

Queensland Neighbourhood Centres

Forwarding Community-Led Resilience, Relief and Recovery



QFCA

Supporting our members to build Community

Queensland Families & Communities Association

Sector Snapshot

- Around 150-170 local Neighbourhood and Community Centres across the state. 124 receive core Neighbourhood Centre funding.
- Many established in 1970's and have been operating for 30-40 years
- Strong local place-based community development focus, working with citizens from local areas and utilising local networks.
- Links between Neighbourhood Centres grew via Community Development networks in the 1970's-1980's.
- Community Centres and Family Support Network Association Queensland Inc officially formed in 1997.
- Renamed to the Queensland Families and Communities Association in 2013.



Sector Strengths for Disasters

- Longevity and consistency – they exist pre event, during the event and post event.
- Know their local community and geographical area – including where vulnerable populations are situated.
- A wealth of existing networks.
- Build and strengthen community relationships, which are necessary in disaster preparedness and recovery.
- Already building resilience through methods that build community connection and social capital.



Neighbourhood Centres and Disasters



TC Yasi & Brisbane Floods 2011
– Community Support Centre
Innisfail, Benarrawa, Sherwood
Neighbourhood Centre, New
Farm Neighbourhood Centre,
West End Community House,
Acacia Ridge Community
Support



South West Area Network – 17 Centres
Bush Fires 2001
Floods 2010, 2011
Drought 1991-1995, 2001-2009, 2017-
2019



TC Debbie 2017 – Whitsunday
Neighbourhood Centre,
Beauregard (Scenic Rim)



TC Larry 2006 – Community
Support Centre Innisfail,
Tully Support Centre.



Townsville Floods 2019 – North
Townsville Community Hub,
Community Gro, Prospect
Community Services.



Bushfires: Granite Belt
Neighbourhood Centre 2019,
Central Queensland Region 2018.

Neighbourhood Centre Cyclone Responses



TC Debbie: Whitsunday Neighbourhood Centre

- Vouchers for cyclone packs distributed to vulnerable clients BEFORE event.
- Access to Airlie Beach cut – No recovery centre.
- Facilitated Immediate Emergency Relief through local resources including people with no housing.
- Worked with Proserpine Community Centre to deliver \$7500 worth of food and fuel in first 4 days.
- Established donations collection & distribution point with Anglicare. Delivered 10 truck-loads of food and essential supplies over 7 days to isolated areas.
- Community Recovery
 - School Supplies program
 - Advocacy – Insurance & Tenancy Issues



TC Larry & Yasi: Community Support Centre Innisfail

- Concert – Entertainment and preparation to pool resources
- Workshops for mental health, business, community building – tai chi, men's sheds, remembrance plaques, holiday programs, school support.
- Venue for Federal Insurance Inquiry to advocate and learn.
- Rebuild *Social Capital*.

Neighbourhood Centre Flood Responses



Ex TC Debbie – Beaucare

- Resources up north while the Scenic Rim flooded. Supported the area for 6 days until disaster declared.
- Worked with a Uniting Church to set up temporary shelter. Police, Fire & Rescue, Uniting Church and Scenic Rim Regional Council referred all clients to Beaucare as no external support was available.
- Responded to accommodation, day care, food, fencing, power, phone and other issues.
- Established 4 external community hubs to help smaller communities get back on their feet at Rathdowny, Cunungra, Cooralbin and Mount Tamborine. Continue to operate as “mini Neighbourhood Centres”.

Brisbane Floods 2011: Inner City Centres

- Benarrawa, Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre, New Farm Neighbourhood Centre, West End Community House and Acacia Ridge Community Support. Yeronga Evacuation Centre.
- Immediate ER response and volunteers coordinated to outreach to vulnerable groups and distribute donations and information kits.
- Established flood recovery committees and utilised local networks with local stakeholders.

