

Are we Ready?

{ Nursing Preparedness for Natural
{ Disaster Health Implications

Nyree Parker
Melbourne Australia
Member WADEN Nursing Chapter

All Nurses are Disaster Nurses!

{ Are we?



Wildlife killed, euthanised in River
Murray floods | The Advertiser

My Story



Photos: A January Heat Wave in Australia - The Atlantic

Thunderstorm Asthma



[Asthma attack: Thunderstorm asthma kills four in Melbourne, hospitalizes hundreds - TomoNews](#)

Vulnerable



[Subscribe to The Australian | Newspaper home delivery, website, iPad, iPhone & Android apps](#)

Awareness



'Devastating': more than 61,000 koalas
among 3 billion animals affected by
bushfire crisis

Literature

- Literature review
 - key words - disaster/ nursing/ climate change/health
- Many papers on nursing preparedness covering all kinds of disaster events.
- Few papers addressing nurses' perceptions on the concept of climate change within normal code of practice.
- Even fewer focused on disaster nursing and the implications of climate change



[Australia: After the bushfires - Wildlife in the face of fires | The UNESCO Courier](#)

Duty of Care



Technology



Smiling 'hug me' quokka in Australia is Instagram's latest darling | The Straits Times

What path is nursing on?



Australian Land and Wildlife at Risk Amid
Environmental Deterioration

Education and Training



[Animal Studies and Courses | Taronga Conservation Society Australia](#)

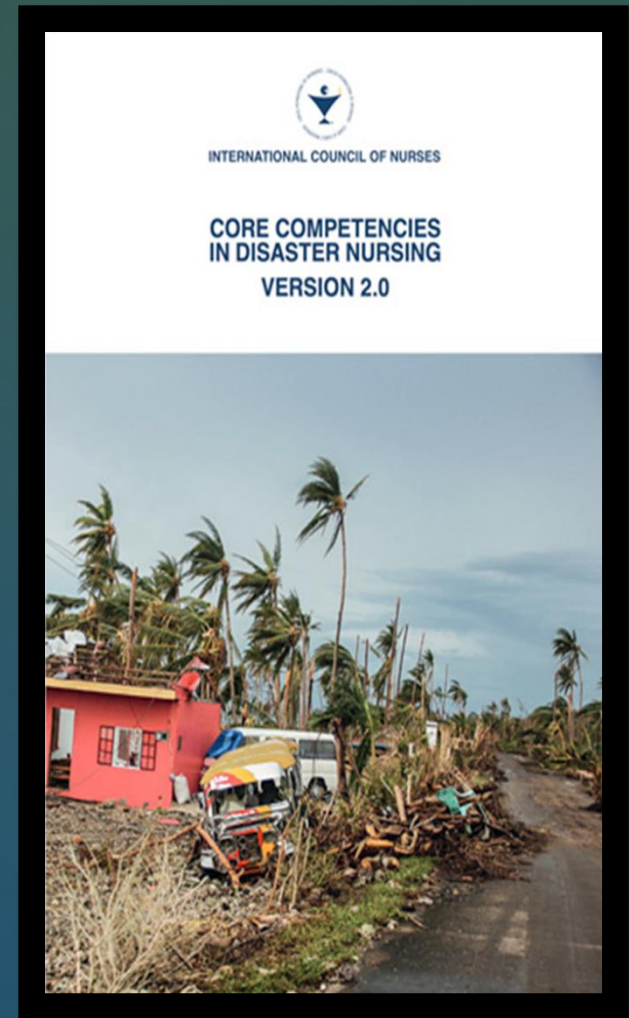
The devil is in the details



10 rare animals commonly
seen in Australia | Times of
India

Competencies

- General Professional Nurse
- Advanced / Specialized Nurse
- 8 Domains
 1. Preparation and Planning
 2. Communication
 3. Incident Management
 4. Safety and Security
 5. Assessment
 6. Intervention
 7. Recovery
 8. Law and Ethics



ICNs Position Statements



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES
Position Statement



Nurses and disaster risk reduction, response and recovery



ICN
International
Council of Nurses

Position Statement

Nurses, climate change and health

Teaching our young



[New Report: Unique Aussie wildlife threatened by climate change](#)

Planetary Health

Developing sustainable and healthy cities

- Active travel/ Public transport
- Reduced fine particulate air pollution
- Green spaces, biodiversity reduced heat island and mental health benefits
- Watershed conservation
- Access to healthy food
- Increased resilience to floods, storms and droughts



[Crazy parrots in Australia | Travel and Keep Fit by Alex Jaskolowska](#)

[You Tube - Linking Planetary and Human Health with Prof. Tony Capon](#)

UN Sustainable Goals

Disaster Risk Reduction

Goals – 3, 11, 13, 14, 15.

