New evidence-based guide to disaster recovery

Recovery Capitals (ReCap)
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The Recovery Capitals (ReCap) project applies a Community Capitals lens to disaster recovery to increase understanding about the interacting influences of social, built, financial, political, human, cultural and natural capital on people’s wellbeing. Through end user-oriented action-research, ReCap provides evidence-based guidance through the production of a range of resources in different formats that suit different needs and cultural perspectives.

Introduction
Disaster recovery processes are highly complex, presenting challenges in how to achieve holistic and inclusive approaches when working with people and communities. ReCap aims to produce resources to help address these challenges. It is a collaboration between researchers, government and non-government agencies, and end-users from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Methods
The first step in the project was to develop a framework to guide our approach to reviewing relevant evidence and developing recovery resources. The Community Capitals Framework¹ was taken as the starting point for the ReCap framework. Drawing on the practice expertise of end-users and additional academic knowledge, this was developed into a multidimensional approach to disaster recovery that considers people, geographies and temporality, while interweaving issues of access, equity, and diversity (Fig. 1).

Detailed evidence mapping against the ReCap framework was undertaken using previous research conducted by the academic teams and collaborators. Key findings and considerations arising from the evidence were then distilled, and resources have been designed based on the needs and perspectives expressed by the end-users of this project.

Outputs
ReCap is producing a series of resources that will be in different formats to suit different needs, with versions tailored to both Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The pilot Australian edition of the first of these – the ‘Guide to Recovery Capitals’ (Fig. 2) – was released in July 2020 and can be found at https://www.redcross.org.au/recap.

Next steps
The ReCap project is still in progress. The ‘Guide to Post-Disaster Recovery Capitals’ is being adapted into an Aotearoa New Zealand edition, and both versions are being distributed to end-users who will pilot it and provide feedback about feasibility, appropriateness and usefulness. The development of the complete set of resources continues.

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