The increasing frequency and complexity of natural hazards poses a challenge for community resilience. Communication and education of risk mitigation strategies play an essential role in building and maintaining resilience through preparation and planning by residents. However, little is known about the relative effectiveness of existing hazard communications and education strategies (i.e. the extent to which they influence the amount and quality of residents’ preparedness and planning behaviours for natural hazards). Also, to improve the current effectiveness of these strategies, we need to determine what some of the key barriers and enablers to preparedness and planning are.

**PROBLEM STATEMENTS**

This project combines expertise in social, health, and consumer psychology, and disaster and emergency management. It is designed to develop evidence-based strategies that motivate appropriate action during the preparedness and planning phase of disasters. More specifically, it will address the following problem statements (PPs):

1) What measures can best be used to capture individuals’ preparedness and planning for hazards?

2) How effective are existing strategies such as community engagement groups vs. brochures in increasing preparedness and planning by residents of hazard prone areas?, and

3) What are the (psychological) barriers and enablers of preparedness and planning by residents?

**METHOD**

PS1 has been addressed over the past 6 months. This has resulted in the selection of several measures of individual/household level preparedness and planning for bushfires and floods (see middle column).

PS2 and 3 will be examined through quantitative survey-based studies across Australia.

For PS2, the project will compare different existing communication and education strategies (e.g. community based groups, websites, brochures, etc.) and determine how strongly they are linked to different types of preparedness and planning by residents.

For PS3, the project will examine why some people are less able to prepare/plan (barriers) and why some people are less motivated to prepare/plan (motivators) than others.