3. Good Health and Wellbeing

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

13. Climate Action

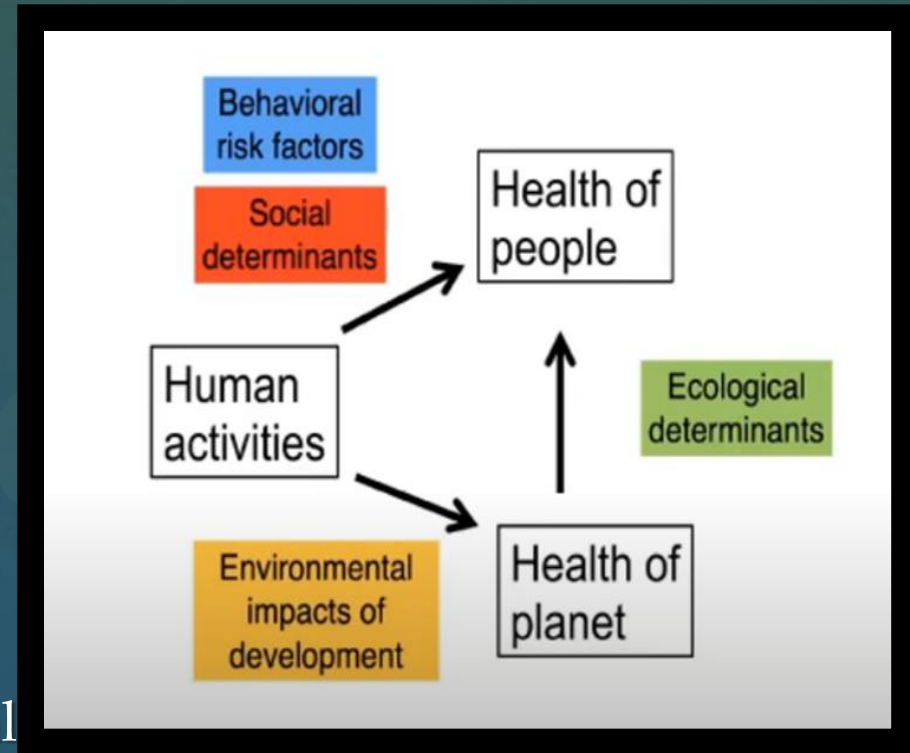
14. Life Below Water

15. Life on Land



Determinates of Health

- Need approach disasters from a eco-social approach as well as a bio-medical approach.
- Acknowledging the interdependence of mankind during disasters
- Intergenerational health equity – currently missing
- Indigenous and local knowledge – value the knowhow of local people
- Summary - Bring 'planetary consciousness' into everyday life, and socio-economic and commercial systems. – integrative practice need to think about the planet not just its people.



Prof. Tony Capon [Linking Planetary and Human Health with Prof. Tony Capon](#)

Health Implications

Disasters and Risk Outcomes

- Morbidity
- Mortality
- Impact on infrastructure
- Hospital surge
- Changes in disease transmission risks
- Psychological effects
- Sociological effects
- Economic effects
- Nutrition - malnutrition
- Population movements



[A koala named Paul from Lake Innes Nature Reserve recovers from his... News Photo - Getty Images](#)

Leaps And Bounds



Progressive Change

↳ National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards

Drafting the *Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Healthcare Module*

↳ Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care:

National Health and Climate Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2028.

↳ Department of Families, Fairness & Housing (DFFH) & Department of Health - Emergency Management Branch

