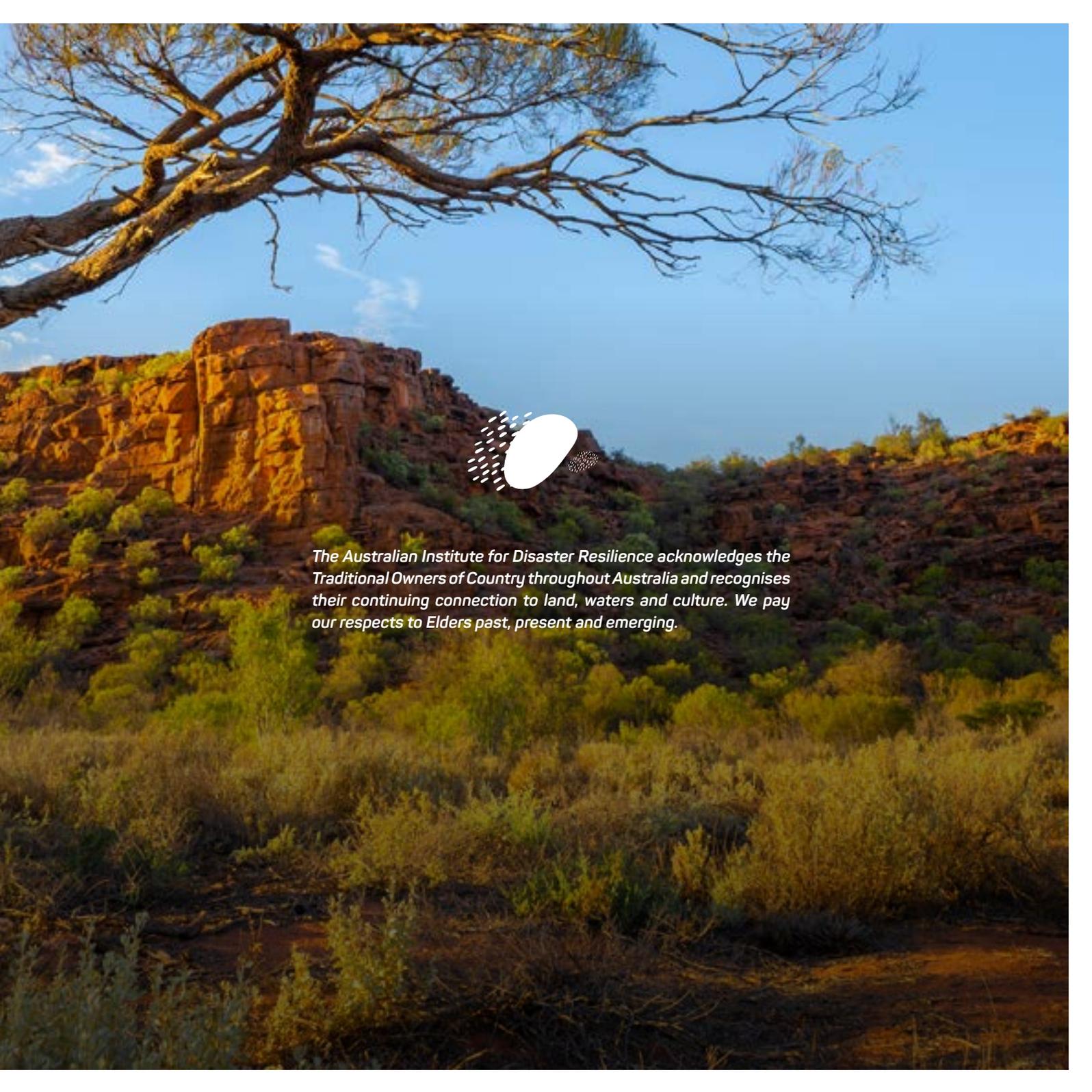




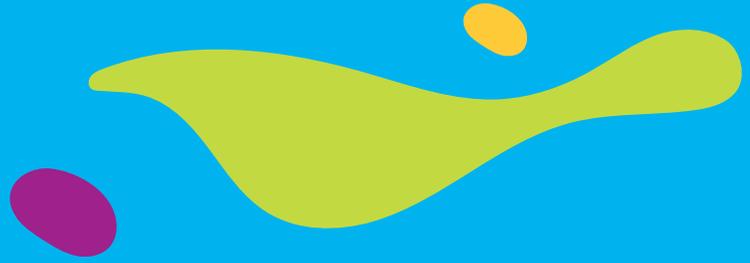
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Year in review



