



Australian Institute for  
Disaster Resilience

# Queensland DRANZSEN Forum 2018

Key notes and outcomes

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# Education for Young People Program

The AIDR Education for Young People supports the implementation of effective and sustainable disaster resilience education initiatives which empower and give voice to young people throughout Australia.

The Disaster Resilience Australian-New Zealand School Education Network (DRANZSEN) seeks to:

- communicate a shared understanding of Disaster Resilience Education (DRE) connected to international frameworks and relevant to an Australian context
- build the capacity of teachers and other educators to deliver effective and sustainable DRE to young people, informed by contemporary research and aligned with the Australian Curriculum
- provide a forum for schools, emergency management agencies and community organisations in the network to share knowledge, good practice and strategic objectives related to DRE
- facilitate networking and collaboration between stakeholders in the design and delivery of new DRE initiatives.

## Forum program

9:30am	Registration, including morning tea
9:45am	Welcome, acknowledgement of country, and opening remarks <i>Sioux Campbell, Cairns Regional Council</i>
10:00am	The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience: Education for Young People Program <i>Brigid Little, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)</i>
10:15am	Setting the scene: Emergency Management in Queensland
10:45am	Emergency Management in regional schools: Stories, challenges and vulnerabilities <i>Group exercise</i>
11:15am	Leg stretch and networking break
11:25am	Disaster resilience education, school priorities, and school/community partnerships <i>Jenene Rosser, Independent Schools Queensland</i>
12:00pm	Share time and feedback: Common themes and challenges
12:30pm	Lunch and networking break
1:00pm	Action for change: Reducing risk in the community <i>Brigid Little, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)</i>
1:30pm	Response and recovery in Regional Queensland <i>Tony Fuller, Redlynch State College</i>
2:00pm	Supporting young people and schools in recovering communities <i>Australian Red Cross</i>
2:15pm	Next steps in Emergency Planning
2:45pm	Closing remarks, evaluation and feedback

## Organisations represented

Cairns Hinterland Steiner School (1)	Cairns Regional Council (2)
Central Highlands Regional Council (1)	I-GEM QLD (1)
Independent Schools Queensland (1)	Peace Lutheran College (1)
QFES (3)	Redlynch State College (1)
Tablelands Regional Council (1)	Townsville City Council (1)
Whitfield State School (1)	AIDR (2)
Total: 16	

