

Disaster, climate and risk workshop

CLCQ 2023 Leadership Forum

9 November 2023

Community Legal Centres Queensland pay our deepest respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land in Australia, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples and commit to fostering a culture of learning and working together in the spirit of reconciliation and access to justice.

Today's presenters

Dr Rebecca Cunningham Science Operations Manager The Climate Risk Group

Emily Hamilton Advocacy and Communications Manager Community Legal Centres Australia

Monica Taylor Climate Resilience Community Legal Centres Queensland









Session overview

- Situation snapshot for your centre
- CLCs and disaster resilience our why
- Future climate projections for Queensland
- Scenario planning exercise
- Your role in leading our sector's disaster resilience

Living under threat: Northern Rivers CLC and 2022 floods



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoKfAmG30eY

Situation snapshot...

Let's get a sense from the room about how we're feeling about disaster readiness.



How would you rate your personal knowledge of climate and disaster risks?



How would you rate your Centre's level of disaster preparedness?



Is your Centre connected up with local disaster networks?



Does your Centre have a Business Continuity Plan for extreme weather events?



I feel... about climate change and extreme weather events?



Community legal centres and climate resilience – *our why*

World-first by ACOSS and Climate Risk Pty. Ltd. in 2013 research found:

- Community organisations are a critical part of our social infrastructure. Yet, governments, researchers, routinely overlook our role and importance.
- A systemic lack of resilience across the community sector will worsen climate change impacts for people experiencing poverty and inequality.
- Community organisations are not well-prepared to withstand climate shocks.
 60% would close for a month. 25% would close forever if premises damaged.
- The failure of our service delivery has very real, very serious consequences for people and communities.
- Lack of funding and a belief that direct action on climate change falls outside core business are key barriers to adaptation.





In 10 years, not much has changed.



- Government inaction continues. Predictions about extreme events are coming true.
- People experiencing poverty and inequality still face the harshest impacts.
- Overwhelmingly, centres remain unprepared.
- We are still making the same recommendations to government about resilience, response and recovery.

It's on us to act now ...

"The third sector holds the key to success in tackling climate change. It can provide individuals with the collective opportunities to act that are so vital to securing individual action. Its responsibility – and opportunity -is to provide the *leadership that can secure* the action needed from governments and others to put us on track to securing a sustainable future."

- Irreversible climate change impacts are with us. This is a justice issue.
- Queensland will face the highest risk profile by 2030.
 - 5 of 10 most at risk electorates overall
 - 3 of 5 most at risk electorates for riverine flooding
 - Highest % of uninsurable properties
- CLCs Australia is advocating for government resources and support
- We have an opportunity and a responsibility – to lead advocacy and action for change.

Links and contacts

- Emily Hamilton: emily.Hamilton@clcs.org.au
- ACOSS resources (including full ACOSS/Climate Risk report and Resilient Community Organisations Toolkit): <u>https://www.acoss.org.au/climate-andenergy/climate-change-resilience/</u>
- Climate Council of Australia, 2022, Uninsurable Nation. Australia's most vulnerable climate places: <u>https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/uninsurable-nation-australiasmost-climate-vulnerable-places/</u>
- Guardian Australia, October 2023, Australia must urgently adapt to extreme weather or face soaring premiums, insurers warn: <u>https://www.thequardian.com/australia-news/2023/oct/18/australia-musturgently-adapt-to-extreme-weather-or-face-soaring-premiums-insurerswarn?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other
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Introduction

XDI, The Cross Dependency Initiative, provides the world's most detailed physical climate risk analysis and adaptation capabilities. Powered by the award-winning Climate Risk Engines, the XDI Platform brings together asset level data with extensive climate, hazard and engineering data to help organisations quantify the physical impacts of climate change on their business operations and asset portfolios.

XDI's standard reports present sophisticated analysis in a simple format suitable for presentation to management and key stakeholders. Different reports address varying levels of granularity and scale depending on the client's needs.



Portfolio Analysis

Hazards include:

Coastal Inundation, Extreme Heat, Extreme Wind, Flooding (Riverine and Surface water), Forest Fire, Soil Subsidence & Freeze Thaw.

MVAR - Maximum Value at Risk 1990

С	HIGH RISK = %MVAR > 1.0%
В	MODERATE RISK = 0.2% < MVAR <1.0%
Α	LOW RISK = %MVAR < 0.2%



Hazards include:

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Average MVAR% for the portfolio increases from moderate risk to high risk over time

Top driving hazards in 2050 are:

Coastal Inundation Flooding (Riverine and Surface water)



Excess Heat Factor Analysis

What is Excess Heat Factor (EHF)?

Positive Excess Heat Factor days

Excess Heat Factor (EHF) is a heatwave index designed to account the number of days over a temperature threshold where people start to feel discomfort (aka Heat Wave Day).



Reference:

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Excess Heat Factor 1990



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Excess Heat Factor 2025





Excess Heat Factor 2050





Excess Heat Factor 2100





For further information

Climate Valuation

https://climatevaluation.com/

XDI https://xdi.systems/



Thank you





Key ingredients for disaster preparedness

- Organisational leadership
- Knowing and managing your risks
- Building and sustaining networks
- Good preparation staff, volunteers, clients
- Continuous improvement



National Accreditation Standards (NAS) alignment

NAS	Торіс
Standard 1	Governance
Standard 3	Staffing
Standard 5	Organisational Risk Management and Compliance
Standard 7	Communications
Standard 15	Accessibility, Inclusion and Diversity
Standard 16	Cultural Safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff and Clients

NAS can support the integration of disaster preparedness across our centres.

Scenario

- It has been 6 days of above 39 degrees across your part of Queensland during mid-January. The pressure on the electricity system has caused patchy and frequent blackouts, including where you live, and where your workplace is located.
- The extended and severe heat has led to spot fires flaring up in bushland about 10km away. Air quality is poor as a result of smoke pollution.
- The local council has announced it will open a 'heat respite centre' at the public town hall. Your CLC has been requested to attend on an outreach basis and deliver legal information and assistance to local residents.

Discuss in small groups

How might this scenario impact your

- CLC and legal systems infrastructure
- Your workforce (staff, volunteers)
- Your clients
- You personally

As leaders of your CLC, what could you do to anticipate, plan and prepare for this event?

Upcoming events

https://www.communitylegalqld.org.au/disaster-and-climate-resilience/





An informal, monthly drop-in space for any Queensland community legal centre staff to discuss climate change and extreme weather events, and how it is impacting you and your work.

Relevant sector updates and climate action news will also be provided.

More information: monica@communitylegalqld.org.au

Thurs 16 November 2pm to 3pm

Disaster legal assistance ir insights from CLCs across the

This online forum is an opportunity to share and ro disaster legal assistance over the past year.

Join us for a series of short presentations, and hav questions answered.

🖶 Wednesday, 29 November

10:00am - 1:00pm (WA) 11:30am - 2:30pm (NT) 12:00pm-3:00pm (QLD) 12:30pm - 3:30pm (SA) 1:00pm - 4:00pm (NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS & ACT

Register at: www.communitylegalqld.org.au

Wed 29 November 12 noon to 3pm



Community Legal Centres Queensland

Thank you

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www.communitylegalqld.org.au