



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTION

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Introduction

The Department of Health (DOH) has an obligation within Westplan Health to ensure that an efficient health response can be activated to meet health disaster and emergency management requirements.

Aim

The aim of this instruction is to provide guidelines regarding the role of DOH personnel in the Recovery phase of a disaster.

General

Recovery includes all activities to support affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economical and physical wellbeing.

Recovery may be a long-term endeavour that should involve the whole community in a wide range of activities, including counselling services and public health issues.

The DOH responsibility in the recovery stage varies depending on the situation. Detailed recovery arrangements relating to specific hazards and communities are contained in the relevant hazard plans.

Procedures

In the event of a disaster impacting upon a community, causing disruption, or physical damage to homes, buildings and infrastructure, which includes essential services such as electricity, commercial facilities such as supermarkets and community facilities such as schools and kindergartens:

- Recovery Coordinators from the Local or State level will convene a Coordinating Committee, chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet at the State level, and Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent) from Local Government, at the local level.
- At the State Level, the Director, Disaster Preparedness and Management (DDPM), or the Executive Officer, will represent the DOH at the State Recovery Coordinating Committee.

- The role of the DDPM is similar to that as described in Operational Instruction number 003, however, DOH tasks will mainly be focused on the well being of the community.
- Depending on the situation, the DDPM may be required to coordinate:
 - management of casualties;
 - public health response, including monitoring and correction where necessary; which may include:
 - food and water safety;
 - sanitation issues;
 - toxicology advice;
 - disease control measures;
 - safe disposal of contaminated waste;
 - radiation health control; and
 - mental health response.

Monitoring and Review

The Executive Officer, Disaster Preparedness and Management is responsible for the monitoring and review of this document on an annual basis.