## Attendance profile

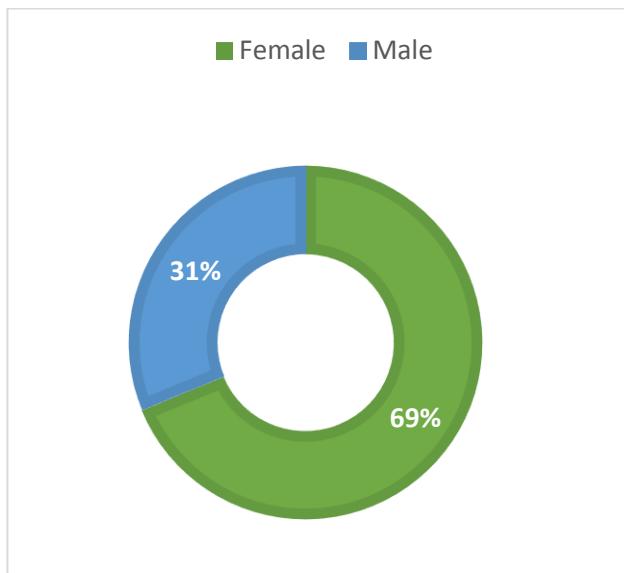


Figure 1: Audience profile by gender

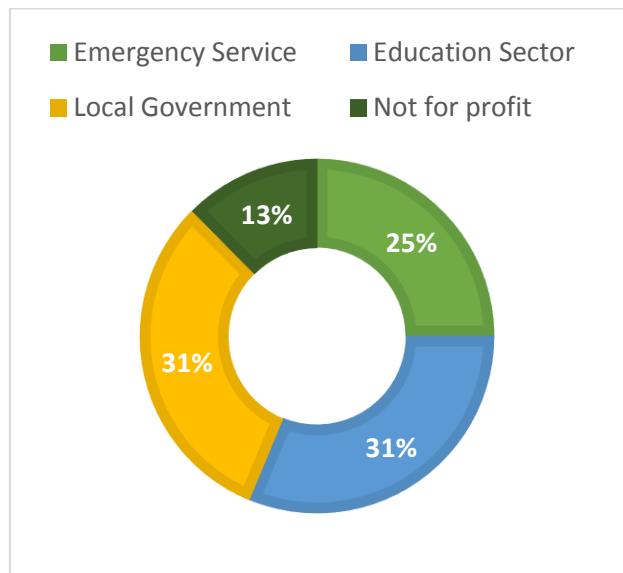


Figure 2: Audience profile by sector representation

## Working together: Challenges and opportunities

Participants were asked to consider events where they worked together with schools or other agencies to promote disaster resilience education or in response to an emergency event. As part of the activity, participants identified the successes and challenges of their experiences, and what could have been done differently.

### **Partnership**

Rural Fire Service and School

#### **Successes**

Teaching about ‘stop, drop, roll’ to students under 8

#### **Challenges**

Uptake in program from older students

#### **What could be done differently**

Greater engagement with older students, and tailoring the learning package to their age group

### **Event**

Café explosion

#### **Partnership**

Multi agency response

#### **Successes**

The whole community responded during the incident, and were part of the recovery process

#### **Challenges**

Setting up an appeal fund to assist community, organising a ‘one-year-on’ event and developing a project to engage schools

#### **What could be done differently**

Setting up safety barriers around hazardous materials such as gas cylinders

## Disaster resilience education, school priorities, and school/community partnerships

Jenene Rosser from Independent Schools Queensland presented to the group on the work they are doing within Queensland Independent Schools to promote disaster resilience.

Four proposals were developed for the presentation, designed for people with expertise in disasters and emergencies to support schools with effective disaster resilience education. The proposals were:

1. Work with key education stakeholders
2. Consider how learning resources support teachers to assess student achievement
3. Use disaster as a context for developing resilience
4. Consider an inquiry approach across the curriculum and the use of emotive images and stories to promote engagement and learning for students

For more information on the presentation, and the four proposals outlined, contact Jenene Rosser.

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## Local school experience in preparation, response and recovery

Local school principal, Tony Fuller, joined the forum to discuss his first-hand experiences of school emergency preparedness and response.

Emergency Event	Tropical Cyclone
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School remained open as the cyclone approached the coast of Cairns</li> <li>• Staff and students remained in classrooms under ‘business as usual’ arrangements – preventing many from preparing their own homes for the cyclone</li> <li>• Mid-afternoon received a call to seek access to school sports centre as a Cyclone Shelter</li> <li>• Shelter staff asked for the Master Key for the school to be left – toured the facilities available for use under shelter arrangements, including possible overflow areas</li> </ul>
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many arrived at the shelter with nothing – no food, water, or bedding</li> <li>• When supplies at the shelter ran low, those using the shelter began using school resources such as food from the Home Economics Centre, and sporting equipment</li> <li>• Shelter management arrangements were unclear and disorganised</li> </ul>
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school received minimal structural damage, however trees within the school boundary were knocked down by cyclone winds</li> <li>• When the all-clear was given for people to leave the shelter, there was no arrangements for clean-up, and everyone just left the rubbish and personal belongings in the sports centre</li> <li>• School staff came in to assist with clean-up to get the school community back up and running</li> </ul>
Post event changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review into the use of the school as a shelter, and a plan for future use was created</li> <li>• An ‘Agreement for Use’ was formulated, which included; roles and responsibility of school and shelter workers; minimum notice period to enact shelter preparation; access keys for only the shelter areas of the school</li> <li>• Shelter facilities were upgraded to ensure there was seating available, kitchens and bathrooms available</li> </ul>