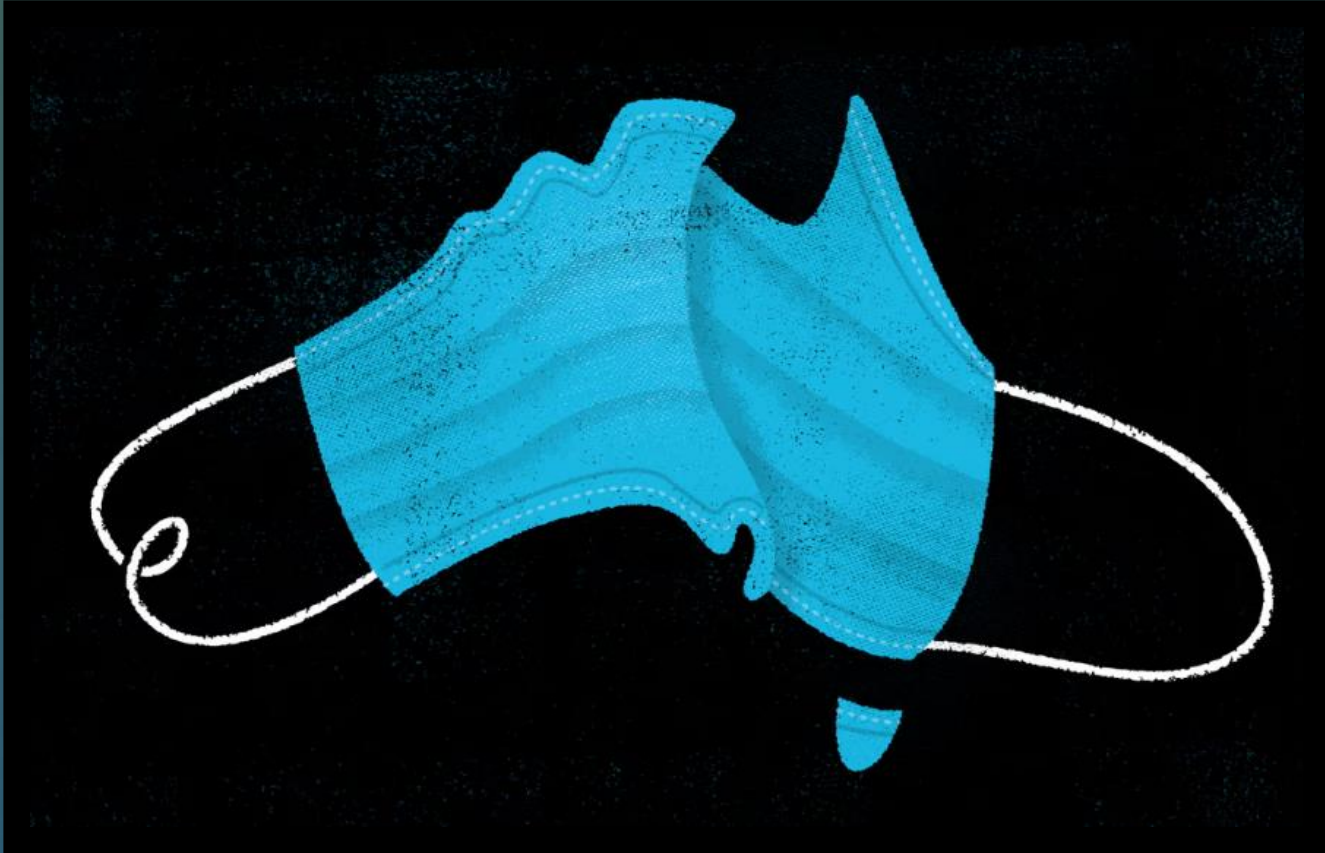
Annual Summer Preparedness Forums – 2024.



↳



Lessons Learnt



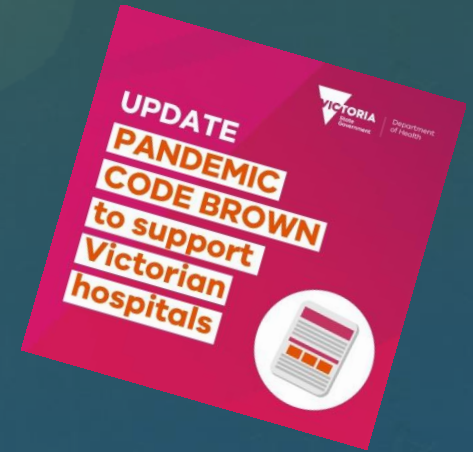
[Australia's 10,000 deaths and the paradox of 'Covid normal' | Health | The Guardian](#)