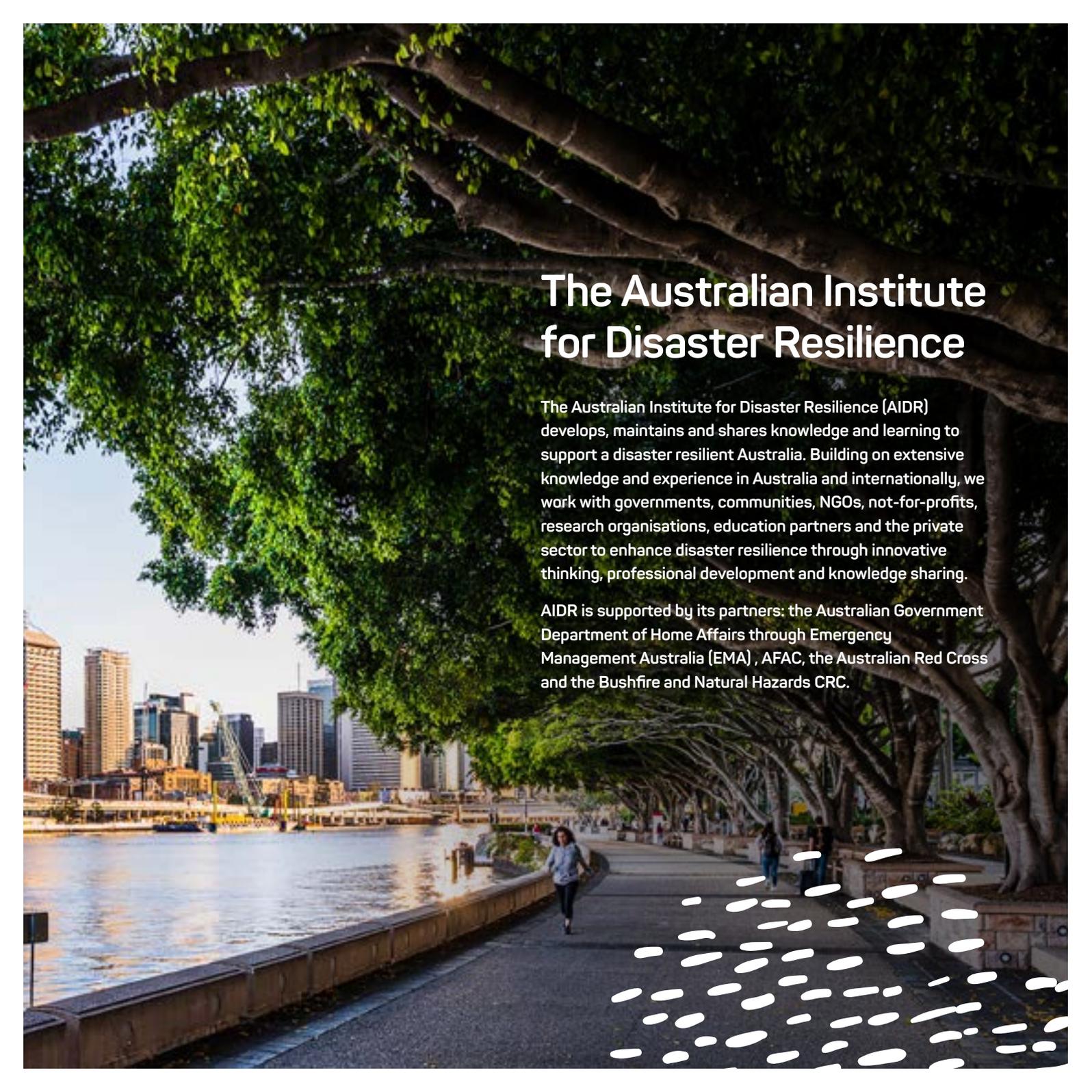


The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



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The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) develops, maintains and shares knowledge and learning to support a disaster resilient Australia. Building on extensive knowledge and experience in Australia and internationally, we work with governments, communities, NGOs, not-for-profits, research organisations, education partners and the private sector to enhance disaster resilience through innovative thinking, professional development and knowledge sharing.

AIDR is supported by its partners: the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs through Emergency Management Australia (EMA), AFAC, the Australian Red Cross and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC.

Rob Cameron OAM

Director-General
Emergency Management Australia

As 2019 draws to a close, Australia's hazards are setting precedents and stretching the capacity of our emergency management systems, and the resilience of our communities. The fires in New South Wales and Queensland in August, September and October clearly demonstrate the lengthening of the traditional 'summer' season of hazards that Australia faces and our evolving exposure to sources of risk. Bushfires are getting starts in winter and are occurring in areas with little or no recorded history of burning.

The exchange of knowledge is critical to Australia's ability to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from this changing and escalating disaster landscape. The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience – funded by EMA, our national disaster management organisation – continues to successfully serve in its role of facilitating this knowledge management for Australia.

AIDR, through its broad engagement with Australian volunteers, fire and emergency services authorities, private sector organisations, academia, and the not-for-profit sector, provides world leading emergency management doctrine. The ongoing lessons management process that AIDR leads through doctrine development and maintenance, enables the environment in which evidence-based decisions and actions can be taken to improve the safety of our communities. As we confront a changing climate, complex systemic, societal and economic interdependencies, and increasing vulnerabilities, the importance of this work is self-evident.

In close partnership with EMA, AIDR recently delivered a national series of Understanding Disaster Risk workshops that explored contemporary thinking and guidance on how we understand our relationship with hazards, vulnerability, risk and the reduction of those factors. These forums introduced discussion on perhaps the least understood dimension of disaster risk – vulnerability – to the Australian community. Further exploration of vulnerability will allow us to better understand and address the underlying causes of disaster risk.

