CS45: NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

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DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Presenting Author: None to declare.

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Generic Emergency and Disaster Management Standards (GEDMS)

Context

• Tertiary education plays a key role in developing capabilities within the workforce, leading to more effective emergency and disaster management
• Recognised need for evidence-based curriculum design informed by industry needs

Aim

• To develop a framework for higher education programs in emergency and disaster management for Australia.

Cooperation

• GEDMS were developed through the involvement of 34 interdisciplinary experts from government & non-government organisations and academic institutions in Australia, New Zealand, USA, UK
**Methods**

**Step 1**
- A detailed analysis of the current university programs in Australia and subsequent thematic analysis and consolidation.

**Step 2**
- A comprehensive literature review to identify graduate competencies and recommendations for course contents.

**Step 3**
- Five focus groups to inform the analysis and guide their consolidation.

**Step 4**
- Two rounds of feedback, involving those who participated in the focus groups and a smaller number of individuals who expressed their interest to be involved.

**Step 5**
- One day consultation with the industry to validate the findings of the research and to ensure the appropriateness of their utility and application.
Philosophical basis of the GEDMS

• All disaster management is **local and community based**
• Focus on the **shared understanding** required to work cooperatively
• **Focus on Australian environment** (but recognise a need to work across various communities and cultures)
• Focus on **core knowledge**
• Take a **comprehensive view** that recognises the mitigation impact of strategies such as land use planning, public health protections and building construction standards
• Will require **continual review and updating**.
Relationship between core and specific expertise (knowledge and skills)
Domains of the Generic Emergency and Disaster Management Standards

- Governance and policy frameworks
- Theoretical and conceptual basis for practice
- Contemporary disaster management

Skills:
- Leadership
- Communication
- Collaboration

Critical thinking

Professional practice
Example

1.1 Governance and policy frameworks

1.1.1 Theory and principles that underpin disaster policy
- Ethical principles in DM
- Information management and data protection
- Equity of access and allocation of resources
- Reflection of culture, sociology and religion
- Application of political theory to DM
- Application of public administrative principles to DM

1.1.2 EDM policy and legislation within the complex organisational and governance arrangements
- Legislative frameworks, legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines
- International, national, regional and local policy frameworks such as those derived from contemporary initiatives (e.g. Sendai framework for risk reduction)
- Policy advocacy, development and evaluation, e.g. processes and strategies of policy development as they apply to DM
Future steps

1. Further consultation to validate the GEDMS & its acceptability
2. Endorsement of the standards by an ‘appropriate authority’
3. Inclusion of the standards on an appropriate website and/or the Knowledge Hub
4. Consideration of how these standards inter-relate with vocational training programs
5. Review of university programs against these standards
6. Establishment of the education and training consortium.

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