



Australian Government  
Attorney-General's Department  
Emergency Management Australia



# 2007 AUSTRALIAN SAFER COMMUNITIES AWARDS

Recognising People and Organisations  
for Best Practice and Innovation  
in Emergency Management



*'safer sustainable communities'*



## The National Judging Panel for the 2007 Australian Safer Communities Awards comprised

### **Trevor Clement**

Judging Panel Chair,  
Assistant Secretary Community  
Development,  
Emergency Management Australia.

### **Leslie Crombie**

Manager Knowledge Networking,  
Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

### **Stephen Carter**

National Manager Volunteer Services,  
St John Ambulance Australia.

### **Andrew Day**

Recovery Manager,  
Maribyrnong City Council.

### **Karen Roberts**

Executive Director Community  
Development,  
Fire & Emergency Services Authority of  
Western Australia.

## The Awards

The Australian Safer Communities Awards are sponsored by Emergency Management Australia (EMA) in conjunction with the States and Territories, to recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals that help to build safer communities across Australia.

The Awards cover all aspects of community safety in the context of emergency management – risk assessment, research, education and training, information and knowledge management, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – and work on two levels. Entries are judged firstly at a jurisdictional level and then the winners become finalists for the national Awards.

There are seven streams based broadly on the type of organisation applying:

- Federal and State Government agencies
- Local Government
- Volunteer organisations and community groups where membership is substantially voluntary
- Private sector organisations
- Researchers and research bodies
- Combinations of any of the above (such as joint projects), and
- Projects which are of national significance or cross-jurisdictional.

Within these streams there are pre-disaster and post-disaster categories, along with a category that provides for community safety focus. Not all streams and categories bring entries as far as the national judging panel.

Details of the program for the 2008 awards will be available - see [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)



## Adopting world's best emergency management practice



I am pleased to use this opportunity to present my thoughts as the incoming Australian Attorney-General – a role that I welcome with all its responsibilities, challenges and opportunities – including responsibility for Commonwealth emergency management.

I am particularly pleased to see the Australian Safer Communities Awards attracting such excellent innovative projects from the people who are so

closely connected to community needs.

As the responsible Minister, I am acutely aware of the value of public awareness as a contributor to community preparedness for emergencies.

The year 2007 – which these Awards honour – was not without disruptive natural disasters and emergencies. Destruction by wildfire of mountain bushland and farmland in the Eastern Highlands and Gippsland region of Victoria and the massive coastal storms experienced by New South Wales, showed us the extent of nature's fury. We even witnessed a tanker on Newcastle's main beach driven up by storms of frightening ferocity.

Later in the year we saw widespread damage through western Sydney from that unpredictable event, hailstorm. There were severe bushfires on South Australia's Kangaroo Island that destroyed so much of the native flora and fauna of that special place.

Elsewhere there were cyclones, bushfires and floods in many states. And for another of many consecutive years drought affected so much of the nation. In April a tsunami that originated from an earthquake near the Solomon Islands made us pause to think about how we might have handled that potential disaster if its full fury had been visited on our coastline.

With influenza pandemic, natural disaster or failure of critical infrastructure posing a threat to the safety and security of our people, one of the greatest challenges we now face in Government is how to manage the risks – both real and perceived – into the future. We must constantly review and revise our plans and policies to ensure they are fit for their purpose.

In Australia we have a long tradition of prepared communities, ready for, and responding to, emergencies and disasters. We value our emergency management personnel. I pay special tribute to Australia's ranks of volunteers in emergency management. We need to ensure that their efforts are made much easier with well equipped, well trained and well exercised emergency management systems.

For these Australian Safer Communities Awards, I am pleased to see involvement by agencies from right across the nation. A recent review of the Awards procedures for 2008 will see a further broadening of the categories and streamlining of criteria, designed to encourage, in close cooperation with States and Territories and their judging panels, even greater interest in developing new ideas and projects, so vital to increasing public awareness of the need to be better prepared.

I congratulate all those who have made entries. Your high standards ensure the Awards will continue to benefit Australia's capability to manage emergencies.