The Health Implications

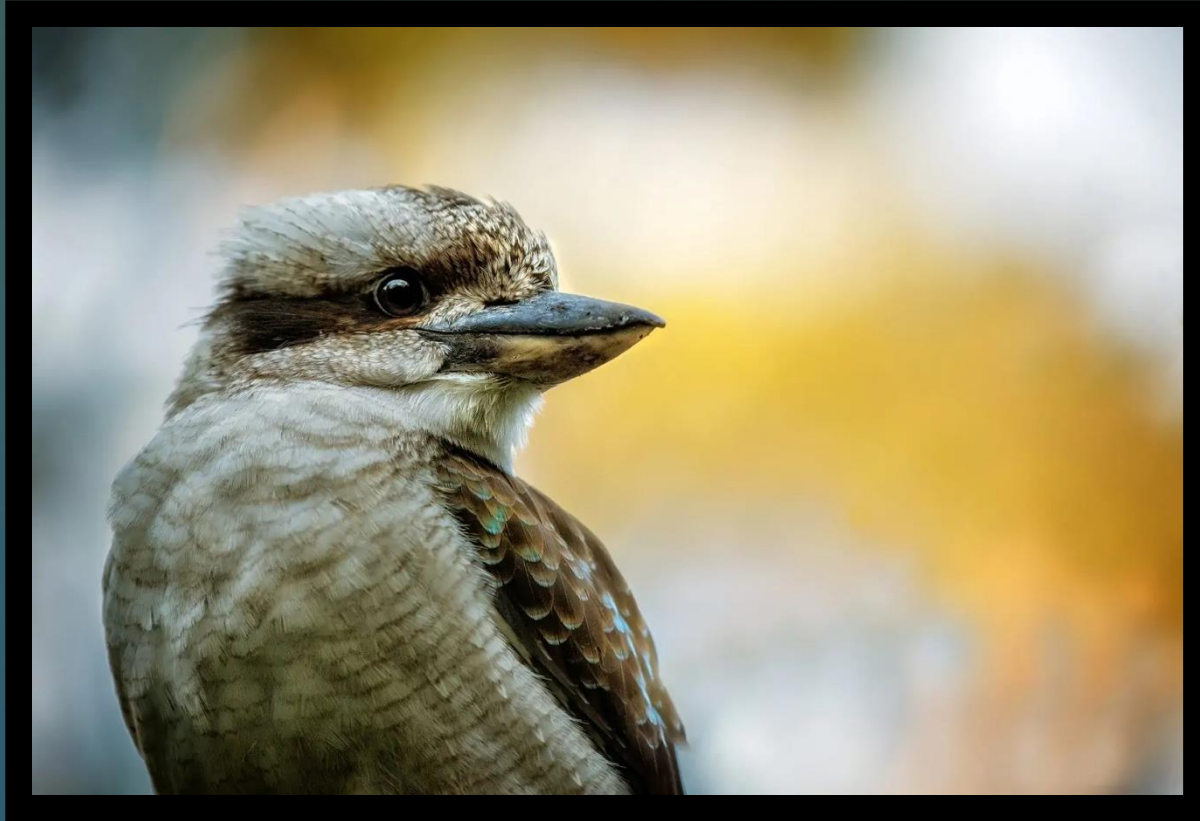
& What has the recent pandemic taught us?

& Appropriate Clinical Care

- Ensuring the provision of appropriate and adequate medical care to victims through the development and dissemination of diagnostic and treatment protocols
- Supply chain consequences
- Workforce requirements
- The need for Adaptation
- Need to be multi skilled – just in time learning
- Workforce numbers
- Psychological impacts on HCW
- Altered standards of care
- Manage resource allocation and patient distribution
- Constantly evaluate is key during disaster response activities
- Rapid needs assessments – often regarded as “quick and dirty” are as important as post-event analyses and should be implemented frequently.



Our Communities are watching



Australian Wildlife: A Symphony of Adaptation in the
Face of Climate Change | Earth Endeavours

Are we asleep at the wheel?



Captive audience: Locked down Australians tune into zoo life |
Coronavirus pandemic News | Al Jazeera

The new norm



Australia's Endangered Animals

Spread the word



[21 Australian animals ideas | australian animals, animals, pet birds](#)

Shift paradigms



[Visit Us - Featherdale Sydney Wildlife Park](#)
Penguins

On the move



<https://i0.wp.com/www.australiangeographic.com.au/>
Wombat in the snow

Resilience



Australian Platypus :: Trovan

Are All Nurses Disaster Nurses!

{ Are we Ready?



[A koala named Paul from Lake Innes Nature Reserve
being treated for... News Photo - Getty Images](#)

References

- ‡ Lokmic-Tomkins, Z., Block, L. J., Davies, S., Reid L., Ronquillo, C. E., Gerich, H.V., & Peltonen, L. M. (2023). Evaluating the representation of disaster hazards in SNOMED CT: gaps and opportunities. *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*, 30(11), 1762-1772. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jamia/ocad153>
- ‡ O'Brien, G., O'Keefe, P., Rose, J., & Wisner, B. (2006). Climate change and disaster management. *Disasters*, 30(1), 64-80. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00307.x>
- ‡ Ranse, J., Hammad, K., & Ranse, K. (2013). Future considerations for Australian Nurses and their disaster educational preparedness: a discussion. *The Australian Journal of Emergency Management*, 28(4), 49-53.
- ‡ Teague, B., McLeod, R., Pascoe, S. (2010). 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Final Report Summary. 2009 VBRC – Final Report – Vic – Inquiries and Royal Commissions. Government Printer for the State of Victoria PP no.332- Session 2006-10. royalcommission.vic.gov.au/Commission-Report/Final-Report.html
- ‡ UNPD. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (2015). <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>
- ‡ Usher, K., & Mayner, L. (2011). Disaster nursing: a descriptive survey of Australian undergraduate nursing curricula. *Australasian Emergency Nursing Journal*, 14, 75-80.
- ‡ Veenema T. G. (2018). *Disaster Nursing and Emergency Preparedness Chemical, Biological and Radiological terrorism and other Hazards* (4th Ed.). Springer Publishing Company.
- ‡ Veenema, T.G., Thornton, C. P., Lavin, R. P., Bender, A. K., Seal, S., Corley, A. (2017). Climate Change- Related Water Disasters' Impact on Population Health. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jnu.12328>.