



Edition 3 | May 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

The Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management would like to respectfully acknowledge First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Queensland.

We recognise their connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures, and to their Elders, past and present.

A message from the Inspector-General

Welcome to Research Connect, the Office's research-focused newsletter. In this edition, we are pleased to share updates from our partners and peers, as well as provide an overview of the Office of the IGEM's new [Research Connect webpage](#).

There is a considerable amount of valuable disaster management-related research being delivered in Queensland and by other jurisdictions. My Office is committed to helping make it easier to access and share insights. The Research Connect webpage is a resource designed to complement this newsletter and other initiatives, such as the Research Advisory Panel (RAP). Thank you to the many contributors.



Reflecting on April's RAP meeting, I was again struck by the power of partnerships. Various projects presented during the meeting highlighted collaboration as the driving force behind innovation, funding success, and practical implementation. I encourage you all to continue fostering relationships between government agencies, universities, non-government organisations and industry professionals. Doing so helps Queensland continue to build resilience through research-informed approaches.

Queensland has faced a challenging start to 2025. The Office has been tasked by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to undertake reviews of:

- North Queensland Floods (late January to early February 2025).
- Tropical Cyclone Alfred's impact on South-East Queensland (late February to early March 2025).
- The Western Queensland Floods (late March to early April).

The Terms of Reference for these reviews can be found on our website.

We will engage with community and industry, as well as entities that:

- were impacted by events where DRFA was activated
- provided critical infrastructure support for preparation and response

- engaged in preparation and response activities.

Research Connect webpage

The [Research Connect webpage](#) has been designed to connect researchers with disaster managers, ensuring that crucial insights and innovations are shared effectively. We invite you to join us in our dedication to advancing research and making a positive impact in disaster management.

The Research Connect features:

- **Latest articles and newsletters**, including recent updates from the Office of the IGEM, along with information from local, national, and international research organisations and Research Connect newsletters
- **A guide to research** supporting capacity development across the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
- **Case studies** from various sectors of disaster management and research that demonstrate the application of research in practice
- **Recordings and presentations** from the annual Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum.
- **Research hub** showcasing research centres and opportunities to connect
- **Events calendar** highlighting grant programs, research seminars and opportunities for sector engagement.

The Office of the IGEM will continue to grow the Research Connect webpages in collaboration with our stakeholders, and we invite your organisation to share your research content and opportunities on the platform. Please contact the team via Research@igem.qld.gov.au if you would like to contribute.



2025 Disaster Management Research Forum

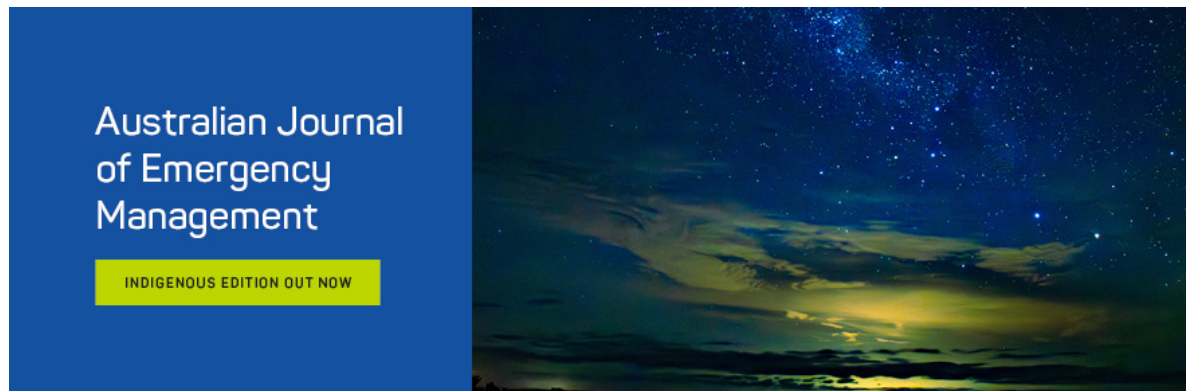
It's that time again! This year the Office of the IGEM will host the 5th Annual Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum. The Forum will be held on **Wednesday 12 November at Rydges South Brisbane**.

We need your help to build the program.

To nominate yourself for our working group, please contact the Research and Communications team via Research@jgem.qld.gov.au.

Keep an eye on the Research Connect webpage for updates and opportunities to participate.

Australian Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM)



Indigenous Edition of the Australian Journal of Emergency Management

As Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand face the threat of climate change and increasing disaster risk, Indigenous researchers have contributed their knowledge to adapt, respond and build resilience across both countries.

In a first for the publication, the latest edition of AJEM has exclusively published research and articles led by Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori authors.

The Indigenous Edition of AJEM documents and encourages the incorporation of Indigenous peoples' knowledges into emergency management and disaster resilience practice.

Access the Indigenous Edition of AJEM [here](#).

Want to share your work or insights in emergency management? Learn more about the [Australian Journal of Emergency Management](#) (AJEM) – a leading open-access publication that bridges research and practice.