**The Hon Robert McClelland MP**  
Attorney-General

## Supporting community preparedness



The Commonwealth Government is proud to sponsor the Australian Safer Communities Awards as part of its national role in developing community safety and self-reliance.

Disaster events of the past year have brought home to us the challenges for the whole community in managing the social and economic impact of destructive natural events. Community preparedness is now a key policy issue for Australia in our efforts

to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In this eighth year of the Awards we again recognise the results of a nationwide search for the projects that show innovative ways to raise awareness in the emergency management arena.

Through the enthusiastic and collaborative efforts of our State and Territory colleagues, the Australian Safer Communities Awards are an established public event on each jurisdiction's annual calendars. Interest in the Awards continues to be strong, including a high level involvement with the State-level Awards presentations by Ministers, senior officials and agency participants.

The volunteer agencies that come forward with projects for judging show that a great collegiate spirit exists between the emergency services and related organisations and with the general public in large and small communities. All efforts towards valuable local capacity building are to be commended.

Local knowledge which is embedded within communities is crucial in developing preparedness strategies. More than 60 projects submitted for consideration in the 2007 Awards program clearly show this. Initiatives which increase community coping capacity are often based on regional familiarity, personal knowledge across generations and long-developed local understanding about the vagaries of weather patterns.

I congratulate and thank all entrants for their willingness to participate and invite them to encourage and mentor future entrants within their jurisdictions. While not all entries can be successful at the national level, we congratulate all involved in the development of their very impressive projects.

My thanks also to the Award organisers in each jurisdiction, the local and national judges who gave their time to conduct the evaluations, and to my enthusiastic team at Emergency Management Australia, for ensuring another successful year of the Australian Safer Communities Awards.

**Tony Pearce**  
Director General

## Pre-Disaster

Federal & State Government agencies

### Winner

## Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA (FESA)

*Bush Fire Management Guides*

With Western Australia accounting for close to one-third of the geographical area of the Australian continent, FESA looked for a creative way to improve bushfire risk management. With such variations in vegetation, rainfall and soil types and the variety and placement of assets, the organisation set out to develop a series of guides for rural community fire managers that take these complexities into consideration.

The state's extensive farming industry, so dependent on vegetation growth yet vulnerable to the threat of wildfire, has station owners and managers of pastoral leases, facing the dilemma of having stock spread over hundreds or possibly thousands of hectares. How can stock be mustered and fed, is the dilemma when fire strikes. Understanding more about different localities and conditions would help fire managers predict the movement of fire and allow a faster suppression of an outbreak and ultimately a safer environment for stock. FESA set about designing a set of guides and tables aimed at solving this problem.

Included in the package is a fire Danger and Spread Meter for grassland and forest fires. There is wind speed and firebreak information, flame height and intensity tables, fuel type and rate of spread calculator, and a guide to help visually judge fuel loads. By developing these comprehensive guides and tables, fire managers are able to integrate prevention and response activities, thereby mitigating the impact of bushfires on the community.

The Visual Fuel Load Guide, a comprehensive aid to the estimation of bushfire fuel loads, is well illustrated to show how to identify and assess the diversity of flora across this huge territory. As fire managers learn more about fuel availability, moisture content and how fire will behave under certain conditions, the risk to life, property, the environment and to fire-fighters will lessen.



**FESA**  
Fire & Emergency Services  
Authority of Western Australia

### Ralph Smith

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## Pre-Disaster

Federal/State government agencies

### Highly Commended

## Tasmania Fire Service

*Bushfire Survival DVD project*

In response to COAG's 2004 bushfire inquiry call to encourage Australians to do more to prepare for bushfire and to help residents in the state decide the 'stay or go' issue, the Tasmania Fire Service chose the medium of an interactive DVD titled *Bushfire: Prepare to Survive*, to send a powerful message about risk, preparedness, property defence and safe re-location. As an alternative education tool, a descriptive booklet has also been prepared (recognising that many households may not have a DVD player).