I also want to acknowledge the good work AIDR has delivered this year in supporting Australia's emergency management volunteers. Our volunteers are critical members of our communities who routinely



sacrifice precious time away from families, responsibilities and jobs for our safety and security. Again, in close partnership with EMA, AIDR has delivered scholarship and development programs that support emergency management volunteers to contribute in ever greater ways to their organisations and the communities they serve.

This past year has again demonstrated how critical it is that all sections of Australian society work together to improve Australia's disaster resilience. EMA and the broader Department of Home Affairs looks forward to informing the way ahead in continuing a close partnership with AIDR.

Amanda Leck

Executive Director
Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

As the Executive Director of AIDR I am delighted to report that it continues to deliver a program of work aligned to its core purpose of enabling disaster resilience. An independent evaluation of AIDR this year found it delivered considerable value for money and overachieved in several areas. Through themed knowledge products, services and events, AIDR facilitates professional and community development to support shared responsibility in a more disaster resilient Australia.

AIDR's role in knowledge management is reflected in the growing wealth of resources on the Knowledge Hub, including the Australian Journal of Emergency Management, the Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection, the National Disaster Recovery Monitoring and Evaluation Database and the Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary.

AIDR's Professional Development Program is sharing knowledge among emergency management agencies, volunteers, teachers and educators, researchers and community groups. Working closely with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, AIDR facilitated the delivery of the High Consequences Decision Making and Leadership in Disaster Crisis and Adversity professional development modules, which were very well received.

In 2019, AIDR delivered new events and attracted a record number of abstracts, applicants and registrants for existing events, including the Resilient Australia Awards, the Lessons Management Forum and the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference.

The Emergency Management Scholarship Program has completed its fifth and final round, with scholarships awarded to volunteers from all jurisdictions across a wide range of volunteer agencies. The Volunteer Leadership Program also continued across regional locations in all jurisdictions.

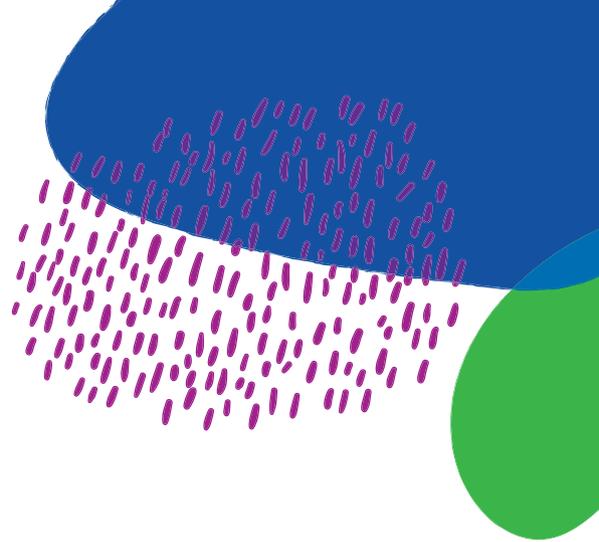
Recognising young people as active participants in disaster resilience, DRANZSEN has engaged with an increasingly diverse network, including local government and youth-focused organisations such as Scouts and Save the Children, to bring new perspectives to light.



The Centre of Excellence for Prescribed Burning continues to promote a holistic approach to prescribed burning for ecological, cultural and community safety outcomes. In 2019, it delivered resources and field trips and established the inaugural Excellence in Prescribed Burning Award.

AIDR would like to thank its partners: the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, AFAC, Australian Red Cross and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC for their support in the development and delivery of knowledge products and services for a more disaster resilient Australia.





Knowledge management

The Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub continues to grow as a key platform to share disaster resilience knowledge. It is home to curated collections of knowledge and resources, as well as the Australian Journal of Emergency Management and the Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection. An important part of the Knowledge Hub is the DisasterMapper, enabling everyday Australians to learn more about disaster events that have occurred in the past.

In 2018–19, AIDR published five new collections on the Knowledge Hub and significantly updated two others.

The **Lessons Management Collection** highlights key resources, information and examples to guide a consistent approach to lessons management in Australia.

The **Black Saturday Collection** commemorates the ten year anniversary of this highly significant event, bringing together a range of information, research and recovery resources.

The **Warnings Collection** hosts key guidance material and research on public information and warnings, and professional development resources for practitioners.

The **Disaster Risk Reduction Collection** is home to critical national resources for disaster risk reduction, including the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, Profiling Australia's Vulnerability report, and Guidance for Strategic Decisions on Climate and Disaster Risk.

The **Disaster Resilience Directory** provides a central point to access international, national and jurisdictional strategies, frameworks, plans and major reports that frame disaster resilience in Australia. It also brings together a directory of key high-level organisations and groups.

Knowledge management and professional development go hand-in-hand, and AIDR has been working to curate content so that the knowledge generated through events continues to benefit the disaster resilience sector going forward.

The **Australian Disaster Resilience Conference Collection** was developed to house conference proceedings and the significant knowledge products that are created in association with the annual conference.

The **Professional Development Collection** bridges knowledge management and professional development, by outlining available professional development offerings as well as hosting the proceedings from past events.



Education for Young People

The Education for Young People Program supports learning about natural hazards in Australia and highlights initiatives that enable young people to take part in building community resilience before, during and after an emergency or disaster.

The program is guided and supported by the Disaster Resilience Education Strategy Group (DRESG) and Disaster Resilient Australia–New Zealand Schools Education Network (DRANZSEN). Both the strategy group and the education network have continued to grow and diversify, with a shared focus on partnerships for learning and youth participation.

The strategy group of 13 members includes experts in teaching, community engagement, emergency services and research. The group maintains an overview of program activities and events, helping to align the program with the priorities of our stakeholders, especially young Australians in schools and other educational settings. *Disaster Resilience Education: Young Australians for a disaster resilient future* was published in November 2018 to communicate the group's strategic vision for the Education for Young People Program in more detail.

AIDR education network (DRANZSEN) membership has increased by 50 per cent in 12 months to more than 600 members. Key stakeholders in emergency services continue to provide strong leadership in extending the reach of the network and identifying new partnerships. A strengthened presence from local councils, for example, introduced the network to a range of projects undertaken in partnership with schools

and young people around the country to reduce the risk of disaster in a changing climate.

Active network members worked collaboratively to shape the program of successful state DRANZSEN events in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia followed by the National Forum in Melbourne, with over 200 participants overall. Presentations from education representatives, including teachers and students, enabled the network to develop a better understanding of what works best for today's students and facilitated dynamic cross-sector dialogue.

Additional engagement with the education sector was pursued through Education for Young People Program presentations at two of the largest geography teacher association conferences in Australia. The conferences were attended by hundreds of educators responding to a demand for better understanding of the link between climate change, natural hazards and local disaster risk.

The audience for the Education for Young People newsletter, launched in 2018 to support the network and celebrate good practice in disaster resilience education, has grown to 750 subscribers. The newsletter provides access to all DRANZSEN event materials for those unable to attend, as well as linking to case studies, news and resources from around the country to inspire subscribers to engage with young people as learners, innovators and important members of the community.



Trinity College students present to SA DRANZSEN. Photo: Brigid Little, AIDR



Marymede Catholic College student presents at the DRANZSEN Forum, Melbourne. Photo: Brigid Little, AIDR

“ *The DRANZSEN event was a really valuable opportunity to make connections across networks and see the work of increasing students' disaster resilience from a range of perspectives. Presenting our school's project at the forum was an exciting way to share our ideas and experiences with agencies and get their feedback and ideas.*

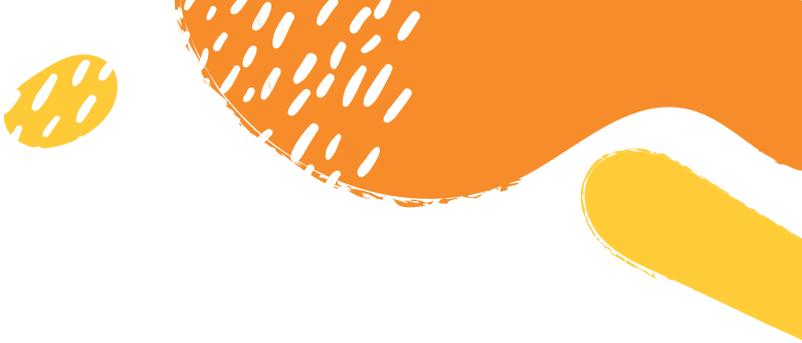
The network has connected me to a range of resources that I would otherwise have been unaware of. These resources have been embedded into teaching and learning programs across our school to add rich and varied expert input into cross-curricular units. As a way of breaking down the silos of agencies that support our young people, the AIDR education program is a valuable addition to our broader learning networks. Our students benefit from the increased rigour and connection that engagement with the program has added to their learning.

— Jen Faulconbridge | Teacher

Jen Faulconbridge presented at the New South Wales DRANZSEN event in June 2019. A primary school teacher with a passion for STEM education, Jen shared the 'Technology can keep us safe' unit she developed for students in response to a community concern for the safety of children in the school holidays. This initiative was supported by the SES, who consulted with the students as experts on storms, floods and emergencies and formed part of a community audience when students shared their learning in an exhibition.







Australian Journal of Emergency Management

The Australian Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM) is Australia's premier journal for emergency management covering resilience, disaster risk reduction, natural hazards and emergencies. From research to practice, global government to community engagement, the journal focuses on promoting and facilitating discussion and debate about emergency preparedness, response and recovery. AJEM's papers feature extensive analysis, considered views, lessons learned and insights into current and future issues from contributing researchers and practitioners.

In 2018–19, the AJEM expanded its readership through its online presence on the Knowledge Hub and AIDR's social media channels and at events. Engagement levels have remained constant, with case studies and news and views our most popular content. AJEM is published under the advice of an editorial advisory board and editorial committee.

As a companion to AJEM, the Monograph Series publishes ongoing and timely information in select topic areas of relevance to emergency management and disaster resilience in Australia and internationally. In 2018–19, AIDR published the *Diversity in Disaster Monograph*, which included a depth and breadth of content from issues and communities

represented at the inaugural Diversity in Disaster Conference held in Melbourne in April 2018.

