

## UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT

- Successful recovery is based on an understanding of the community context. Recovery should:
- appreciate the risks faced by communities;
- acknowledge existing strengths and capacity, including past experiences;
- be culturally sensitive and free from discrimination;
- recognise and respect differences; and
- support those who may be more vulnerable; such as people with disabilities, the elderly, children and those directly affected.

## RECOGNISING COMPLEXITY

- Successful recovery acknowledges the complex and dynamic nature of emergencies and communities. Recovery should recognise that:
- information on impacts is limited at first and changes over time;
- affected individuals and communities have diverse needs, wants and expectations, which are needs of all affected communities;
- seek to address the needs of all affected communities, families and individuals to address their own recovery; and
- consider the values, culture and priorities of all affected communities; use and develop community knowledge, leadership and resilience; recognise that communities may choose different paths to recovery; ensure that the specific and changing needs of affected communities are met with flexible and adaptable policies, plans and services; and
- build strong partnerships and those involved in the recovery process.
- Existing community knowledge and values may challenge the assumptions of those outside the community.

## USING COMMUNITY-LED APPROACHES

- Successful recovery is responsive and flexible, a planned, coordinated and adaptive approach based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs. Recovery should:
- centre on the community, empowering them to move forward. Recovery should:
- be guided by those with experience and expertise, using skilled and trusted leadership;
- reflect well-developed planning and information gathering;
- demonstrate an understanding of the roles, responsibilities and authority of other organisations and coordinate across agencies to ensure minimal service disruption; be part of an emergency management approach that integrates with response and contributes to future prevention and preparedness; be inclusive, using relationships created before and after the emergency; have clearly articulated and shared goals based on desired outcomes;
- use and develop community knowledge, leadership and resilience; recognise that communities may choose different paths to recovery; ensure that the specific and changing needs of affected communities are met with flexible and adaptable policies, plans and services; and
- build strong partnerships and those involved in the recovery process.

## ENSURING COORDINATION OF ALL ACTIVITIES

- Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated and adaptive approach based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs. Recovery should:
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- use and develop community knowledge, leadership and resilience; recognise that communities may choose different paths to recovery; ensure that the specific and changing needs of affected communities are met with flexible and adaptable policies, plans and services; and
- build strong partnerships and those involved in the recovery process.

## EMPLOYING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

- Successful recovery is built on effective communication recognises, supports and builds on community, individual and organisational capacity. Recovery should:
- assess gaps between existing and required capability and capacity; support the development of self-reliance; quickly identify and mobilise community skills and resources;
- acknowledge that existing resources will be stretched, and that additional resources may be required;
- recognise that resources can be provided by a range of stakeholders; understand that additional resources may be available for a limited period, and that sustainability may need to be addressed;
- provide opportunities to share, transfer and develop knowledge, skills and training;
- understand when and how to disengage; and
- develop networks and partnerships to strengthen capacity.

## ACKNOWLEDGING CAPACITY

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## NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

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Disaster recovery is part of emergency management, which includes the broader components of prevention, preparedness and response. Planning for recovery is integral to emergency preparation and mitigation actions may often be initiated as part of recovery.

Disaster recovery includes physical, environmental and economic elements, as well as psychosocial wellbeing.

Recovery can provide an opportunity to improve these aspects beyond previous conditions, by enhancing social and natural environments, infrastructure and economies – contributing to a more resilient community.

**The relationship between the principles.**  
*Whilst all are equally part of ensuring effective recovery, the understanding of the context and the recognition of complexity are seen as foundation factors. The paragraphs overleaf describe all six principles in more detail.*



### SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY RELIES ON:

- understanding the **context**.
- recognising **complexity**.
  - using **community-led** approaches.
  - ensuring **coordination** of all activities.
- employing effective **communication**.
- acknowledging and building **capacity**.



Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council

### PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT



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## **SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY RELIES ON:**

- **understanding the *context*:**

Successful recovery is based on an understanding of the community context.

- **recognising *complexity*:**

Successful recovery acknowledges the complex and dynamic nature of emergencies and communities.

- **using *community*-led approaches:**

Successful recovery is responsive and flexible, engaging communities and empowering them to move forward.

- **ensuring *coordination* of all activities:**

Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated and adaptive approach based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs.

- **employing effective *communication*:**

Successful recovery is built on effective communication with affected communities and other stakeholders.

- **acknowledging and building *capacity*:**

Successful recovery recognises, supports and builds on community, individual and organisational capacity.