The disk includes powerful images of the destructive nature of bushfires, as well as demonstrating to residents how to develop capacity to prepare and defend their home. It provides answers to the important questions: What it's like to be in a bushfire? Why houses burn? Why people die? It also gives information on how to decide whether to stay and defend the property or to leave the area. And if going, when to go, how to go and where to relocate to. A key message throughout the presentation is that a properly prepared home is more likely to withstand a bushfire, and when someone remains to defend it, the chances are even better.

For further assistance the Tasmania Fire Service provides on-line information, with:

- a bushfire preparation checklist
- the ability to view separate chapters of the DVD (also iPod compatible)
- a PDF version of the *Bushfire: Prepare to Survive* booklet
- a competition entry form, and
- a contact to request a copy of the DVD.

A state-wide competition reinforced the bushfire campaign with a television promotion giving high impact messages that mainly focussed on parental responsibility. The competition prompted residents to view the DVD and answer three important questions, giving them the chance of winning cash prizes. Local radio and newspapers also supported the initiative through promotions and editorial.



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## Post-Disaster

Federal/State government agencies

### Winner

#### ACT Government: Canberra Connect

*Enhancing responsiveness during storms and floods*

The Australian Capital Territory Government is both the local government and territory government for the residents of Canberra and surrounds. This makes their situation unique in Australia.

Canberra Connect is the ACT service set up as a 'one stop shop' for a wide range of enquiries for resident services, such as to renew a licence or register a dog, to pay rates and fines, even where to catch a bus, and to access assistance for a business enterprise. The State Emergency Service (SES) is the organisation responsible for response to storms and floods operating as a division of the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) that provides the telecommunications, transport, training and other services.

SES experience has shown that in times of major emergency response, telephone call volumes can be beyond the capacity of the Agency to effectively manage, resulting in delays to delivery of emergency services. So ESA decided to investigate a partnership with Canberra Connect to share their call service. As the number is widely advertised as the 'one stop shop', it was the logical choice for the overflow in such extreme events.

This solution has the benefit of utilising existing infrastructure and expertise within Government and can be scaled up at short notice to allow the emergency services to concentrate resources on incident management and response. It uses a software system that allows queued calls to be prioritised so emergency calls would be answered ahead of general requests. Job details are submitted electronically so requirements can go to the SES for action without delay. This also allows for comprehensive record keeping and statistical reporting.

The partnership draws on the individual expertise of each organisation to solve what is essentially a whole of government situation of delivering effective emergency services to the Canberra community.



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## Pre-Disaster

Local Government

### Winner

#### Council of the City of Sydney, NSW

*Let's Get Ready Sydney*

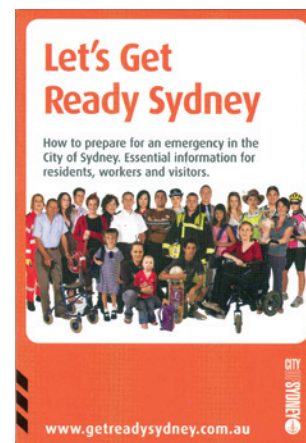
As the economic and cultural heart of Australia's oldest community, the City of Sydney local government area is densely populated and intensely urbanised. It has a diverse ethnic mix with an estimated half of its residents born overseas. Almost 30% of the residential population speak a language other than English. Land in the city is used for a variety of purposes including residential, commercial and public use. There are a great many tourist and cultural attractions, important historical buildings and waterways, parks and open spaces. The public visits, lives, works or gathers at all of these.

Being committed to improving the emergency preparedness of this busy metropolis, the Council embarking on a campaign of emergency public awareness, taking these varied considerations into account. It considered how it could contribute to the safety of workers, residents old and young, businesses, and those just arrived in the city. The Council sought funding assistance from the Australian Government's *Working Together to Manage Emergencies* scheme to design a campaign that aimed to increase the level of awareness and availability of information to everyone on the preparation for and response to major incidents in the City.