## Resources discussed during the forum

Cairns Regional Council Website	<a href="http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-environment/natural-disasters">http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-environment/natural-disasters</a>
QFES website	<a href="https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/community-safety/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/community-safety/Pages/default.aspx</a>
QFES Download Library	<a href="https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/community-safety/downloadlibrary/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/community-safety/downloadlibrary/Pages/default.aspx</a>

## Your experiences of emergency preparedness, response and recovery

Participants in the forum were asked to consider their experiences of emergency preparedness in the wider community by describing an emergency event, outlining what happened, and identifying the successes and challenges they faced. Some examples included:

<p><b>Emergency event</b></p> <p>Flooding of the Albert River</p> <p><b>What happened?</b></p> <p>Unprecedented flood event</p> <p><b>Successes</b></p> <p>No lives were lost as community responded to the event appropriately</p> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <p>Communication with the community was not clear</p> <p>Event has led to trust needing to be rebuilt with community as they view the event as a 'cry wolf' scenario</p>	<p><b>Event</b></p> <p>Support to those involved in emergency situations</p> <p><b>Successes</b></p> <p>Co-branding 'Get Ready Guide' with local governments to ensure local information provided</p> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <p>Understanding the needs on the ground in local communities across the state</p>	<p><b>Emergency event</b></p> <p>Cairns Flash Flood 2018</p> <p><b>What happened?</b></p> <p>Heavy rain resulted in flash flooding of Holiday Park</p> <p><b>Successes</b></p> <p>All residents and guests of the park were safely evacuated with no loss of life</p> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <p>Many of those impacted were tourists with little or no local knowledge. Many did not know they were in a flood prone area</p>
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## Emergency planning for recovery

Red Cross were unable to participate in the QLD DRANZSEN Forum; however Red Cross initiatives were discussed with the group. Of focus was the Pillowcase Project that the Australian Red Cross delivers in schools. The aim of the project is to help students prepare an emergency kit containing items they need in an emergency.

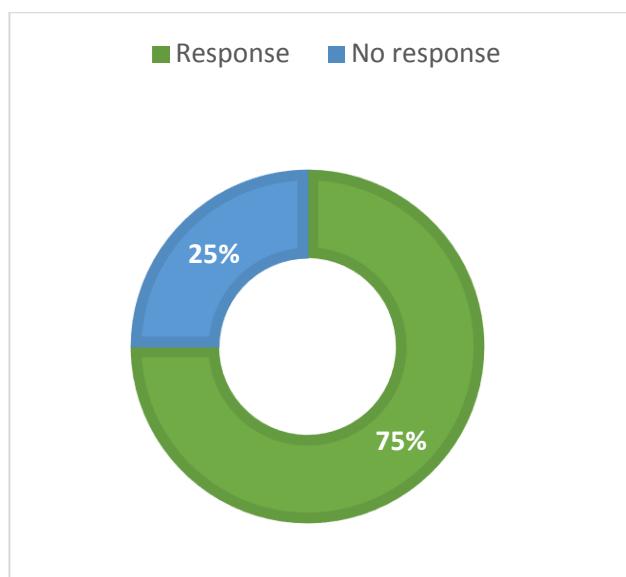
Information about the Pillowcase Project, including the delivery and history, visit the [Australian Red Cross website](#)

## Next steps in emergency planning

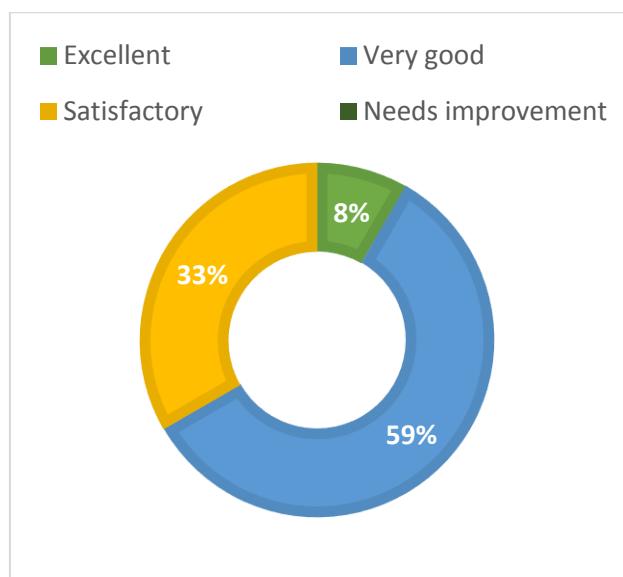
Participants were asked to consider their 'next steps' for emergency planning and disaster resilience education following the presentations and discussions at the QLD DRANZSEN Forum. Some of those steps included:

<p>Review the repository for school education products already available and how they can be used to build DRE</p>	<p>Share information from forum with other staff not in attendance to assist in embedding DRE into classroom lessons</p>	<p>Build the DRANZSEN Community within QLD and not wait for the yearly forum to connect and communicate</p>
<p>Utilise emergency service volunteers to visit schools and deliver presentations to align key messaging and curriculum demands</p>	<p>Engage Department of Education Regional Director to promote DRE to principals</p>	<p>Engage School Captains in the conversation to promote important topics of DRE and safety in emergencies</p>

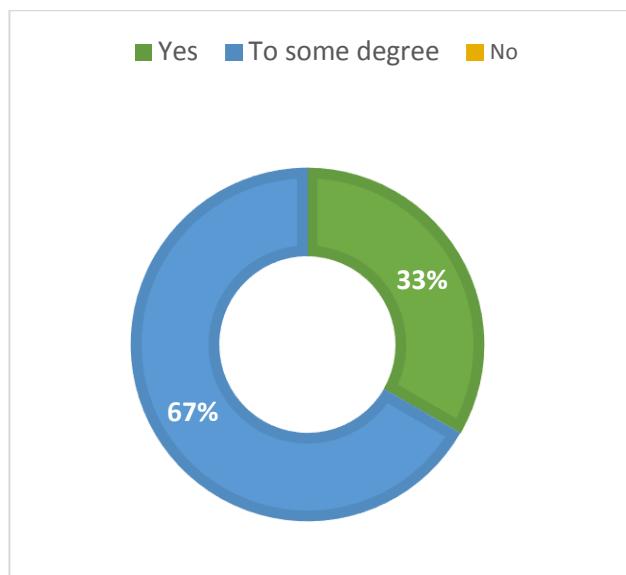
## Forum evaluation



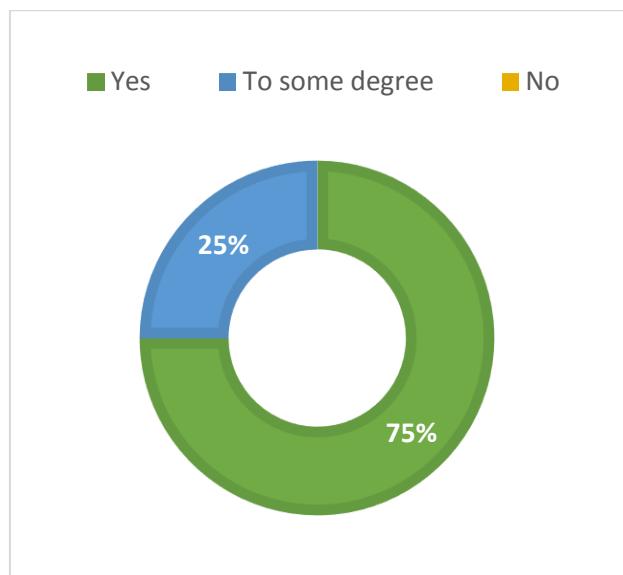
**Figure 3:** Response rate



**Figure 4:** Value of QLD DRANZEN forum



**Figure 5:** Increase of knowledge of EM in schools



**Figure 6:** Provide opportunity to network with others

## Comments

- More please
- Involve School Captains at forums as a conduit to / from student population to DRANZEN members and schools
- QLD struggles to increase the network. We need to find other opportunities
- Try to get commitments from more participants in the education sector
- Looking forward to seeing what comes from the forum
- More time for discussion on what is already out there