Townsville 2019 – NOTCH and Community Gro

- Neighbourhood Centre to Neighbourhood Centre Support – Maleny Neighbourhood Centre raised funds and donations for North Townsville Community Hub.



Neighbourhood Centre Drought Responses

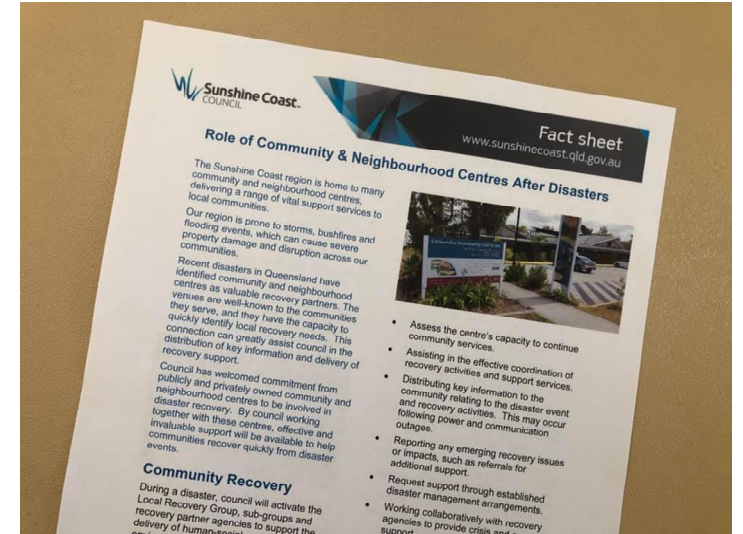


Drought 2017-2019: SWAN and Far West Network

- Not officially a “disaster” but Neighbourhood Centres respond in the same kind of ways - many drought affected centres also deal with floods, dust storms, heatwaves and bush fires.
- Provide emergency relief for food and water but also high electricity costs.
- Provide community activities which not only build community connection and social capital, but reduce mental health issues and suicide.
- Many Neighbourhood Centre workers are also farmers and primary producers.
- Paternalistic responses from external sources is often inappropriate. You can't beat local knowledge and a familiar face.
- Because of a lack of services, Neighbourhood Centres become a 'Recovery Hub' with Centrelink, drought assistance applications, counselling, housing, mental health support and general community assistance.
- Fires - Tara Community Action Team, South West Area Network
- Tara Festival of Culture and Camel Races – Social Capital
- Dress the Central West Wearable Art Project. Collaboration between the Blackall-Tambo Neighbourhood Centre, Red Ridge Interior Queensland, the Central West Hospital and Health Service and the Central West Aboriginal Corporation.

Caloundra Community Centre – Glasshouse Country Disaster Preparation

- Partnership between Neighbourhood Centre, Sunshine Coast Council, QFES & 15 Local Community Groups inc Landcare, Church Groups, Op Shops, Neighbourhood Watch, Sewing Groups.
- Understanding of Council's Disaster Management Plan
- Brainstorm scenarios – Cyclone Oma, Bush Fires, Landslides, Heat Waves, Drought/Water Supply
- Brainstorm Community Resources - volunteers and human resources, equipment – chainsaws, generators, communication methods – internet, walkie talkies, phones



State Wide Neighbourhood Centre Disaster Response Strategy 2020

Phase 1 – Neighbourhood Centre Drought Response (Commenced Sept 2019)

1) Research

- 1) Emergency Relief with Community Focus
- 2) Activities that build social capital
- 3) Focused community development on drought

2) Workshops to present research, enhance, share ideas and develop further work

3) Publish Research and Present Corporate Strategy

Phase 2 – Neighbourhood Centre Monsoon Response (Nov 2019)

Phase 3 – Neighbourhood Centre Bushfire Response (2020)



For More Information

Sector Development Officer: Chris Mundy

Mobile: 0428 130 141

Email: sdo@qfca.org.au

Website: <https://www.qfca.org.au/disaster-resilience>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NeighbourhoodCentresQld>

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