

Charlotte Graham

In response to your request for documentation of any plan currently in place for preparedness, planning, safety, resilience or evacuation for specific communities, I am able to provide the following information.

Background

Emergency Management Otago was formally created in November 2016 to create a single entity in Otago responsible for the planning, preparedness and resilience aspects of emergency management for all of the territorial local authorities in Otago. One of the drivers for the formation of Emergency Management Otago was a recognition of the disparity of activities happening within the region dependent upon each local authorities capacity.

National Guidelines

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management have produced a guide to the Civil Defence Emergency Management sector on communicating with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. This guide is considered in work we undertake with communities.

<http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/publications/is-12-13-including-cald-communities.pdf>

The ministry have also prepared quality preparedness advice material a range for communities. This material is available at getthru.govt.nz, which we link to from our own website otagocdem.govt.nz

<http://www.getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready/people-with-disabilities/>

<http://www.getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready/people-with-disabilities/?lang=zh-Hans>

Local Planning

Work has been underway for a number of years in some districts of Otago to develop with the community community-based response plans. Those that have been finalised in a new format for easy understanding by the community are available on our otagocdem.govt.nz website (Central Otago & Queenstown Lakes pages).

<http://otagocdem.govt.nz/districts/queenstown-lakes>

Attached is an earlier format plan for the Brighton Coast community, which includes a low-lying holiday park vulnerable to flooding and tsunami and has a number of permanent residents that require support.

Our approach is to develop resilience and capacity with a local community to support itself and those vulnerable people within it, as this is likely to produce the fastest and most appropriate response to those vulnerable people within the community.

We are also working with support agencies to many of these communities, such as the Red Cross Refugee Programme in Dunedin with emergency planning material and advice which they then communicate with the new migrants as they settle into the city.

Other agencies like Idea Services have comprehensive plans for assisting their clients and keep us informed in the lead-up to emergencies such as flooding how they intend to implement these plans (see attached emails re recent flood responses).

The Dunedin City Council (DCC) do not currently have documented plans for supporting people in social or community housing. However, they do intend to develop them.

By way of recent examples, during the recent boil water notice incident, DCC had door knocked all their community housing units in the affected area within 2 hours of the boil notice being issued and left a letter for those who were not home at the time.

In recent severe weather events, DCC carried out preventative checks when the weather warning was issued, and welfare checks during the flooding.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided or to elaborate further on the information you are seeking, please contact Chris Hawker, Regional Manager / Group Controller, Emergency Management Otago. chris.hawker@otagocdem.govt.nz