Whether you're a researcher, practitioner, or policy expert, AJEM offers a platform to publish and connect with a broad audience across Australia and beyond.

Meet the Editor: Associate Professor Melissa Parsons

Associate Professor Melissa Parsons, a disaster resilience academic at the [University of New England](#), serves as Editor-in-Chief of AJEM. Melissa oversees the journal's peer-review process and works with an editorial committee representing key national agencies to shape each quarterly issue.



About AJEM

AJEM is published by the [Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience](#) (AIDR) under the [National Emergency Management Agency](#) (NEMA). It's freely available online and features both scholarly research and real-world practice insights.

How you can contribute

AJEM welcomes a wide range of submissions:

- Research – Peer-reviewed scholarly work (up to 8,000 words)
- Reports – Project, policy, or practice summaries (up to 3,000 words)
- News & Views – Short updates and sector highlights (400–1,500 words)
- Viewpoints – Invited perspectives on emerging issues
- Opinion Pieces – Expert commentary (400–1,500 words)
- Book Reviews – Reviews of relevant publications (400–500 words)

[Contributor Guidelines](#) are available on the AJEM website.

For researchers

AJEM prioritises and publishes original research. This also include reviews, methods papers, data papers, short communications and case studies.

So, if you are undertaking original research, or you are a research student, consider AJEM for research publication. This is especially important if your research is funded by Australian institutions because AJEM is open source, has no publication fees and meets government publishing standards.

AJEM turns 40 in 2026!

From its beginnings as The Macedon Digest in 1986, AJEM has grown into a cornerstone of emergency management knowledge. To celebrate, AJEM will feature special articles reflecting on the past and looking to the future. Got a story or tribute to share? Email: ajem@aidr.org.au

[Click here](#) to read the full interview edition with Melissa Parsons.

Natural Hazards Research Australia

Queensland-based research continues to make a big noise through findings from research into the structural and inundation effects of tropical cyclones, the [Resilient Homes Fund](#) and the consequences of major bushfire on Queensland's energy transmission network.

Buildings damaged by the “relatively low wind speeds” of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred have revealed what aspects will need to be drastically improved so communities can continue to function after future cyclones, according to a [new report](#) from [James Cook University](#) and [Natural Hazards Research Australia](#) (the Centre).

The JCU Cyclone Testing Station's report into the impact of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred lays bare how southeast Queensland and northeast New South Wales effectively “dodged a bullet” thanks to the weakening of Alfred into a tropical low just prior to landfall.

A week after Tropical Cyclone Alfred landed in south-eastern Queensland, expert panellists shared lessons learned from past disasters, advocated for improved data collection to [track the impacts of flood and highlighted the critical need for equity in future policy to effectively support vulnerable communities following disaster](#) in the Centre's March Hazardous Webinar.

The first in a series of webinars about findings from the broader [Evaluating the Resilient Homes Fund](#) project, the project team outlined their evaluation of post-disaster housing programs around the world and their development of a comprehensive framework that addresses the diverse needs and experiences of affected communities.

Asking the question, “what is the full impact and cost of bushfires on electricity infrastructure?” the Centre's April Hazardous Webinar featured an expert panel discussing the valuable insights the Project IGNIS model provided into the [quantification of bushfire risks and their implications for electricity infrastructure management in Queensland](#).

The panel highlighted crucial ways the research findings have informed effective strategies to mitigate the impacts of bushfires, ensuring the safety and resilience of communities and infrastructure.

The Disaster Challenge

Flex your creative thinking muscles and help revolutionise disaster resilience across Australia.

NHRA is looking for their best and brightest early career researchers, postgraduate and undergraduate students from across Australia to innovate the way we respond to bushfires, floods, storms, cyclones and other natural hazards.



The wicked problem

How can we innovate our infrastructure – physical, social, green and other types of infrastructure, community and place to enable effective and affordable community-led place-based disaster resilience? This could be at any scale, for local communities, local government authorities, state government or national.

If this sounds like you, apply [here](#). (no prior disaster experience or knowledge needed!)

Entries close 5:00pm AEST, 15 June 2025.



The [Queensland Disaster Research Alliance](#) (QDRA) continues to strengthen collaboration among Queensland's universities, government, and industry to tackle major disaster resilience challenges.

Recently, QDRA has supported multiple research proposals by connecting researchers with funding opportunities like the [Disaster Ready Funding Arrangements](#) (DRFA), [Natural Hazards Research Australia](#) (NHRA), and other national and state programs. It plays a vital role in aligning proposals with sector priorities and real-world needs.

These efforts have advanced research in multi-hazard risk, resilience planning, and climate adaptation, enhancing Queensland's disaster preparedness and recovery capacity. QDRA's research and communications sub-committees also meet regularly to align academic expertise with emerging policy and operational needs.

