

Insights into Temporary and Emergency Accommodation



RESEARCH TEAM

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Project duration: 3 years

Background

Safe and stable housing is an essential requirement for functional, healthy individuals and communities. Following a disaster, damaged and destroyed housing can become an all-consuming stress factor for affected individuals and their wider community. This impacts stability, employment, sense of place and overall well-being. This is especially true when considering the inequity of access to stable housing due to a range of circumstances. With the increasing frequency of major disasters coupled with a national housing crisis across Australia, post-disaster housing – from immediate shelter through to long-term stable solutions – is facing more pressure than ever.

This research project, with guidance from the Social Recovery Reference Group (SRRG), will identify best practices in emergency and temporary housing. It will inform policy and guide the development of resources for government and not-for-profits to support displaced people to transition from temporary accommodation to stable housing. The research will be adopted by multiple levels of government and provide critical guidance to agencies charged with managing housing recovery.

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Project description

This research will capture lessons and improve temporary housing supports for impacted people moving into stable housing. Research outputs will provide the evidence to build more resilient communities. It will drive change through evidence-informed policy, strategy and application of lessons from disasters, to inform future practice in housing recovery.

This project will use ‘trauma-informed’ methods to understand the lived experiences of individuals, communities and recovery practitioners in different states and territories of Australia. By developing case studies from each state and territory, this research will capture different approaches taken to support and transition disaster-impacted people to stable housing including comparing these approaches. It will deliver resources for practitioners and communities to utilise in future events. The research aims to assist diverse people impacted by disasters to strategise, manage and implement post-disaster housing, from immediate shelter to long-term stable solutions, across various phases.



Intended outcomes

Workshops with government agencies, recovery practitioners and end-users will feed directly into co-developing best practice guidelines and policy briefs, including a common language. We will work across case studies from each state and territory to identify gaps in delivery of pathways to stable housing. By doing this we will create a systematic and flexible national housing recovery approach, that can be readily implemented. Specific regard to complexities of each state or territory will be embedded within its design. The research will contribute to the development of evidence-informed disaster preparedness policy, strategy, best practice principles and national resources and a 'roadmap' tool to achieve these outcomes. Analysis and evaluations by occupants, recovery practitioners, service providers and government agencies will help better understand how communities can recover, thrive and live with dignity.

Our methods will enable participants to "speak their world", offering new knowledge that can be translated into impactful ways of building community resilience.

Translation and implementation potential

The stakeholders and audience for this research are broad. In addition to SRRG, the research and practice sectors along with non-academic audiences such as localised community groups, would benefit from diverse translations of this highly applied research. As such, to increase the impact of traditional reports, policy briefs and academic publications we will develop handbooks, guides and "journey maps" for diverse audiences, using communication design to tailor outputs accordingly. Furthermore, non-traditional outputs such as film, photography and public exhibitions will be used in sensitive and creative ways to create easily digestible translations of our research findings and outcomes.

Further information

For full project details head to: <https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/research/research-projects/insights-temporary-and-emergency-accommodation> Or contact rowena.morris@naturalhazards.com.au

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