Enhancing Networks 4 Resilience

Networks in any capacity are vital to the social fabric of a community; they hold collective knowledge, history and human capital together. Rural communities in particular, are built on the back of local knowledge and experiences learned by pushing through 'tough times'. A range of social networks already exist in rural areas. They can exist as formal institutional arrangements with a set of 'rules' and structures, or they can be based on informal social norms, such as reciprocity and exchange. In a rural context, examples of formal and informal networks are bush nursing centres and neighbourhood houses (formal), with informal networks manifesting themselves in 'farm gate' meetings, knitting circles and mother's groups. Understanding what the social networks are and how they work in a rural setting will provide useful information to enable networks to be further enhanced.

According to the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (2011)
a resilient community is enabled by strong social networks that offer support to individuals and families in times of crisis.

Enhancing Networks 4 Resilience (EN4R) is a collaborative project between Southern Grampians Glenelg Primary Care Partnership (SGGPCP) and RMIT University funded through the National Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS) administered through Emergency Management Victoria. EN4R will use social network analysis methodology to map the SGGPCP partnership networks and networks that exist between agencies and their community. Further analysis will uncover the key factors that are significant to the networks and learn how we can further enhance these networks. Over the next 18 months, SGGPCP and RMIT will work with SGGPCP partner agencies and their communities through consultations and workshops to map the social networks that exist and investigate how these can be enhanced to promote resilience to all hazards.

Further information:
Jo Brown
joanne.brown@wdhs.net
03 5551 8563

Phase 1: investigating networks & community consultation

Literature and policy review into social network analysis
Community consultation
Workshops
Undertake social network analysis
August '15 – July '16

Phase 2: enhancing networks

Development of a network enhancement model
Network champion support

August '16 – July '17

Phase 3: expanding networks

PCP collaborative program rolled out
Knowledge transfer to wider regions

February '17 – July '17

Phase 4: knowledge sharing

Evaluation
Knowledge sharing workshops
Final reporting

August '17 – December '17