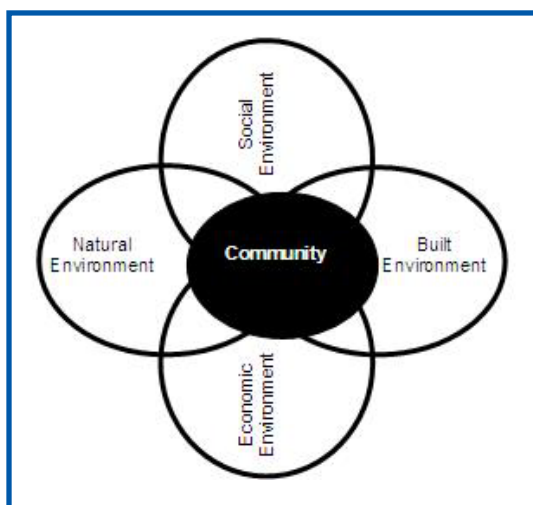


Recovering from a Pandemic – a joint approach to support our communities

Emergency events, such as a pandemic, result in consequences that affect individuals, communities, regions and nations depending on the scale and seriousness of the event. All such events require that government, and other organisations, consider not only their immediate response to the event but also how they will support and facilitate community recovery from the emergency.

In planning for a pandemic in New Zealand, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management is working with the Ministry of Health, and other organisations, to consider how best to support communities in the recovery phase of a pandemic. The notes below provide an overview of the recovery approach and the recovery planning underway.

In the New Zealand context, recovery is defined as: *The coordinated efforts and processes to effect the immediate, medium and long term holistic regeneration of a community following a disaster.*



After a pandemic, affected communities will depend on an effective and efficient recovery process. Recovery is a complex social process and is best achieved when the affected community exercises a high degree of self-determination. Recovery extends well beyond restoring physical assets or providing welfare services. Successful recovery recognises that both communities and individuals have a wide and variable range of recovery needs and that recovery is only successful where all needs are addressed in a coordinated way.

Recovery from a pandemic is a process that will certainly last years - possibly decades. Organisations involved in recovery will need to recognise the commitment required to resource it (both human and material) as well as the provision of business

as usual services during medium and long term recovery.

A holistic and integrated framework is needed to consider the multi-faceted aspects of recovery which, when combined, support the foundations of community sustainability (see figure). The framework encompasses the community and the four environments: social, economic, natural and built. Recovery activity (the central oval in black) demonstrates the integration between the community and the four environments.

Recovery is a developmental and a remedial process encompassing the following activities:

- Minimising the escalation of the consequences of the disaster;
- Regeneration of the social, emotional, economic and physical well-being of individuals within communities
- Taking opportunities to adapt to meet the social, economic, natural and built environments future needs; and
- Reducing future exposure to hazards and their associated risks.

The establishment of recovery activity begins immediately after the impact of an event and works in parallel with response activities.

Work in recovery over the last years has led to the development of several key 'Cornerstones of Recovery'. These should be kept in mind when considering the recovery process:

- Recovery is a short, medium and long-term process
- Recovery starts on day 1 of response
- Recovery is a holistic concept, embracing all needs of the community
- Recovery is an integral part of the '4Rs' and all hazards approach
- Recovery addresses the consequences of emergencies
- Recovery encompasses the community and four environments
- Recovery is a process of regeneration - in practice this means that 'things will never be the same'.

Recovery in Exercise Cruickshank



The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management has supported the Ministry of Health in the development of the recovery comment of Exercise Cruickshank.

As part of the Exercise, recovery workshops are being held on May 23rd (DHB and IPG Workgroups) and May 30th (National Recovery Workshop, to combine discussions from workshops on the 23rd). Information about these workshops is contained in the exercise coordinating instructions, and detailed questions for the workshops are being distributed to participants.

The recovery workshops will play an important role in the ongoing development of a recovery action plan for pandemic in New Zealand.

For further reading in this area there are two resources available on the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management's website (www.civildefence.govt.nz search under publications).

- Recovery Management - Director's Guideline for CDEM Groups [DGL 4/05]
- Focus on Recovery 2004

For any general inquiries about recovery, please contact Sara Williams at the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (04) 473 7363.

National Health Coordination Centre



Members of the National Health Coordination Team at orientation in late April

The Ministry of Health will be coordinating the response from their emergency operations centre – the National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC) – on Exercise Cruickshank days 1, 2 and 3.

The NHCC is able to accommodate 20 members of the National Health Coordination Team and a number of liaison officers from other agencies. A

lot of work has gone into the functionality of the NHCC since exercise Makgill in November 2006. The NHCC has been designed to maximise the capability of the team, while also ensuring social distancing can be maintained throughout a pandemic response.

WebEOC

The Ministry of Health has procured an electronic Emergency Management System, called WebEOC, to enable the health sector to function in an effective, efficient and coordinated manner in a major health emergency. This system allows the rapid and accurate transmission of information across the health sector, as well as to other government departments.

WebEOC will be used to pass Situation Reports and other forms, rather than via e-mail. It will display geographic information at the direction of the Incident Controller, live TV feeds and current information about the response. It won't make you a cup of tea, but it should give you more time to leave your desk to go and grab one!

This is an entirely new capability, but work is progressing well, which means that Exercise Cruickshank will be the perfect opportunity to test and refine it. Users will be able to access it for training from Wednesday 2 May. WebEOC can be accessed at www.aireoc.com/nzmoh. User IDs and passwords will be available with the training package.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on this newsletter and on anything and everything to do with the Pandemic Exercise Programme.

If you know of any innovative and creative approaches to pandemic planning in your region we would love to publish them in upcoming issues.

Please feel free to e-mail us on: birdflu@moh.govt.nz

Upcoming Events

1 May 2007

Teleconference briefings with Evaluators and Facilitators
11.30am - National agencies
2pm - Northern and Midland DHB Regions

2 May 2007

Teleconference briefings with Evaluators and Facilitators
10am - Central and Southern DHB Regions

10 May 2007

Cruickshank 1 'Keep it Out'

14 May 2007

Teleconference briefings with Evaluators and Facilitators
10am - National agencies
2pm - Northern and Midland DHB Regions

15 May 2007

Teleconference briefings with Evaluators and Facilitators
10am - Central and Southern DHB Regions

16 and 17 May 2007

Cruickshank 2 and 3
'Stamp it Out' and 'Manage It'

21 May 2007

Teleconference briefings with Facilitators only
10am - National agencies
2pm - Northern and Midland DHB Regions

22 May 2007

Teleconference briefings with Facilitators only
10am - Central and Southern DHB Regions

23 May 2007

Cruickshank 4
Local and national agency Recovery workshops

30 May 2007

Cruickshank 5
National Recovery workshop



MANATŪ HAUORA