



Student Name: Susan Hunt

Project Title: Implementing policy for enabling adaptive capacities for disaster resilience in the Australian federation

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PHD PROGRESS REPORT 2015

Since commencing my research I have developed and refined my research topic and research questions. This has been done by surveying the academic literature and familiarising myself equally with key areas of the grey literature. My literature review has been wide ranging in accordance with the multi-disciplinary public policy field. I have explored theoretical aspects of resilience and disaster resilience, its links to other disciplines such as ecological and organisational systems (including multi-level governance models), sociology, psychology, economics, political science, health, policy implementation and public administration. From here I have developed my methodology, which has received favourable feedback from my supervisory panel. The methodology has involved developing a conceptual framework and terms of analysis for disaster resilience policy implementation. Qualitative methods such as thematic and grounded analysis have been used to categorise numerous complex variables identified in my literature review. These have been incorporated into my draft analytical framework. I have also designed an empirical component to my research, which will consist of four case studies. Data collection sites have been identified and provisional interview questions developed and I have commenced liaison and negotiation with agencies to seek their permission to participate and to consult with them about aspects of the methodology and use of findings. I have successfully completed on-line Research Integrity Training and will undertake ANU human ethics training on 4 August as part of preparing an ethics application in relation to this aspect of my research.

The desired outcome of my project is to develop evidence-based information about successful approaches to implementation of disaster resilience policy. Ideally, a disaster resilience policy implementation framework, would be a product of the research that could potentially provide guidance for disaster management policy and program developers and decision makers.