

# DISASTER RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

## FACT SHEET

### OVERVIEW

Strengthening disaster and community resilience has become an integral part of Australia's ability to mitigate, respond to and recover from man-made and natural disasters that pose population-level threats to society, the national economy and the environment. From fire, drought and flood, to the long-term impacts of climate change, we recognise the growing importance of preparing communities to help themselves.

We are making significant gains in the area of disaster resilience with the aim of improving community preparedness and recovery in the event of emergencies whether minor or major.

Through high-quality research, education and community engagement, we challenge and support communities, governments and organisations to strengthen their resilience against unforeseen or significant disruptions.

### Further Information

DR CAROLINE SPENCER

Tel: +61 3 9905 4397

Email: [Caroline.Spencer@monash.edu](mailto:Caroline.Spencer@monash.edu)

Web: [monash.edu/muarc](http://monash.edu/muarc)

### Expertise

The Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative (MUDRI) harnesses internationally recognised strengths of the well-established research units within MUARC and the rich expertise across the wider University. MUDRI reflects a multidisciplinary team with industry and academic experience in emergency public health, anthropology, evaluations, sociology, emergency management, social science and disaster risk reduction. The team comprises Emeritus Professor Frank Archer, Professor Frederick 'Skip' Burkle Jnr, Dr Caroline Spencer, Dr Debra Parkinson, Mr Dudley McArdle, Dr Saadia Majeed, Dr Deanne Bird and Ms Samantha Bailey. MUDRI's strength lies in its people and its comprehensive networks; it is stronger for having their support as it continues its mission to support communities build their resilience in the face of unexpected emergency events.

#### Our strengths lie in:

- Graduate research and education programs, translating research into practice, and community engagement;
- Supporting relevant Global Frameworks and Consensus Statements; the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (COAG, 2011), and the principles of Emergency Management Reform in Victoria;
- Clarifying key elements of and measuring disaster resilience, primarily at the community level;
- Gender and diversity in disasters;
- Emerging disaster threats in Oceania and exploring the social determinants of disaster health;
- Disaster evaluation frameworks; and
- Building a research culture and professionalism in the sector

### Monash Disaster Resilience Initiative (MUDRI) Compendium of Community-based Resilience Building Case Studies

The Compendium of Victorian Community-based Resilience Building Case Studies, published online in August 2016, provides free access for all. The Compendium includes case studies of resilience-building initiatives from across Victoria, offering knowledge about community-strengthening activities for researchers, government agencies, and community members interested in increasing resilience at a local level. Readers can draw on the examples and expertise embedded in each project.

The Compendium enables Victorian communities to showcase their resilience-building activities through shared lessons, insights, and challenges. Project creators can share ideas, explain how they solved problems, and report on how they discovered new directions or found unexpected pieces of wisdom.

### Visit the Compendium

Web: [monash.edu/compendium](http://monash.edu/compendium)