

# Comprehensive School Safety: A participatory approach to bushfire emergency management planning in schools

**Matthew Henry**

Central Queensland University, School of Human Health and Social Sciences, QLD, Supervisors : Professor Kevin Ronan & Dr. Briony Towers

## A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING IN SCHOOLS

The recently developed UN-level Comprehensive School Safety (CSS) framework (UNESCO/UNICEF, 2014) provides a detailed and coordinated approach to reducing all hazard risks to the education sector.

The CSS provides a guiding framework that can be customised to the Australian school setting to facilitate the development of a participatory approach to bushfire emergency management planning in schools.

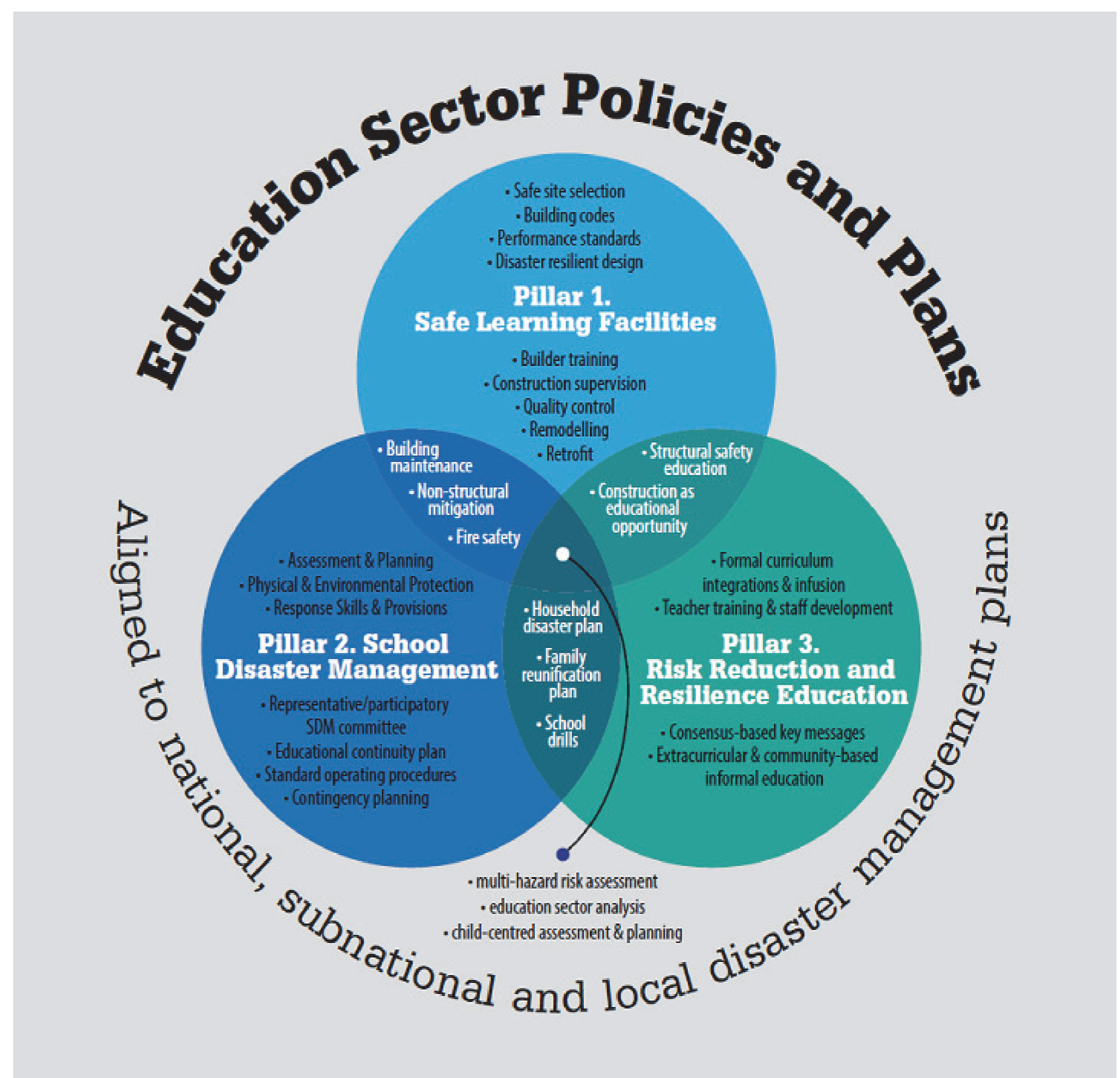
Within the Australian school setting there is currently no nationally co-ordinated approach to the teaching of disaster resilience education (DRE) or the delivery of student centred, participatory disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs.

The CSS outlines that school safety rests on **three pillars**:

- Pillar 1 - Safe learning facilities
- Pillar 2 - School disaster management
- Pillar 3 - Risk reduction and resilience education

### RESEARCH AIMS

1. Using the CSS framework as a template, develop innovative, evidence based approach to integrating DRE and bushfire emergency management planning in schools.
2. Develop a data-driven policy and practice framework that enables a systematic and nationwide approach to scaled, sustainable implementation of bushfire safety programs in schools.
3. Design a participatory, methodology for site specific school emergency management planning, which enables schools to better prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from the impacts of bushfire.



(Gadrrres, 2014)

The development of a **participatory approach** to bushfire emergency management in schools, and the adoption of a school safety framework specifically designed for the Australian school setting has the potential to enable schools to better prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from the impacts of bushfire.