*Let's Get Ready Sydney* encourages people to do four things:

- develop a personal emergency plan
- put together a 'Go Bag'
- know how to respond to directions given by authorities, and
- be familiar with local radio to tune in and listen to instructions.

The public awareness campaign included a website - [www.getreadysydney.com.au](http://www.getreadysydney.com.au); an advertising campaign ran across multiple media; pocket guides were distributed in a variety of ways - via post to residents and displayed at points of major pedestrian flow such as railway and bus stations and at public libraries; and posters were erected at bus shelters and other public places.



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## Pre-Disaster

Volunteer organisations

### Winner

#### Sassafras-Ferry Creek Fire Brigade, Victoria

*'Living Safely with Bushfire'*

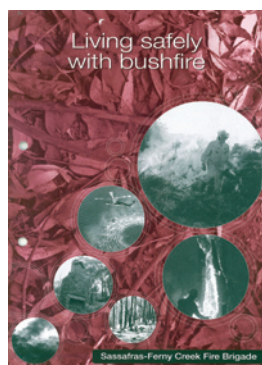
Living with a long and complex history of bushfires, the people of the Dandenong Ranges in Victoria are more aware than most Australians of the need to be ready for emergencies. Recognising this, yet always on the alert to spread the message of preparedness, the Sassafras-Ferry Creek Fire Brigade initiated the *Living Safely with Bushfire* project

A 16-page information booklet was produced by the local bushfire brigade, to encourage local residents to play a more active role in preparing their families and properties against the threat of wildfire. The booklet has been distributed - free of charge - to all residents, with the view that it would reinforce the bushfire message.

Census figures show that the local population changes by about one-third every five years and with the constant influx of new residents, this booklet will provide a source for understanding the bushfire risk within the local community. The booklet takes the residents through a number of topics:

- history of bushfires in the area
- bushfire behaviour
- living safely with bushfire
- local alert system
- high risk days
- house fires
- preparing for bushfire
- what if? and
- local contacts.

The knowledge contained in the booklet is about the local community and is the only one to be specifically written for Sassafras and Ferry Creek residents. Most publications that are available are generic and only give broad information but with this booklet the residents can actually see how their own area and property may be affected. Raising awareness in this way has been found by local bushfire managers to bring the topic forward as a subject of discussion at all levels of the community, from schools to community groups, and in the business community.



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## Pre-Disaster

Combination stream

### Winner

#### Drug and Alcohol Services with Ambulance Service, SA

*Hospitality First Responder Training*

Drug overdose is the most common reason for an ambulance to be called to a licensed venue. With this in mind, the South Australian Ambulance Service and Drug and Alcohol Services of South Australia, in collaboration with the hospitality sector, have developed the *Hospitality First Responder Training* program.

This training is specific to the venue and enables staff to offer appropriate management of a casualty to their patrons who may experience a medical emergency due to alcohol and/or other drug use, trauma or collapse. The training provides staff with the skills to know how to identify a problem and make an appropriate initial response to a medical emergency as part of a wider risk management strategy.

Whilst this voluntary course is not a first-aid course, it is an important first step in managing the environment around the casualty, the other patrons and the professional responders. The trainees learn to recognise emergencies and they gain knowledge on how to act quickly and effectively, which in turn can be valuable away from their work environment. They get to understand the role of paramedics in the community.

The two and a half hour training session includes such topics as:

- the effects of alcohol on the human body
- what psycho-active drugs do to the body
- what is trauma
- medical collapse, and
- scene management

It is designed to provide staff and management at a hospitality venue – be it a hotel, tavern, night club or resort – with the skills to attend to a victim, and to know techniques to manage the scene which is unique to each venue. This in turn allows for a real emergency scenario to be developed to help employees identify with likely outcomes involving medical collapse.



**Government  
of South Australia**

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## Post-Disaster

Combination stream

### Winner

#### Maribyrnong City Council, VIC & Cube Management Solutions

*Emergency Relief (Evacuation) Centre Management Guidelines for CALD Groups*

The City of Maribyrnong is a culturally diverse municipality with 39% of its residents born overseas. Developing the Emergency Relief Centre Guidelines was an essential part of their progressive approach to planning for incidents. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities have special requirements (language, diet and religious) but may also have experienced traumatic incidents in the past that may impact their actions during a crisis.