Readers also enjoyed a variety of articles in editions across 2018–19, including case studies, short research papers and in-depth peer review articles on diverse topics from natural hazards, to community preparedness and volunteer intentions. Popular news and views articles considered the mental health needs of police and emergency services, the Resilient Australia Awards, tsunami in Australia, volunteering, integrating animal welfare in emergencies, risk taking and floodwater, the Thai cave rescue and how people from refugee backgrounds build disaster resilience.

On the advice of the editorial advisory board, AJEM began a process of considering its strategic position in the emergency management, disaster risk reduction and resilience landscape, and the need for themed editions to address key concerns. In 2019, AJEM is increasingly looking to the future and is well positioned to respond to the nexus of disaster risk, natural hazards and climate change.

Volunteer Leadership Program

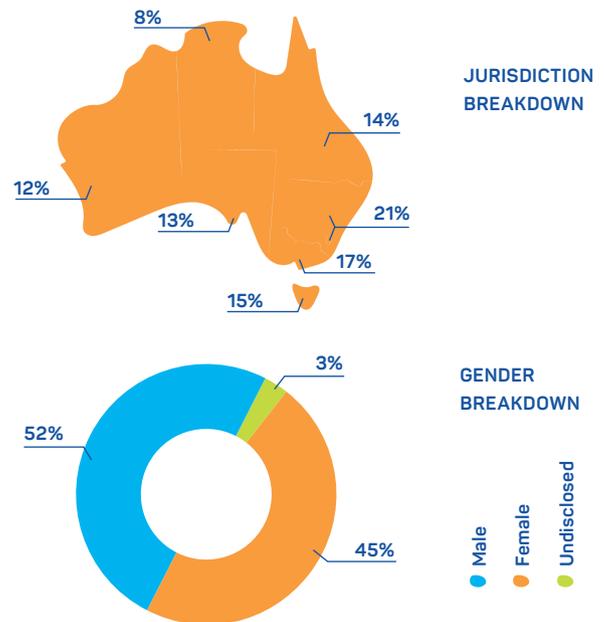
The Volunteer Leadership Program (VLP) equips emergency sector volunteers with the skills and confidence to grow as leaders. The VLP brings together volunteers from different organisations and agencies to build knowledge and share experiences with each other.

The immersive and collaborative program explores practical leadership frameworks through interactive learning and participants gain both self awareness and an enhanced ability to understand and contribute to their organisations.

The VLP is delivered by the Australian Red Cross on behalf of AIDR and is supported by members of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum. Each volunteer is endorsed by their organisation to attend.

AIDR delivered 12 VLP courses between July 2018 and October 2019. AIDR continued its approach of decentralising delivery of the program, with nine of the programs being delivered outside of metropolitan areas.

A total of 239 volunteers participated in the program during this period, with an average of 24 volunteers per program.



Absolutely fantastic!! I have attended a number of similar programs with various corporations during many years of staff management, but none have come close to this course for practical application of the concepts.

— Ted Dunford | Albury VLP, November 2018

“

I came across the AIDR VLP on Facebook. As an infectious disease researcher, midway through a masters in outbreak emergency management and a volunteer with the State Emergency Service, AIDR is one of the interest groups I follow on Facebook.

The Volunteer Leadership Program appealed because at the time I was a general member of the SES, with aspirations to be a crew leader. I applied through my unit and received support to attend by the Victoria State Emergency Service.

I thought the program that was delivered over the two-day weekend in Sale was exceptional. I walked away with an arsenal of tools to manage the unique needs of volunteers and with a renewed understanding of the motivators for volunteering in Australia.

Most importantly I gained the confidence to put myself forward for the next available crew leader position. I was appointed the only female crew leader at my SES Unit three months ago.

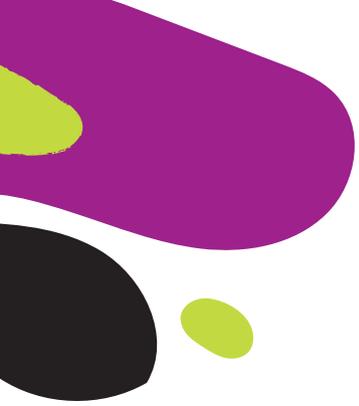
I have also subsequently published an opinion piece on the role of volunteers in public health emergencies, which would not have been possible without participation in the AIDR VLP think tank weekend.

— Megan Crane | Sale VLP, July 2018

Megan has been volunteering with the Manningham SES Unit for three years and has been crew leader for three months.



Megan and her daughter at Warrandyte Festival 2017. Photo: Megan Crane



Handbook Collection

The Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection is an authoritative portfolio of resources that provide nationally agreed principles and guidance for good practice across a range of disaster risk reduction and resilience themes.

The Handbook Collection draws on the expertise and insight of leading disaster risk reduction, resilience, and emergency management practitioners and scholars from all Australian jurisdictions and sectors, as well as applied research and data analysis from trusted Australian and international knowledge sources.

Each handbook is developed and reviewed through a rigorous process of stakeholder engagement with a specialised working group and dedicated steering committee as needed.

In 2018–19, working groups comprised of a cross section of representatives from emergency service authorities, private sector

organisations, universities and knowledge-based organisations, non-government and not-for-profit organisations, and community based organisations and groups.

Companion documents and online resource collections on the Knowledge Hub continue to offer contemporary, best-practice examples of disaster risk reduction and resilience in practice.

