**Summary notes for Community Recovery    Session#3    Feb24 2021**
A Southern Perspective on community-led recovery from Australia & New Zealand

The Social Recovery Reference Group, led by Louise Mitchell and hosted by the Victoria Department of Health & Human Services has been working for a number of years with communities post disaster to understand, support and better respond, to the needs of the people.

- Across Australia, the national principals for successful recovery include:
    - Understand the context
    - Recognize complexity
    - Use community-led approaches
    - Coordinate all activities
    - Communicate effectively
    - Recognize and build capacity

- We cannot act in isolation; neither the government doing a top down method, nor the community/grassroots working completely alone, is necessarily the answer: there must be  a meeting of minds and collaborative approach, once the right balance is arrived at as to who leads and who supports in each situation.

- How should key players in government work together with key players in the private sector and civil society to resolve societal problems?
  Patience; engagement, respect; and particularly *listening*, are key.

- In terms of projects/programs, managing resources, accountability and transparency: Working towards shared goals, in a space of co-production is a place to aim for.

- Case studies exploring community led recovery and coordination revealed....
  Several instances of almost completely community led recovery activities
   including:
    - Naiyou Community, Northern Territory
    - Malacoota, Victoria, Australia (post 2019-20 bushfires)
    - Strathewan, Victoria, Australia (post 2009 bushfires)

- As presented by Scott Dray of WREMO (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office) in New Zealand, it is recognized that should there be a catastrophic event communities will most likely need to take care of themselves. Civil Defense will not have capacity to respond, and it is also acknowledged that local knowledge and direction will best serve a community in its response and recovery efforts.

  - To support community-led recovery, over the past 6-7 years a Community Emergency Hub guide has been developed.

  - The guide begins with information for single homes and families to prepare and works up from there to supporting each other on the same street; neighbourhood and community.

  - At the community level a hub is identified which means both having several key community leaders and potentially a physical structure for the community to gather at initially, and coordinate support.

  - The concept of coordinated community supporting each other is at the heart of the community hub model; (if needed, it could be run out of the boot of a car.)

  - There is a connection between identified community liaisons and the Emergency Operations Centre in order to maintain an overview of needs and actions, so the government supports can remain in place and be effective.

  - There are currently 132 organized Hubs around Wellington and beyond, with more being added.

  - The model has been tested and proven to work, with several hubs self deploying in the recent past, and all working well when they did.

  - The cost to government is not enormous to set up and do several (3) planning meetings with community to get them started on designing their own hubs.

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https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/social-recovery-reference-group/

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All links offered in the sessions are found on the
Training & Opportunities page at:
http://www.thesecondresponders.org under:
The *Community Recovery Webinar Sessions Jan27 - April 7*

Recordings of each session* are stored on the Tools & Resources page (member accessible) of the BC Association of Emergency Managers website: http://www.bcaem.ca
*Session 3 to be posted soon.*

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