This project was aimed at delivering a user friendly and comprehensive guide to help manage the needs of CALD communities in the initial 48-72 hours of the establishment of an emergency relief centre and to develop an awareness raising tool for managers of emergency relief centres of the background of major CALD groups in the area.

Other considerations taken into account to maximise the outcomes included ongoing development of the guidelines; developing a framework adaptable to changing CALD groups; establishing an engagement strategy that supported the transfer of knowledge; and identifying and communicating project learnings.

The project has been a major undertaking and has served as a prime example of government, emergency services and community listening and collaboratively achieving a collective approach to managing the needs of a diverse community during crises. Through an extensive consultation and engagement process including questionnaires, forums, and focus groups, a wide range of groups were reached. This approach helped to determine the concerns and needs around an evacuation in an emergency situation. The process contributed valuable information in not only developing the guidelines, but also raising awareness of Maribyrnong's diverse community needs. An exercise, set up in one of the City's community centres, tested the guidelines in a simulated evacuation that involved students from an English language class.

The Guidelines provide checklists, processes, templates, tools, resources and references to assist with the development, operation and continuous improvement of CALD management practices for the Council in emergency situations.



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## Pre-Disaster

Projects of national significance

### Winner

#### Geoscience Australia & FESA, WA

*Tsunami Planning and Preparation in Western Australia*

Prior to the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004, tsunami was rarely considered within an emergency management context and there was limited understanding of the tsunami risk to the Western Australian coastline. The catastrophic nature of this disaster clearly demonstrated the threat tsunami could pose to the state. Geoscience Australia and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) formed a collaborative research partnership to examine the risks.

Prior to this work, no tsunami impact assessments had been conducted in Australia and there are limited examples worldwide.

There were two key components: the development and application of state-of-the-art science in order to model the tsunami risk, and effective communication of this science to inform and underpin emergency management plans. The work was conducted within the risk management methodology adopted by the emergency management community and has led to science underpinning emergency management plans where tsunami risk is concerned.

The tsunami assessments are dependent on accurate, high resolution, offshore and onshore elevation data. All model-based risk analysis to date has concluded that significant dangerous currents and rips are generated near-shore. This has now been recognised by the local emergency management communities and incorporated in plans. Another aspect revealed by the modelling is how the local topography such as sand dunes can play an important role in protecting the communities from onshore impact.

The project outcomes include:

- information and data to support planning to mitigate tsunami damage and impact on communities and critical infrastructure along the coastline
- providing scientific input into a national approach to capacity development and tsunami awareness, and
- providing a scientific model for other jurisdictions to apply in order to understand their tsunami risk.

As each jurisdiction embarks on similar tsunami risk assessment projects, they will benefit from the work already done through this project. The integration of science and emergency management has been pivotal to the success of this project as the scientific outputs have been tailored and targeted to address the needs of the communities at risk.



**Australian Government**  
**Geoscience Australia**

#### Jane Sexton, Geoscience Australia

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## Pre-Disaster

Projects of national significance

### Highly Commended

#### St John Ambulance Australia

*Developing safer communities through flexible learning*

St John has implemented a national skills development program for all uniformed volunteer members. Previously new first aid members were trained at the Divisional level with no consistency nationally for this initial training. With over 10,000 volunteer members providing first aid at public events and in emergency situations, it was recognised that developing knowledge and skills is vital to advance St John.

A new uniformed volunteer moves through the following steps in their initial skills development program:

- application (including consent to check details on forms, referees, current first aid certificate)
- undertake Skills Development Stage 1 – 'Working Effectively in St John, OH&S and observation at public events'
- undertake Skills Development Stage 2 – 'Skills in event and emergency first aid, medical terminology and working with colleagues, casualties and the public', and
- provide treatment at public events.

Stage 1 aims to ensure that new members have enough knowledge to answer questions about how St John operates, its history, infection control and occupational health and safety. It is usually completed within three months of joining.

Stage 2 takes the new member into medical terminology, working with the public, colleagues and casualties, and event and emergency first aid. At this level they are able to provide supervised first aid at events.

Recognising the diverse nature of St John Ambulance members, this program is highly flexible in delivery options. One of the benefits of this flexible delivery is that there is no longer a need to wait until there are enough members to run an individual course.



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## Pre-Disaster

Projects of national significance

### Highly Commended

#### Australian Red Cross

*Personal support training*

Red Cross provides a range of services inline with specific state and territory emergency management arrangements. These include basic care and comfort (personal support); the registration of evacuees (through the National Registration and Inquiry System); outreach programs into the broader community during emergencies; emergency first aid; and support at single incidents such as house fires.

The organisation acknowledges that it is imperative that all personnel (both staff and volunteers) providing these forms of assistance are highly trained, confident in their ability to be of assistance without further exacerbating the trauma and also aware of the impact that providing such support could potentially have on them, physically and emotionally, both in the long and the short term.

Evidence shows that providing personal support during times of crisis can mitigate the longer term development of personal problems and can accelerate the rate at which individuals and communities recover from disaster.

This training system has been developed to prepare and support volunteers working at emergencies. It has been adopted nationally by the Australian Red Cross and has helped expand their rapidly growing pool of 500-plus operators who are trained to provide support to distressed people. Elements of the training are presented in stand-alone modules, with some correspondence options, to allow for flexibility in delivery to meet the varying demographic and geographic needs around Australia.

Aspects of the training prepare emergency workers on what to expect at an emergency, what to take with them and what actions to undertake to ensure their personal and emotional safety, while helping others, as well as basic occupational health and safety procedures. Feedback from the trainees has indicated that they feel better prepared and more confident to respond should they be activated to attend an emergency or disaster.



**Australian Red Cross**

**Andrew Coghlan, National Manager Red Cross ES**

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## Post-Disaster

Projects of national significance

### Winner

#### St John Ambulance Australia

*Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Project*

The Australian Government initiated the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) concept in late 2002, hosting a workshop to begin the project. After working with the Department of Health and Ageing, a Working Group selected St John Ambulance Australia to establish the design and implementation phase of the PAD Project. It was recognised that St John was suitably qualified, has a national reach, is positioned as a 'one stop shop' and offers expertise in management, training and administrative support. This allows them to have a substantial impact in communities.

The project was aimed at reducing the mortality of pre-hospital sudden cardiac arrests by introducing defibrillators to areas of high public usage. Defibrillators use an electric charge to stabilise a rapid or irregular heartbeat. The areas initially targeted for locating the machines were airports, gymnasiums, sporting facilities, entertainment centres and clubs, shopping centres and colleges. As more defibrillators become available the list continues to grow.

The Insurance Australia Group generously supported the idea through its retail brands and the community based defibrillation project was borne.

The distribution and education program relies on cooperation and support from the commercial/industry sector, as well as from public sector agencies for the acceptance and placement of PADs as these users must be convinced that the training and support provided will ensure that the equipment is used safely.



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**St John Ambulance**

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## Community Safety Focus

### Winner

#### Surf Life Saving Australia

*Establishment of the Australian Lifesaving Academy*

One of the more difficult aspects of surf lifesaving in Australia has been ensuring consistency in the training of lifesavers. The establishment of a training Academy by Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) has enabled that organisation to enhance and expand the previously limited education and training service levels. SLSA is now able to deliver a Public Safety Training Package of qualifications to surf lifesavers in Australia and internationally.

As SLSA is largely volunteer-based, setting up the registered training organisation has not been without complications. Firstly the trainers and assessors needed to become qualified to Certificate IV level in Training and Assessment to meet the requirements of registration. Careful explanation and encouragement has seen members take the initiative on board and they can now see the value of the nationally recognised qualifications that the Academy is offering.

The Academy has formally centralised all training and resources, with each State and Territory affiliate organisation and regional entities being the prime deliverers of training and education. This centralised model with regional delivery centres provides high quality training through both on-site and with offering flexible delivery options.

The national headquarters of SLSA in Sydney manages and leads the Academy, maintains the standards, develops standardised curricula along with education and training resources.

Regional headquarters functions vary from state to state. In Tasmania the beach-going population is reasonably small and the regional headquarters maintains the management role including education and training but in the more northerly states such as Queensland, where the beach-going population is high and the population widely dispersed, the regional headquarters has a region-wide management role and Centres of Excellence are used for education and training.

In Queensland and New South Wales, SLSA has established four Centres of Excellence, Victoria has two, Western Australia and South Australia have one each and in Tasmania and the Northern Territory the Regional Headquarters provides all services.



**Peter Agnew, General Manager Operations**

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## Community Safety Focus

### Highly Commended

#### Queensland Ambulance Service

*Rural and Remote Paramedic Program*

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) Rural and Remote Paramedic Program has been designed to meet the health care needs of people residing in rural, remote and isolated communities across Queensland. The Program's intent is to expand the scope of clinical practice of rural and remote paramedics to meet the health care needs of targeted communities without losing the benefits of a paramedic's capacity to respond to emergencies.

The curriculum development was a collaborative process involving QAS officers working in conjunction with James Cook University and Queensland Health.

The need for the program was identified as a result of research which found rural and remote health workforce shortages, while paramedics tended to be under-utilised in the rural and remote health arena.

A survey of Queensland paramedics working in rural and remote areas identified current health needs within their communities, and assessed the capacity and responsiveness of paramedics to undertake training for expanded practice roles. The results of this study informed the design and development of a tertiary-based training curriculum for isolated practice paramedics.

The new curriculum aims to enhance and expand paramedic practice in rural and isolated communities to:

- build on paramedics' examination and diagnostic competencies
- gain insight into the public health agenda and community and primary health needs
- use prevention as a means of addressing, managing and mitigating illness or injury
- building networks and making use of emerging technology, and
- combining outreach, telemedicine and clinical governance and supervision.

The Graduate Certificate program commenced at James Cook University in Queensland in November 2006 and a total of 49 students are currently enrolled and progressing through the program.



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## State Award Entrants

EMA appreciates the effort invested by all entrants listed below, and congratulates the award recipients.

### New South Wales

#### Cootamundra Shire Council

*Emergencies & RM Brochure.*

#### Burwood Council

*Electronic Emergency Response Management Sydney (EERMS).*

#### Anglicare Diocese of Sydney

*The Cost of Volunteering National Study.*

#### NSW Fire Brigades

*Group Homes for People with a Disability.*

### Winners

#### NSW Fire Brigades

*Urban Bushland Interface Zone (I-Zone) Project.*

#### Surf Life Saving Australia

*Australian Life Saving Academy.*

#### Council of the City of Sydney

*Let's Get Ready Sydney.*

### Highly Commended

#### NSW Fire Brigades

*The NSW Fire Brigades Statewide Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Program.*

#### Mid-Western Regional Council

*Interactive Displan.*

#### Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority & SES

*Building Community Resilience for Flood Safety in Maitland and the Hunter Valley.*

### Victoria

#### Metropolitan Ambulance Service

*Emergency Response Plan.*

#### Metropolitan Fire Brigade

*Fire Ed for Upper Primary.*

#### ABC Gippsland Radio

*Emergency Broadcasting Fire/flood 2006/2007*

#### Emergency Management Information Development Working Group

*National Emergency Management Information Development Plan.*

#### Department of Sustainability and Environment

*Great Divide Fires: A shared review of our integrated response.*

#### Halls Gap Safety Sub Committee

*Halls Gap Community Safety Project.*

### Winners

#### Department of Justice Strategic Communications Branch

*Fire Season Recognition Package.*

#### Maribyrnong City Council & Cube Management Solutions

*Emergency Relief Centre Management Guidelines for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities.*

**Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade***Living Safely with Bushfire Booklet.***Latrobe City Council***From the Ashes Digital Story Telling Project.***Australian Capital Territory****ACT Fire Brigade***Community Safety Bulletins.***Communities@Work***ACT Community Safety Field Day.***ACT Rural Fire Service Headquarters Brigade***Mapping and Planning Support Unit.***Winners****ACT Government***Enhancing ACT Government responsiveness to affected communities during storm and flood events.***South Australia****Winners****Local Govt Association of SA***Human Pandemic Influenza Business Continuity Guidelines for Local Government.***Mount Pleasant CFS***Improving (CFS) Community Engagement and Recruiting.***SA SES (North Region)***Community Response Teams.***Drug and Alcohol Services SA in conjunction with 9 other parties***Hospitality First Responder Training.***Highly Commended****City of Tea Tree Gully***Web-Based Emergency Management Plan.***Nepabunna Community***(Implementation of the) Nepabunna Community Emergency Risk Management Plan.***Encounter Youth Incorporated***Schoolies SA Management.***Commended****South Australia Police***Operation Nomad.***Riverland Regional Health Service Inc***Water Safety (for Indigenous Youth) in the Riverland.***Local Govt Association of SA***Local Government Emergency Management Contacts Register.***Eastern Region (3 Councils)***Eastern Region (3 Councils) Metropolitan Adelaide Emergency Risk Management Plan.***South-Western Region (5 Councils)***Sturt Community Emergency Risk Management Plan.***Mr Andrew O'Connor***Disaster Planning – Much More than a Tangible Document.***Australian Institute of Environmental Health (in conjunction with the SA State Emergency Service and the Department of Health)***Emergency Management Course for Environmental Health Practitioners.***SA Country Fire Service / AFAC***Common Fire Hose Couplings.***Queensland****Queensland Ambulance Service, Department of Emergency Services**  
*Bribie Island Multi-Agency Response Plan.***Whitsunday Shire Council***Disaster Management Database.***Department of Emergency Services***Mitchell Emergency Services Cadets.***Winners****Livingstone Shire Council***Community Awareness and Education Project.***Emergency Management Queensland, Department of Emergency Services and Smart Service Queensland***132 500 State Emergency Service Telephone Number.***Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Police Service and Education Queensland***Community Safety Resource Package.***Queensland Ambulance Service, Department of Emergency Services**  
*Rural and Remote Paramedic Program.***Highly Commended****Pine Rivers Shire Council***Mt Nebo Early Warning Communication System.***Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Department of Emergency Services**  
*Woorabinda Fire Safety Project.***Gold Coast City Council***Flood Emergency Management on the Gold Coast.***Thursday Island Local Ambulance Committee***Property Numbering Scheme.***Western Australia****Molloy Home Owners Assoc & Shire of Augusta-Margaret River***Developing Emergency Advice and an Emergency Evacuation Plan for Molloy Island.***Fire & Emergency Services Authority of WA***David Neck - Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce Veterinarian.***Public Transport Authority of WA***Rail Rescue.***Winners****Main Roads Western Australia***Contingency and Incident Response System.***Fire & Emergency Services Authority of WA***Western Australian Bush Fire Management Guidelines and Tables.***City of Bunbury***Practical Planning.***Highly Commended****Goombaragin Community***Working Together for a Safer Community.***Town of Cottesloe***Cottesloe Critical Infrastructure Project.***Tasmania****Launceston City Council***Driven 2 Distraction.***Launceston City Council***Flood Awareness Markers.***Winners****Tasmania Fire Service***Bushfire DVD project.***Projects of National Significance****Australian Red Cross***Personal Support Training for People Working at Emergencies and Disasters.***St John Ambulance Australia***Developing Safer Communities Through Flexible Learning.***Geoscience Australia and Fire and Emergency Services Authority***Tsunami Planning and Preparation in Western Australia.*





*Further information on the 2007 Australian Safer Communities Awards and EMA  
is available on the EMA website*

[www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)