The Handbook Collection continues to gain prominence as Australia's leading authority on disaster risk reduction and resilience. The five handbooks reviewed and four published in 2018–19 reflect increasing national and international focus on the need to reduce disaster risk and build disaster resilience, as considered in the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs' *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework* and *Profiling Australia's Vulnerability*.

The following handbooks will be reviewed in 2019–20:

Community Engagement, Communication and Inclusion for Disaster Resilience

Emergency Planning

Flood Planning for Disaster Resilience

Land Use Planning for Disaster Resilient Communities

NERAG (2015 revised 2nd edition)

The Handbook Collection is available at
knowledge.aidr.org.au/handbooks





Some things people have said about our Lessons Management Handbook



“ Congratulations to you on pulling this together, it's state-of-the-art!

– Dr Adriana Keating | International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis,
Risk and Resilience Program

“ In a word, tremendous! An excellent job by all concerned.



As one of the few fully-fledged lesson nerds in Tasmania, I have been promoting lessons management more broadly for several years now. The updated handbook is a fantastic resource to help that journey along down here.

– Cheryl Ames | Tasmania State Emergency Service

“ ...the Lessons Management Handbook has been very well received here in WA – to the extent that we are looking to reference the handbook directly in our State EM policy.

– Tracy Smith | WA State Emergency Management Committee



The following handbooks were produced in 2018–19 (in order of production)



TSUNAMI EMERGENCY PLANNING

2018

The handbook is a guide to the key principles of tsunami preparedness. Its purpose is to enhance the capacity and knowledge of emergency managers related to emergency planning for tsunami in Australia.

The handbook outlines key scientific information and principles of risk assessment, warning systems, emergency planning, community education, response management and recovery in the context of tsunami.

The handbook is supported by a companion document *Tsunami hazard modelling guidelines* and a visual guide to tsunamis *Tsunami: The Ultimate Guide*.



LESSONS MANAGEMENT

2019

The handbook identifies core principles and suggests frameworks and processes to support the successful implementation of lessons management, which is integral to the continuous improvement of organisational capability, individual learning and our collective resilience.

The handbook is supported by two companion documents: *Lessons Management Case Studies* and *Lessons Management Models and Examples*; and the Lessons Management Collection on the Knowledge Hub.



AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The handbook is an important development of national consequence for the EM sector.

It provides 11 core principles and a high-level, scalable overview of how Australia addresses the risks and impacts of hazards through a collaborative approach to the prevention of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies.



HEALTH AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The handbook provides guidance to individuals and organisations working in the health system to understand their capability and capacity to support communities before, during and after disasters.

It outlines how parts of the health system contribute to the management of disasters, specifically in disasters where the health sector will be the lead.



Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarship Program

The Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarship Program was established to support emergency management volunteers' access to emergency and disaster management related qualifications. The scholarship program was funded by a \$2 million Australian Government grant.

Volunteers could apply to complete accredited vocational or higher education courses related to emergency and disaster management. Over the five rounds of the scholarship program, 306 scholarship offers totalling over \$1,977,829 were made to emergency management volunteers. Scholarships were awarded to volunteers from all jurisdictions and across a wide range of volunteer agencies.

“ *The course was interesting, informative, challenged my preconceptions and exposed me to a world of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.*

– Megan Davies | NSW Rural Fire Service volunteer

A woman, Megan Davies, is smiling and standing in front of a red NSW Rural Fire Service vehicle. She is wearing a yellow fire jacket with reflective stripes, a silver helmet with goggles, and sunglasses. The vehicle has "N.S.W. RURAL FIRE SERVICE" and "1800 679 737" written on it. The background shows a dry, open landscape under a clear sky. A purple decorative graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Megan Davies is a volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service and completed the Graduate Certificate in Disaster Risk Reduction at the University of Newcastle. She describes the course and opportunity to study as an invaluable experience that has expanded her understanding.

'The course was interesting, informative, challenged my preconceptions and exposed me to a world of disaster prevention preparedness, response and recovery. The other students I studied with came from all over the world, and the amount of knowledge and experience they shared during the course was invaluable.'

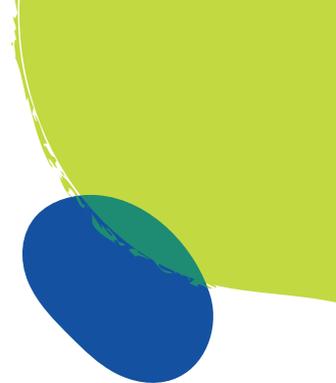
Megan describes this knowledge as directly applicable to her volunteer role, and able to be utilised to better prepare her local area for future disasters.

'I completed assessments that had me reviewing disaster preparedness at a local government level, and finding ways to improve community preparedness and ability to respond to and recover from disasters.'

Beyond outlining the importance of learning new skills, Megan highlights the benefit of monetary support for volunteers.

'Studying at a graduate level would likely have been out of my reach without the scholarship.'





Major Incidents Report

The 2018–19 *Major Incidents Report* provides an overview of major incidents that have involved the fire and emergency services sector from July 2018 to June 2019.

The report highlights significant incidents that have been of impact or consequence for fire and emergency services, as identified by the sector. The report provides background information about each incident and the corresponding response.

