

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

Disaster Resilience Education
Strategy Group (DRESG)

Terms of Reference



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This Terms of Reference document is informed by the AIDR Education for Young People Strategy.

Context

Following the Attorney-General's decision in 2014 to close AEMI in June 2015, the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR), a partnership between the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), the Australian Red Cross and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) was selected by the Attorney-General's Department to deliver a range of products and services previously delivered by AEMI. AIDR was established in November 2015 and in the last two years has delivered a range of disaster resilience-related services including professional development, schools education and knowledge management to professionals and volunteers in the education sector.

In 2012 the Disaster Resilient Australia School Education Network (DRASEN) was formed with the support of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and the former Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI) to encourage the development of disaster resilience education in school programs nationally. In 2014, DRASEN was extended to include New Zealand emergency service agencies and DRANZSEN was formed. Subsequently, AIDR has incorporated this network into its Education for Young People program.

The Education for Young People Program functions at two levels: the Disaster Resilience Education Strategy Group (DRESG) and the Disaster Resilient Australia-New Zealand School Education Network (DRANZSEN).

DRESG provides leadership for the Education for Young People program and identifies strategies and opportunities to support professional development opportunities in disaster resilience for professionals and volunteers in the education sector. It is anticipated that agencies and universities will develop and deliver professional development activities collaboratively.

Activities performed by DRESG will include:

- facilitating meetings and/or other events as required to enable a national/international exchange around disaster resilience education
- providing strategic advice relevant to the Australian Curriculum and school education programs, and
- identifying commonalities and partnerships among emergency agencies.

Aims of DRESG

- 1 To influence and advocate for disaster resilience education (DRE) in all Australian schools and other education settings
- 2 To align with DRE policy, research and practice
- 3 To establish and communicate a shared understanding of disaster resilience with professionals and volunteers engaged in the education of children and young people
- 4 To develop and maintain a clear understanding of the role and expectation of education and classroom pedagogy in the development of disaster resilience across our communities
- 5 To develop partnerships between emergency management agencies and school education communities to build an understanding and knowledge of the needs of schools
- 6 To encourage schools to adopt and teach sustainable, evidence-supported and effective disaster resilience practices

Review

This Terms of Reference is effective from October 2017. Subsequent to annual reviews, it will be ongoing until terminated by agreement between the parties.

Membership

- 1 DRESG membership reflects education departments/authorities, community engagement/school program officers from state and territory emergency service agencies, academics, non-government agencies and co-opted specialists, ensuring a balance across jurisdictions and sectors. DRESG is free to propose additional permanent or ad hoc members from other relevant and interested agencies and specialists that are necessary to achieve the aims of the group.
- 2 Membership of the group will be geographically inclusive.
- 3 AIDR will provide a secretariat for the group.

Membership term

Members of DRESG will be appointed for two (2) year terms and may be reappointed for up to three (3) terms.

Organisation

- 1 DRESG will aim to meet face-to-face at least once a year.
- 2 DRESG will maintain out-of-session contact through agreed communication channels.
- 3 AIDR will establish an Education for Young People strategic plan that is refreshed annually; DRESG will contribute to this plan.
- 4 DRESG can form working groups as required.

Responsibilities

- 1 The AIDR Secretariat is responsible for convening meetings and/or other events as required.
- 2 The DRESG will report to the AIDR Director.
- 3 Jurisdictional delegates are responsible for briefing state or territory networks.

Resourcing

Any costs involved in participating in the group meetings and/or other events will be borne by participants or their organisations unless otherwise agreed in advance with the AIDR Director.

Quorum

A meeting quorum will be five members of the group.

Voting

Decisions will be made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice).

Submission of new business

All correspondence will be submitted to the AIDR Secretariat.

Distribution of documentation

- 1 Members will be supplied with complete, accurate and meaningful information in a timely manner.
- 2 Meeting Agendas and Minutes, including the preparation of agendas, supporting papers, meeting notes and information, will be provided by the AIDR Secretariat.
- 3 Minutes will be distributed within one week of meetings.

Reporting

- 1 Individuals will be responsible for reporting to the agencies or organisations they represent and for communicating views and opinions of those agencies and organisations to the group.
- 2 AIDR will provide two-way communication between representative agencies and the Institute.
- 3 Public sharing of group documents will be with the agreement of the group.

Amendment, modification or variation

This Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by DRESG and ratification by AIDR.