# HEALTHY & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Increasing community resilience to withstand major social and health challenges.

| OUTCOME 1 | OUTCOME 2 | OUTCOME 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Increased cross-sector collaborations, strengthening community resilience to extreme weather and disasters. | Increased capacity of health organisations to respond to the health impacts of climate change. | Reduced discrimination and inequality that undermine resilience. |

*To access in-depth information about the other outcomes in the Healthy & Resilient Communities Impact Area, visit **lmcf.org.au/our-impact/healthy-resilient-communities***

## Challenge

**The changing climate has increased the frequency of extreme weather and natural disasters.**

As climate change makes weather patterns more extreme and unpredictable, Australia has experienced an increase in frequency and intensity of large-scale natural disasters including catastrophic bushfires, wide-spread flooding, severe storms and devastating droughts.[1] Melbourne's urban-fringe communities are among the most vulnerable in the world to bushfire hazards.[2] Melbourne is one of Australia's most dangerous cities to live in during heatwaves, with 1,283 people dying due to heat related illnesses between 2001 and 2015.[3] Victoria has experienced two-thirds of civilian deaths and half of the economic losses caused by disasters.[4]

All levels of government are focused on building community resilience to extreme weather and natural disasters:

- The Australian Government is signatory to the United Nations' *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* which outlines the principles and actions for reducing disaster risk and increasing resilience.[5] The *Sendai Framework* is synergised with United Nations' *Sustainable Development Goals*.[6]

- In late 2017, The Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs established the *National Resilience Taskforce* focused on natural disasters.

- The *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience* (2011) was developed by the National Emergency Management Committee (NEMC) and adopted by Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

- Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) has developed the *Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management* providing the foundation for the emergency management sector to work with communities to plan for, respond to and recover from chronic stresses and acute shocks.[7]

- Victoria's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) *Community Services Climate Resilience Program* seeks to build the capacity of funded

# HEALTHY & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Increasing community resilience to withstand major social and health challenges.

organisations to understand natural disaster and climate change risks and plan to effectively address them.

- Melbourne was one of the first cities around the world to join the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Network.[8] Resilient Melbourne is a partnership between local governments across Greater Melbourne to support the city to withstand and adapt to chronic stresses and acute shocks.[9]

**Community resilience is tested in instances of extreme weather and natural disasters.**

This government effort acknowledges that the increase in extreme weather and natural disasters brought about by climate change will continue to test the capabilities of communities to respond to and withstand these events. Factors determining how people are impacted by disasters include gender, socio-economic status, mobility, age, disability, location and English language skills.[10] Extreme weather and disasters can heighten inequalities, exacerbate poverty and risk factors. It is therefore critical that community resilience is addressed using a health equity approach. The changing nature of work, loss of local social networks and the challenge of ensuring the sustainability of volunteer groups are additional factors that increase a community's vulnerability to disaster.[11]

Resilient communities are considered those that understand their strengths and vulnerabilities and invest time and resources into building strong local-level networks, information-sharing and community connections.[12] This work requires community-based and social service organisations to be key actors in building resilience to extreme weather and natural disasters. It is these organisations that work with and have trusted relationships with people who experience disadvantage or marginalisation who are also disproportionately affected by extreme weather and disasters.[13]

# HEALTHY & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Increasing community resilience to withstand major social and health challenges.

## Our Response

Through sustained engagement with government and the not-for-profit sector, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has identified a gap in resourcing community-based and social service organisation to collaborate with government, emergency services and health organisations to implement community-based initiatives that plan for respond to and support recovery from extreme weather and natural disasters.

**The Foundation's support is focused on:**

- **Broad community and cross-sector engagement to increase knowledge of the key determinants of community resilience.**
- **Strengthening and defining the important role of community-based and social service organisations in building community resilience.**
- **Cross-sector collaborations to plan for and respond to extreme weather and disasters, with a focus on vulnerable communities and individuals most at risk.**

**The Foundation will consider other activities that address this outcome.**

## Contact

Harriet McCallum

Senior Program Manager – Healthy & Resilient Communities
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

☏      03 9633 0043

✉      harriet.mccallum@lmcf.org.au

# HEALTHY & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Increasing community resilience to withstand major social and health challenges.

## Endnotes

[1] Council of Australian Governments , *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience: Building the resilience of our nation to disasters* (2011) p.IV, https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/2153/nationalstrategyfordisasterresilience.pdf

[2] Buxton, M., Haynes, R., Mercer, D. & Butt, A. (2011*) Vulnerability to bushfire risk at Melbourne's urban fringe: The failure of regulatory land use planning*, Geographical Research, 49, p 1-12

[3] Longden, T (2018), *Measuring temperature-related mortality using endogenously determined thresholds*, Climatic Change, 150 (3-4), pp 343.

[4] The Climate Council, C*ranking up the Intensity: Climate change and Extreme Weather Events* (2017), https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/1b331044fb03fd0997c4a4946705606b.pdf

[5] United Nations, The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework

[6] United Nations, *About the Sustainable Development Goals*, https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

[7] Emergency Management Victoria, *Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management* (2017), https://files-em.em.vic.gov.au/public/EMV-web/Community_Reslience%20_Framework.pdf

[8] Rockefeller Foundation, *100 Resilient Cities*, http://www.100resilientcities.org/

[9] Resilient Melbourne, https://resilientmelbourne.com.au/

[10] Council of Australian Governments, *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience: Building the resilience of our nation to disasters* (2011)

[11] Ibid.

[12] Victorian Council of Social Services, https://www.mav.asn.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/5354/Building-Resilient-Communities.pdf

[13] Ibid.