The 2018–19 report harnesses the lessons management capability of the emergency services sector and includes key observations (where identified) to identify and analyse recurring and emerging insights across hazards, sectors and jurisdictions.

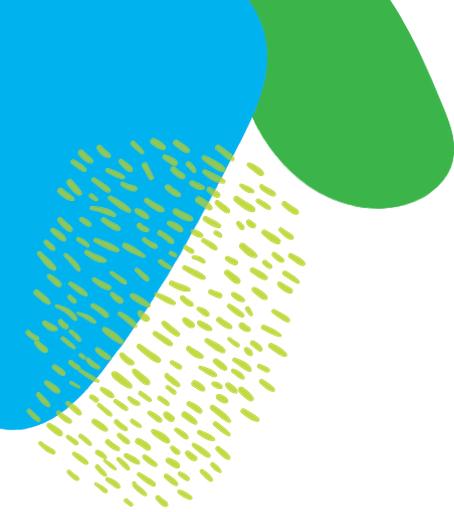
knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/major-incidents-report

Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary

The Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary continues to develop and grow as key organisations from around Australia contribute to and support its review.

In 2018–19, over 800 terms related to bushfire, urban fire and risk were reviewed and published in the glossary, in addition to six core emergency management terms: catastrophic disaster, community, disaster, emergency, emergency management and resilience. The glossary contains over 3,000 disaster risk reduction, resilience, and emergency management terms and definitions including reference to nine Australian and international glossaries. In 2017–18 the online glossary went live with new functionality including the ability to save and export terms and improved search capability. The glossary will continue to develop to include links to related terms, images and additional resources.

knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary



Professional development

AIDR's Professional Development Program has continued to make an important contribution to enhancing capability in the disaster resilience sector. From September 2018 to October 2019, AIDR delivered 39 professional development events across Australia, reaching close to 1,800 people.

Over time AIDR has worked to build a suite of clinics and masterclasses that can be made available as part of our regular calendar of events or delivered directly to organisations and established groups such as disaster management teams. These include:

In 2018–19, AIDR worked with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to deliver four clinics on facilitating debriefs and decision making under pressure to staff as part of internal disaster management capability building initiatives.

AIDR also worked with AFAC to deliver the 2018 Lessons Management Forum in Melbourne, the 2019 Lessons Management Forum in Sydney, and with Australian Red Cross to host a Collective Trauma Events seminar in Sydney.

- » Decision making under pressure clinic
- » Facilitating debriefs clinic
- » Leadership and adversity masterclass
- » Meteorology for disaster managers masterclass
- » Planning for spontaneous volunteers' clinic

Masterclasses in Queensland

In 2019, AIDR worked with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) under a contractual arrangement to develop customised masterclasses as part of their operational leadership and crisis management masterclass series.

A masterclass on high consequence decision making and a masterclass on leadership in disaster, crisis and adversity were delivered in Brisbane,

Bundaberg, Cairns, Gympie, Longreach, Mackay, Rockhampton, Roma, Toowoomba and Townsville.

This initiative enabled capability building at scale for Queensland disaster management stakeholders, and was very highly valued by those who attended. Around 50 per cent of masterclass attendees represented local government, reflecting their critical role in disaster management.

“The masterclass series has proved highly beneficial to key disaster management stakeholders in Queensland with feedback and evaluations from participants indicating high levels of satisfaction and capability enhancement.

— Jane Zsombok, QFES Executive Manager |
Emergency Management Training Command



Participants at the Toowoomba High Consequence Decision Making Masterclass
Photo: QFES

Understanding Disaster Risk forums

In October 2019, AIDR worked with Emergency Management Australia and CSIRO to host Understanding Disaster Risk forums in every state and territory of Australia engaging more than 700 people. The forums highlighted contemporary thinking and guidance on how we understand our relationship with hazards, vulnerability, risk and its reduction.

The forums provided an opportunity to become more familiar with key national guidance launched in 2019, including:

- » National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
- » Profiling Australia's Vulnerability: The interconnected causes and cascading effects of systemic disaster risk
- » Guidance for Strategic Decisions on Climate and Disaster Risk

Decision makers from across sectors benefited from a national perspective on climate and disaster risk, stories of lived experience from across Australia, examples of novel projects, and state-specific discussion and insights on key initiatives, challenges and opportunities.

The forums were attended by a broad range of sectors, reflecting a growing commitment to collaborate and take action on reducing disaster risk. This included critical infrastructure, planning, finance and insurance, private sector and consulting, health, peak bodies, all levels of government, not-for-profit, academia, emergency services and the emergency management sector.

A series of short videos were produced to share the expertise and experiences of decision makers and business people at the national forums. These are available on the forum proceedings page on the Knowledge Hub and will be a valuable resource to disaster resilience practitioners looking for an engaging way to share key messages.

The forums were a significant opportunity to build a platform for transformative change at scale, and assist to move forward with a new agenda for disaster risk reduction.



Changing how we think about disasters opens new perspectives, new insights and new ways of thinking to come up with real solutions that make a real difference to people's lives.

Reducing disaster risk is everyone's business.

