

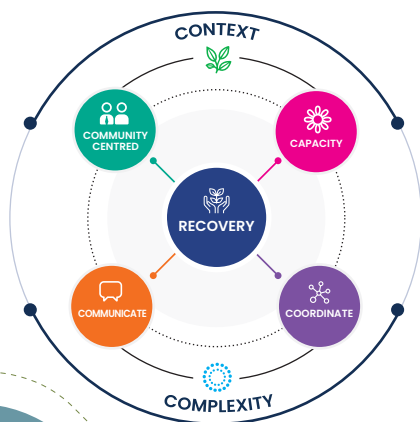
The Six Principles

Disasters can have lasting impacts on people, communities and livelihoods. Recovery is complex, long-term, non-linear and dynamic — particularly where disasters compound or occur concurrently.

Recovery is part of emergency management, alongside prevention, preparedness and response, and planning for it is integral to preparedness, creating opportunities to reduce future risk. Recovery spans built, environmental, economic, social and wellbeing dimensions. Effective recovery helps communities to adapt and move forward on their own terms.

The relationship between the principles

The principles work together and are not applied in isolation. Understanding the local context and recognising complexity are foundational — they shape how every other principle is interpreted and applied in practice.



Partners in development from the



Social Recovery
Reference Group
AUSTRALIA



Government
of South Australia



Note:
This brochure contains
summarised principles only.



NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR

Disaster Recovery

SUMMARY VERSION

Guiding Recovery:
working together to
strengthen communities



Understand the CONTEXT

Successful recovery is based on understanding community context, recognising each community has its own history, values and dynamics.

Recovery should:

- Acknowledge existing strengths, capacity, experiences and aspirations
- Appreciate the risks and stressors for communities
- Embed equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and culturally safe, trauma-informed practices
- Support people at greater risk or disproportionately impacted
- Respect connections to Country, environment, animals and culturally significant places
- Support recovery that reflects community needs and timeframes
- Consider impacts beyond the disaster-affected area



Recognise COMPLEXITY

Successful recovery responds to the complex and evolving impacts of disasters on communities, including compounding, cascading and concurrent events.

Recovery should:

- Tailor our response to varied disaster impacts
- Impact and needs information may be limited initially and change over time
- Acknowledge diverse needs expectations and priorities
- Respond flexibly to changing needs
- Recognise local knowledge and values may challenge external assumptions
- Recognise conflicting perspectives may create tensions
- Recognise stress, grief and blame may affect those involved
- Recognise appropriate support can foster hope and growth



Use COMMUNITY-CENTRED approaches

Successful recovery is community-centred, responsive and flexible, engaging communities and supporting them to move forward, with shared responsibility.

Recovery should:

- Enable active participation in recovery
- Recognise support requirements vary throughout recovery
- Be guided by community priorities
- Build on community assets local knowledge, strengths and resilience
- Build partnerships that reflect diverse voices and community leadership
- Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination, Indigenous governance and connection to Country
- Recognise new leaders may emerge
- Recognise communities may choose different recovery pathways



COORDINATE all activities

Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated and adaptive approach, between communities and partner agencies, based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs.

Recovery should:

- Have clear shared goals and outcomes
- Adapt to changing needs and expectations
- Be guided by experience, expertise and community leadership
- Work at the community's pace, balancing different interests and timelines
- Reflect community planning and information gathering
- Ensure transparent, accessible decision-making and governance
- Understand roles, responsibilities and authority, and coordinate across agencies to minimise service disruption
- Support an integrated emergency management approach
- Build on relationships formed before, during and after the emergency



COMMUNICATE effectively

Successful recovery is built on effective communication between communities and recovery partners.

Recovery should:

- Use two-way, transparent and ongoing communication to build trust
- Ensure information is accessible, inclusive and available through multiple channels
- Coordinate communication between agencies, partners and communities
- Provide timely, clear, accurate and consistent information
- Use trusted sources and reinforce key recovery messages



Recognise and build CAPACITY

Successful recovery recognises, supports and builds individual, community and organisational capacity and resilience.

Recovery should:

- Assess capacity and capability needs throughout recovery
- Support self-reliance, preparedness and mitigation
- Mobilise community skills, strengths and resources
- Build partnerships to strengthen capacity and resilience
- Strengthen recovery capability through training and knowledge sharing
- Support wellbeing for those involved in recovery
- Recognise resources may come from partners and community networks
- Recognise resources may be stretched and additional support needed
- Recognise additional resources may be temporary and plan for sustainability
- Support self-sufficiency by stepping back when communities are ready
- Monitor, evaluate and capture learnings to strengthen future recovery