

Introduction to recovery

Speed read

- Recovery is a coordinated, long-term, multi-layered social and developmental process of supporting disaster affected communities.
- Recovery involves the restoration of social, economic, built and natural environments.
- Recovery is best achieved when affected communities are actively involved.

Key points

Recovery is a process: Disasters can impact communities in profound, long lasting and life-changing ways. Therefore, recovery is a long-term, multi-layered social and developmental process. Recovery involves coming to terms with the impacts of a disaster and managing the disruptions and changes caused, which can result for some people in a new way of living. Being 'recovered' is being able to lead a life that individuals and communities value living, even if it is different to the life they were leading before the disaster event.

Planning for recovery: Planning for recovery is integral to preparing for disasters. It is not solely a post-disaster consideration. Ideally, recovery planning should occur in advance of a disaster and concurrently with planning for response. Some elements of recovery will continue well after the affected community is able to manage on its own.

Roles in recovery: Recovery is best achieved when affected communities have a high degree of self-determination and actively contribute to planning and implementing recovery activities. Recovery practitioners from all levels of government, non-government, community, corporate and philanthropic organisations involved in the recovery effort have a responsibility to work closely with the impacted community to provide a range of recovery activities, programs and services.

The aim of recovery is to achieve outcomes that are owned by the affected individuals and communities and supported by all involved organisations.

Take action

- Use these checklists to identify responsibilities, tasks, skills and abilities for recovery practitioners:
 - [Checklist 1 - Relief/Recovery Team Leader \(Operational\)](https://bit.ly/RecoveryChecklists) (bit.ly/RecoveryChecklists)
 - [Checklist 2 - Generalist Relief/Recovery Worker](https://bit.ly/RecoveryChecklists) (bit.ly/RecoveryChecklists)

More information

- [Community Recovery Handbook \(2018\)](#)
- [Recovery Collection on the Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub](#)