— Rob Cameron OAM | Director General, Emergency Management Australia



Monica Osuchowski presents at the Understanding Disaster Risk forum in Sydney. Photo: Leone Knight, AIDR

Centre of Excellence for Prescribed Burning

The Centre of Excellence for Prescribed Burning communicates guiding frameworks and principles developed under the National Burning Project, to promote a holistic and consistent approach to prescribed burning practices and supports the implementation of those practices by a range of agencies and organisations.

Awareness of Centre of Excellence products and their utilisation is achieved through strong engagement at conferences, forums and facilitated workshops in all jurisdictions across the country. This year the focus was communicating the Prescribed Burning Program Logic model developed through the National Burning Project.

The Centre of Excellence hosted a workshop at the Sixth International Fire and Fuels conference with the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC in 2019.

It also organised a field trip in southwest Perth following AFAC18 and a highly engaging field trip with Traditional Owners in Victoria following AFAC19.

With support from Forest Technology Systems (FTS) the inaugural Excellence in Prescribed Burning Award was presented at AFAC19.

Prescribed burning practitioners are encouraged to share news and updates to a network of over 600 prescribed burning practitioners through regular newsletters and a dedicated Facebook page and Facebook group.

A regular webinar series is key to this engagement and the six webinars during 2018–19 attracted 200 people watching live with a further 1600 views of the recorded versions.



The webinar series recordings provide me with detailed information with respect to what's occurring both nationally and internationally in the area of prescribed burning. It is an excellent forum for land management agencies and researchers to collaborate and share knowledge, and for us all to develop a deeper insight into successful approaches when planning and implementing fuel reduction programs.

– Tim Sanders | Area Lead, Catchments and Land (Catchment, Land & Waterways Services) Melbourne Water



“ The access to research, policies, procedures and information obtained from the Prescribed Burning Centre of Excellence, has ensured a robust platform for our Local Government to base fuel management activities. The information and support has allowed the City of Albany to tailor our Fuel Management Doctrine to our particular needs.

Close working relationships with our Key industry stakeholders has been key to our ability to provide safe and functional management to our community and environment.

– Darren ‘Stretch’ Little | Bushfire Risk Management Planning Officer/Fire Liaison Officer, City of Albany



2018 Resilient Australia Awards

The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as images capturing resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across all sectors.

Since 2000, the awards have recognised outstanding contributions in each state and territory in five categories:

Community

Business

Government

School

Photography



30

National Schools Award Winner | Firestick Project – A Wurundjeri-led project in partnership with Dixons Creek Primary School, supported by Yarra Ranges Council and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria (VIC). Photo: Dixons Creek Primary School



National Award Winner | My Resilient Community – Queensland Fire & Moreton Bay Regional Council (QLD). Photo: Moreton Bay Regional

The program recognises a wide range of initiatives with past projects centred on risk assessment and mitigation; education, training and research; community engagement; and response and recovery.

In November 2018, AIDR hosted the National Resilient Australia Awards Ceremony at the Queensland University of Technology. Nearly 100 people from around Australia were in attendance, including finalists for the National Award, National School Award and the National Photography Award.

Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC, Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, presented the awards on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Winners and finalists from the 2018 program were profiled in the January 2019 edition of the Australian Journal of Emergency Management and on the AIDR website.

AIDR congratulates the winners and finalists from across Australia and looks forward to sharing more inspiring stories from the 2019 program.

The Resilient Australia Awards is proudly sponsored by the Australian Government in partnership with the states and territories and managed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR).





Introducing the

Australian Disaster Resilience Conference

In September 2018 AIDR hosted the inaugural Australian Disaster Resilience Conference at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The theme of the conference was 'The rise of resilience: from the individual to the global'.

As part of the strategy to launch the conference, it was run in partnership with the well-established and highly regarded AFAC conference. Both conferences shared opening keynote speakers; AFAC18 delegates were able to attend disaster resilience presentations; and Australian Disaster Resilience Conference delegates were able to access the extensive AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ trade exhibition.

The conference attracted more than 80 delegates in its first year and received highly positive feedback in the evaluation survey:

100%

rated the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference as a whole as **very good** or **excellent**

100%

said they **would recommend** the conference to others

100%

said the conference **met** or **exceeded their expectations**

The launch of the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference has created an important space for disaster resilience practitioners from across the nation to come together to share knowledge, challenge thinking and build connections for a disaster resilient Australia.

Building on the success of the inaugural Australian Disaster Resilience Conference (ADRC), the second conference was held on 28 and 29 August 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The theme of the conference was 'Are we future ready?' and featured sessions on connecting for resilience; supporting recovery; taking action; diverse perspectives; and inclusive approaches.

In 2019, attendance at the Melbourne event grew to a total of 160 delegates. Sponsorship from the City of Melbourne enabled a number of delegates from the volunteering, not-for-profit and community sectors to attend via sponsored places and was a great benefit to the conference. Once again, the conference was highly rated by those who attended. In the post-conference survey, more than 80 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to see the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference continue to run in association with the AFAC conference.



Clockwise from top left:

Dr Robert Glasser, Strathewen Primary School year six students, Angela Spiteri, Euan Ferguson, 10 years on from Black Saturday panel and Victor Steffensen at the 2019 conference. Photos: AIDR







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