jasper in Far North Queensland in 2023. • This session will help to draw out insights into what is working well in government/not-for-profit engagement and coordination, to identify good practices, possible gaps in capability and where there is a need for greater clarity in roles and responsibilities. 	<p>Chair: Andrew Minack, First Assistant Coordinator-General, Policy and Governance, NEMA</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vina Varsani, General Manager Resilience and Recovery, Queensland Reconstruction Authority ○ Carolyne (Caz) Doherty, Lead-Emergency services, Preparedness and Recovery, Red Cross ○ Christina Spehr, Acting National Manager, GIVIT ○ Kate Hams, Queensland Government Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts 	14:00 – 15:00
Afternoon Tea 15:00 - 15:30		
<p>6. Case study break out discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the insights from the discussion in session 5, participants will have the opportunity to discuss key takeaways and draw on their own expertise and knowledge from working on other events to consider lessons learned and recommendations for future government/sector coordination. 	<p>Facilitator: Amanda Coghlan</p> <p>Facilitated discussion at tables</p>	15:30 – 16:30

<p>7. Summary and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from session 2 to share key takeaways from the day 	<p>Facilitator: Sally Kuschel, Assistant Coordinator-General, Strategy and Resilience Policy, NEMA</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andrew Coghlan ○ Carla Hall ○ Nina O'Brien 	<p>16:30 – 16:45</p>
<p>8. Closing remarks</p>	<p>Jill Charker</p>	<p>16:45 – 17:00</p>
<p>9. Networking event</p>	<p>Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre</p>	<p>17:00 – 18:00</p>

Attachment B: List of Attendee Organisations and Apologies

Attendees

Sector representatives

- Aboriginal Family and Support Services
- Anglicare
- Australian Business Volunteers
- Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS)
- Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience
- Australian Red Cross
- Benefolk
- CareFlight
- Communities Council of Australia
- Companion Animal Network
- Disaster Relief Australia
- Fortem Australia
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)
- Gender and Disaster Australia
- Gippsland Community Foundation
- GIVIT
- Headspace
- Launceston City Mission
- Lifeline
- People with Disability Australia
- Phoenix Australia
- RedR Australia
- Regional Food Security Alliance
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Rural Aid
- Salvation Army
- Save the Children
- St Johns Ambulance – National CEO
- St Johns Ambulance NSW
- St Johns Ambulance VIC
- St Johns Ambulance SA
- Women With Disabilities Australia
- World Wildlife Fund
- National Emergency Management Agency
- Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic)

State and territory representatives

- Department of Communities, Western Australia
- Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts, Queensland
- Department of Human Services, South Australia
- Emergency Management Victoria

- Emergency Recovery Victoria
- NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Commonwealth government

- Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Social Services
- National Emergency Management Agency

Apologies:

- Aged & Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA)
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Black Dog Institute
- Business Council of Australia
- Catholic Social Services Australia
- COTA (formerly Council on the Aging)
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Victoria
- Disability Advocacy Network Australia
- Federal Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA)
- Firesticks
- First Peoples' Disability Network
- Foodbank Australia
- Fundraising Institute of Australia
- Good360
- Inclusion Australia
- Jacaranda Community Centre
- Minderoo Foundation
- OzHarvest
- Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS)
- Shepparton Food Share
- St Vincent de Paul
- The Smith Family
- UnitingCare
- Volunteering Australia
- Wesley Mission
- ACT Government
- Tasmanian Government
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services, WA
- Department of Human Services, South Australia