



WADEM Oceania Communique - Aug. 2018

Hello and welcome to the WADEM Oceania Communique. The aim of this communication is to provide short summary of key information and activities occurring in the Oceania region.

International Day for Disaster Reduction - 13 October 2018

International Day for Disaster Reduction, 13 October 2018, focuses on reducing economic losses from disasters related to Target 3 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (substantially reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product GDP).

In the last decade, 259 disasters were recorded in Oceania with a reported cost impact of \$68,858,748 (USD). Whilst storm was the most frequent disaster type (88 events) the 2011 earthquakes in New Zealand at a reported cost of \$18,000,000 (USD) had the greatest economic impact of all reported events. 2009 and 2015 experienced the highest rates of disasters in Oceania (18 events per year) in the last decade.

It is notable that only 40% of events had a reported economic cost. This highlights that the reported economic impact is most likely significantly underestimated and underpins the importance of WADEM's most recent position statement advocating the importance of accurately reported public health data in disasters - <https://wadem.org/about/position-statements>.

EM-DAT: The Emergency Events Database - Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) - CRED, www.emdat.be, Brussels, Belgium.

Oceania Disasters 2018 (Year-to-Date)

Year	Country	Disaster type	Total deaths	Injured	Total affected
2018	Kiribati	Transport accident	80		7
2018	Papua New Guinea	Earthquake	125	300	143,300
2018	Papua New Guinea	Volcanic activity			557
2018	Samoa	Storm			
2018	Tonga	Storm			87,000

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**WADEM Oceania Chapter 10-Year Anniversary
27 -29 November 2018 - Melbourne, Australia**

The Oceania Chapter of WADEM celebrates its first 10 years in November 2018. To celebrate this milestone, the Oceania Chapter will be co-hosting the first Southern Hemisphere Evidence Aid training program at Monash in November.

Monash will also feature the 13th Annual Professor Frederick 'Skip' Burkle Keynote Lecture during the Evidence Aid program. This year Professor Paul Montgomery from Birmingham University will lead the Evidence Aid programs at Monash and deliver this year's Burkle Lecture. An outline of the two training programs and the course leader are as follows:

An Introduction to Systematic Reviews in the Humanitarian Sector

Monash University

27 November 2018

Course Outline: Building on twenty years' experience as a systematic reviewer, on a wide range of topics across many settings, Professor Paul Montgomery will run this one-day Evidence Aid course to place systematic reviews in the context of disasters and the provision of humanitarian aid. The course will provide learning and practical experience in a small group setting for many aspects of systematic reviewing. These include question formulation and eligibility criteria, searching for eligible material, data extraction, analysis, and reporting. Examples relevant to the humanitarian sector will be used to illustrate key points and participants should leave the course feeling more comfortable about embarking on their own systematic review and when using reviews for decision making.

Evaluating Complex Humanitarian Interventions – Utilising Evidence-based Approaches

Monash University

28-29 November 2018

Course Outline: Humanitarian interventions are invariably complex and this course will aim to teach how to utilise evidence-based approaches to evaluate them. Through 8 sessions (*see details below*) the course, run by Professor Paul Montgomery, will equip participants with up-to-date research and best practices in evaluation skills and how these can be applied to the humanitarian and non-profit sectors. This includes covering aspects on question formulation, use of systematic reviewing, study designs (including randomised controlled trials), implementation and how to develop theories of change. Given the nature of most humanitarian interventions, it is challenging to establish with certainty what interventions 'work' and how to optimise existing practices.

This course will teach participants how to work with 'complexity' and what aspects to consider when developing or appraising humanitarian interventions. Session 1 will introduce the concept of evidence-based practice and systematic reviewing with a focus on interventions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Session 2 will address how to conduct and evaluate evaluations with high quality studies. Session 3 will cover and discuss the practical and ethical issues of evaluating different types of humanitarian interventions. Session 4 will elaborate on what tools and practices can be applied to measure the impact of interventions in complex settings with a focus on 'how-to'.

