



Action Plan: Disaster preparedness, response and recovery

2025



Background

Between 2019 and 2024, South Eastern NSW has been affected by over 20 disaster declarations. Every LGA in the Primary Health Network (PHN) region has been severely impacted by either bushfires, flooding, severe weather, or storms. Coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, general practice teams, Aboriginal Medical Services and other primary care services, along with the communities they serve, have become increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters and public health emergencies.

The primary responsibility for responding to disasters or pandemics lies with government agencies, which act as the first responders within their respective jurisdictions. The PHN's role, extends across all phases of a crisis - before, during, and after - to support essential services and ensure equitable access to health care.

The objectives and actions within this plan outline the PHN's commitment to fostering an effective and coordinated '**one health system**' ensuring continuity and access to health care and contributing to the resilience of the health care system.

Objectives

1

Build upon local and regional partnerships to achieve a coordinated health preparedness, response, and recovery to/from emergencies.

2

Enhance the resilience of primary care organisations in South Eastern NSW and their communities.

3

Ensure COORDINARE's processes contribute to efficient and effective emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

Actions

1.1

Working in partnership with the two Local Health Districts (LHDs), facilitate input of the primary health care voice into Local and Regional Emergency Management Committees in South Eastern NSW.

1.2

Facilitate linkages that support primary care and evacuation/recovery centres to work together to meet the needs of the community.

2.1

Work with primary care organisations to improve their preparedness and ability to maintain health services during and after an emergency.

2.2

Assist primary care organisations in identifying and providing appropriate support that empowers the community to be well prepared and resilient to emergencies.

3.1

Ensure procurement processes remain fit-for-purpose allowing organisational agility to assess needs and provide funding appropriately to communities in need.

3.2

Attract and facilitate emergency preparedness and response funding and other supports for primary care in South Eastern NSW.

3.3

Communicate relevant and timely information that raises awareness of, supports the response to, and reduces the impact from, potential or actual emergencies.