Adoption of a strengths-based approach to address catastrophic disasters

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INTRODUCTION

Darwin 1974
HOW DO WE DEFINE CATASTROPHIC?
PERCEPTION OF THE NEED

• There is recognition of the conversation occurring nationally about catastrophic disasters

• Not everyone shares deep concerns. Barriers include:
  • Confidence in existing arrangements
  • Perceived low probability of catastrophes
  • No previous history of catastrophes
  • Perception that there isn’t much that can be done
  • Response orientated culture
  • Limited conceptualisation of catastrophe
BEYOND CONCEPTUALISTATION

Type of hazard and type of consequences

Size and complexity
NEED TO WORK TOGETHER

• No standing army
• Relationships are considered key
• There are turf wars
• 7 different versions of EM
• Planning lacks diversity
STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACH

- Business
- NGO
- Government
- Infrastructure
- Community
- Emergency services
- International
- Faith based
NATION-WIDE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH
WHAT GOOD PLANNING NEEDS TO BE

• Concise
• Principles based
• Simple to interpret
• Strategic
• Flexible
• Adaptable
• Contemporary
• Provides an authorising environment
THE GENERIC CATASTROPHE PLAN

- Key priorities
- Rapid appreciation
- Resource acquisition and integration
  - Inter-state
  - Business
  - NGO
  - Commonwealth
  - International
- Logistics
- National coordination
- State coordination
- Public messaging
  - State
  - National
- Special provisions
- Business continuity
- Roles and responsibilities
SUMMARY

• There are barriers to considering catastrophe risks

• Some issues could be as much culturally based as they are structural or systems based

• Need to bring a diversity of stakeholders together

• Could a move towards a nationwide strengths based approach be the best option?

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CURRENT PLANNING

• Tend to plan for routine
• Tend to plan for the last big disaster
• Planning for compliance
• Tend not to exercise for catastrophic
• There is limited knowledge of how to plan
• Planning lacks diversity
NEXT STEPS

• Consideration of draft benchmarking framework
• Understanding possible national coordination frameworks
• Integration of business sector and NGOs
• Consideration of compounding events