

Key Result Area 4: Contribute to national, state and local policy agenda

Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework

EMQ led the development of the Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework in consultation with key stakeholders of Queensland's disaster management system, through workshops and a discussion paper. The framework was completed and released in early 2006, recognising that disaster management is a whole-of-government responsibility. The framework seeks to foster improved partnerships and cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen Queensland's capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events. It is also an important step in the implementation of Queensland's commitment to reforms under the Council of Australian Government's report *Natural Disasters: Reforming Mitigation, Relief and Recovery Arrangements in Australia*. Further information can be obtained from www.disaster.qld.gov.au/publications/

A nuclear-powered solution

Since July 2004, EMQ had been working closely with a number of organisations to plan berthing a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier alongside a Brisbane wharf. This was activated in January 2006 when the USS Ronald Reagan berthed 'pier side' at Fisherman Islands. Brisbane is the only Australian port where a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier can berth 'pier side'.

Enhancing rural health

QAS contributed significantly to the Council of Ambulance Authorities Rural and Remote Symposium held in Mildura, which, among other things, progressed an expanded scope of practice for paramedics operating in isolated communities. QAS is seeking to enhance rural and remote health service provision by enabling paramedics in these areas to assist nurses and doctors with ongoing patient care.

Improving emergency management in Indigenous communities

Our department has led the development of a national strategy to address emergency management in remote Indigenous communities.

The strategy incorporates the priorities and needs of remote Indigenous communities and prescribes the obligation of the Australian Government and the states and territories to partner with remote Indigenous communities to improve community safety.

It was developed through consultation with representatives of remote Indigenous communities and relevant Australian and state/territory agencies and local government. Once endorsed by the Augmented Australasian Police Ministers' Council, it will be launched by the Commonwealth Attorney-General in late 2006.

Cyclone Larry Recovery Taskforce



With the initial response phase of the disaster over, the focus for the operation shifted to community recovery, with General Peter Cosgrove leading the Operation Recovery Taskforce, made up of a team of specialists including representatives from our department.

'Since I arrived in Innisfail after Tropical Cyclone Larry, I have been able to see both the devastation that was caused to far northern Queensland, and also the extraordinary relief effort that is well under way,' General Cosgrove said.