Sessions 5 and 6 will discuss the concept of 'complexity' and demonstrate how complex interventions can be meaningfully investigated by developing 'theories of change'. In Session 7, the issue of implementation and context will be addressed with a focus on how to balance programme fidelity with local adaptation. Lastly, Session 8 will elaborate on different types of trial (e.g. realist, pragmatic) and cover alternative methods.

Course leader: Professor Montgomery works in the methods and conduct of rigorous evaluations of effects of a wide variety of interventions, actions and strategies. He is Professor of Social Intervention at the University of Birmingham as well as an Editor for the Cochrane Collaboration. He also teaches reviewing and evaluation skills for policy and practice not only in the UK but across the world.

Over the last 20 years, Paul has become a leading figure in the area of complex interventions and has published a large number of trials and studies of different designs both in lower- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and in the global north. Currently, Paul is also a member of the Cross Whitehall Trials Panel for the UK Cabinet Office which seeks to deliver best quality evidence for policymakers.

21st WADEM Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine 7 -10 May 2019 – Brisbane, Australia

The 21st biennial World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) Congress will take place from 7-10 May 2019 in Australia's third-largest city of Brisbane. Co-hosted by the Queensland University of Technology, the Congress aims to provide another innovative and dynamic scientific program in memorable Australia. The Congress will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, voted the world's best convention centre in 2016, nestled in the heart of a thriving riverside cultural, dining, and entertainment hub.

With a theme of "The Future" the Congress will challenge the thinking of more than 600 international participants drawn from all continents and from all areas of health care and emergency management. The Congress will include over 30 tracks with high profile international and local speakers as well as a range of interactive and innovative sessions designed to maximize the congress experience for participants and create a legacy for the future.

Specific focus will be on:

- Future risks,
- The future community,
- Future solutions, and
- Future thinking.

2019 is an important year in disaster health practice for our region as we are hosting the conference. We encourage as many chapter members to attend and participate as possible. We would also encourage members to submit abstracts to the conference and hope to see research in Oceania well represented within the program.

The abstract submission guidelines and overview are available at the following URL - <https://wadem2019.org/call-for-abstracts.php>.

Submit an Abstract!

Oceania Conference Update

- The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience will host the inaugural Australian Disaster Resilience Conference (ADRC) in Perth, Western Australia from **6-7 September 2018**, further details can be found at - <https://aidr.org.au/programs/australian-disaster-resilience-conference/>.
- International Conference for Emergency Nurses 2018; Melbourne, Australia; **10-12 October 2018**
Abstracts due: **13 June 2018**. further details can be found at - <http://2018.icen.com.au>.
- The APCDM2018 (14th Asia-Pacific Conference on Disaster Medicine) will be held on **16-18 October 2018** at Sea-side Villa Maiko Hotel, Kobe, Japan. The abstract submission date has been extended, further details can be found at - <http://www.apcdm2018.org/>.
- College of Emergency Nurses NZ Conference (CENNZ) 2018 'Connected'. **26-27 October 2018**, Napier, Hawkes Bay, NZ Abstracts due **31 May**. Further details can be found at - <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=2224319>.
- Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM) Asia Pacific Conference 2018; Wellington, NZ, **5-7 Nov 2018**. Further details can be found at - www.iscramasiapacific2018.co.nz.

Oceania Education Update

Queensland University of Technology provides a four unit program in Disaster Management which fulfils the requirements of a Graduate Certificate in Disaster Management. These units are also available for individual study as professional development units. During second Semester 2018, two courses will be available for professional development.

- Disaster Response and Recovery: This course is a two-day block intensive conducted on **Thursday 20 and Friday 21 September 2018**.
- Leadership in Disaster Management: This course is a one week block intensive from the **15-19 October 2018**.

For further information please contact Prof. Gerry Fitzgerald - gj.fitzgerald@qut.edu.au - or Kym Adkinson at - ph_shortcourses@qut.edu.au.

The AIDR website has a list of educational courses, further details can be found at - <https://aidr.org.au/programs/scholarships-for-volunteers/>.

The following link relates to weekly reporting on the national flu scene in New Zealand - <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-services/consultancy/flu-surveillance-and-research>.

A free website for planning and response coordination for Primary Health and Community Pharmacies can be found at - www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz.