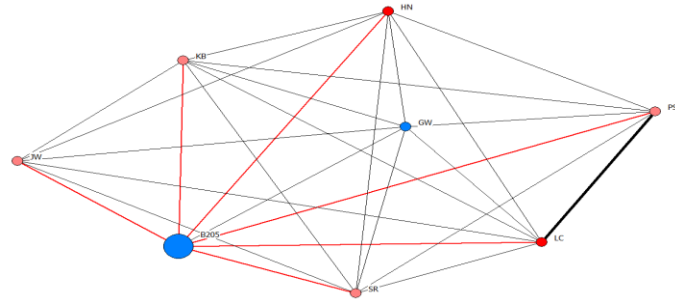# Balmoral Fire Connect
Key results and conclusions

Ensuring critical fire safety and preparedness information is disseminated to those most vulnerable to bushfire is a high priority for Victorian Emergency Services. Reaching those most at risk in bushfire prone communities relies heavily on an intricate understanding of the communities themselves. Balmoral Fire Connect uncovers the value of the existing networks of staff and the user-groups of the Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre (BBNC) in South West Victoria.

Comprehensive report link: http://sggpcp.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Balmoral-Fire-Connect-FINAL-Report.pdf

Example of a Social Network Map produced showing a staff members connection to clients and the flow of information to clients with red being the flow of fire safety information

THE PROCESS

- Bushfire Safety information was presented to staff and user groups of the BBNC
- Social Network Analysis methodology was used to analyse quantitative data around the client networks of 4 key staff at Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre .
- Ten parcels containing fire safety information were passed around in the community with each parcel passed up to 5 times and the potential to reach 50 community to collaboration.

KEY RESULTS

- There exists strong relationships between staff at BBNC and community
- Staff at BBNC do not feel equipped to pass on "expert" bushfire preparedness information, however in the course of daily conversations staff frequently discuss the weather and the seasonal situation, safety and general welfare.
- Clients of the user groups at BBNC commonly have a strong network with each other.
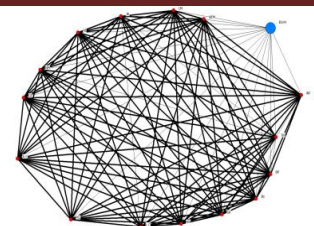- Passing a parcel of fire safety information around in the community facilitated fire preparedness actions.

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

- Community Sector organisations are well placed to play a key role in bushfire preparedness – that role may would capitalise on the existing nature of everyday interactions with community, rather than the expectation of staff becoming fire safety "experts".
- Passing a Parcel of information around in a community could extend the reach of existing Fire Safety information existent in a rural community.
- Existing networks can be used as a tool to disseminate bushfire safety information.

Social Network Map showing dense networks between clients and a staff member