This month, QDRA featured at [Griffith Business School's](#) event on business resilience, where the Alliance Manager joined a panel to emphasise the value of research-informed decision-making and cross-sector collaboration.

Looking ahead, QDRA will host its 2025 Mid-Year Event, "Mind the Gap," focused on bridging research, policy, and practice. The event will showcase impactful research and foster new partnerships to strengthen disaster resilience across Queensland.

Learn more or get involved at www.qdra.org

University updates

A tribute to Associate Professor Jo Durham

The Office of IGEM would like to acknowledge the passing of Associate Professor Jo Durham from the [Queensland University of Technology](#), a deeply respected academic, humanitarian, and advocate for health equity and disaster resilience.

Jo brought over 15 years of international humanitarian experience to her academic work, having served with the [UNDP](#) and [UNICEF](#) in countries affected by conflict and disaster. At [QUT](#), she was a passionate advocate for health equity, using participatory research to amplify excluded voices and promote community-led solutions.



Her legacy of compassion, integrity, and impact will be long remembered.



The University of Queensland: Expression of interest: Participate in research on mental health services & climate Risk, Ben Norris

Changes to global climatic conditions from global warming are creating the conditions for more extreme weather and increasing the frequency and severity of natural disasters. These climate risk events have a significant impact on the mental health of affected communities.

Ben Norris, former Manager of [Queensland Health's](#) Mental Health Drought and Disaster Team, is conducting PhD research on how mental health services can better respond to climate-related events.

So, if you are passionate about mental health and the impact of climate change, please help Ben uncover the key success factors that contribute to designing, developing and delivering effective mental health services in response to the impacts of climate change.

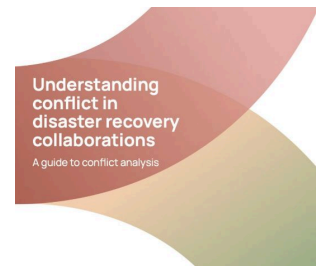
This research study involves participants in Australia from three different groups:

1. Individuals who have used or considered using mental health services due to exposure to a climate risk event (e.g., natural disaster, drought).
2. Service Providers who have worked in mental health services related to climate risk events.
3. Policy Makers or funders involved in mental health services for climate risk events.

Your insights will help design more effective, responsive mental health services.
To learn more or register your interest, click on the [link](#).

The University of Queensland: Understanding conflict in disaster recovery collaborations, Danielle O'Hara

The complex challenges of disaster recovery cannot be addressed by any single individual, organisation, or institution. However, current approaches to understanding collaboration often fail to acknowledge that collaboration inevitably involves conflict, as it brings together very different organisations, in a dynamic and high-pressure environment.



Interagency conflict is not necessarily destructive, as it can reveal a diversity of knowledge, promote consideration for fairness and equality and result in more robust decisions. However, if managed poorly it can result in duplication, distress and prevent disaster affected communities from getting the support they need.

PhD student Danielle O'Hara at [The University of Queensland](#) has explored this challenge through a project bringing existing research and findings from semi-structured interviews with 38 Australian disaster recovery practitioners on their experiences of conflict in collaborative partnerships. The research highlights four main causes of conflict and outlines the implications they have for policy and practice. They are values, the recovery system, organisational interest and relational dynamics. You can access a conflict analysis resource for disaster recovery practitioners based on the research [here](#) and a summary of research findings [here](#).

Upcoming events

The 8th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025) 2 - 6 June

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the main global forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

[Read more.](#)

Disability Inclusive Emergency Management (DIEM) Toolkit webinar 4 June

[Learn](#) about developing disability-inclusive management plans and actions with the DIEM Toolkit and the open eLearning resources.

Thinking systemically about disaster risk 11 June

[The Resilience Matters webinar series](#) will

Australian Red Cross - recovery basics: working in recovery 25 June

[The Recovery Basics: Working in Recovery webinar](#) is based on the second booklet in the series and is targeted towards disaster recovery practitioners. In this session, participants will get insights into what to expect after a disaster and explore best practice approaches for effective community-led recovery.

Natural Hazards Research Forum 18-20 July

The Natural Hazards Research Forum returns to Adelaide on 18-20 June 2025, showcasing the latest natural hazards research, expert keynote speakers and knowledge collaboration.

[Registrations now open.](#)

This email was sent by IGEM - Incident, General or Emergency Management, 111 George St, Brisbane, QLD 4000, Australia to shayal.kumar@qld.gov.au

[Unsubscribe](#)

focus on systems, environments and human factors that intersect to influence the varying levels of risk, harm and equity that people experience before, during and after a disaster.

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Vision

Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 27-28 August

The Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2023 brings together a diverse and passionate group of people from a range of sectors to share knowledge and build connections for a disaster resilient Australia. [Early bird registrations are now open.](#)

Want to see more?

For more details on how to submit for the next edition, feel free to reach out to IGEM at research@igem.qld.gov.au.

You can also follow us on social media to stay updated with the latest news from the Office of the IGEM. Just click the links below to visit our official pages.

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