

Webinar chat summary

Spotlight Series webinar: Long term disaster impacts on education outcomes

Wednesday 1 April 2026, 1.00pm-2.00pm

Presenters

- **Dr Konstantina Vasilakopoulou**
Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow, RMIT
- **Professor Lisa Gibbs**
Director of the Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit, University of Melbourne
- **Alisha Chand**
Principal Partnership Manager – Disaster Resilience and Country, Queensland Kids Partnership
- **Dr Sharleen Keleher**
Early Childhood Education and Care Infant Mental Health Statewide Coordinator, Children's Health Queensland

Appreciation (small sample)

- Thanks for the great presentations!
- Great job, so interesting
- Thanks for great presentations. Great Webinar
- Great presentations, thank you
- Thanks very much, really interesting
- Very interesting insights to consider. Thank you
- Thank you, awesome webinar
- Informative and interesting information, thank you very much to all presenters.
- Thanks very much, very informative.

Questions submitted to the Q&A

- Did the studies make a distinction between inside and outside temperatures taking into account the benefits of air conditioning?
- Konstantina, can you please elaborate on the 'cultural' adaptation actions to cool students?
- Konstantina, After being in Greece last summer, I noticed that some primary schools were shifting classes to later in the evening. I saw this firsthand with my niece and nephew in Pieria. Since Greece is much more active during the summer evenings, this shift makes sense, and it also makes me wonder whether there will be studies on how these later schedules impact student performance.

Shared resources from participants

Flood Resilience Schools Program

<https://alt-qed.qed.qld.gov.au/programs-initiatives/department/building-education/major-projects/school-upgrades/flood-resilience>

Gender and Disaster Australia

Resources on the significant and complex increase of gender based violence due to disaster are available on the website, as well as information about free training nationally

[Home - Gender and Disaster Australia](#)

Links from webinar presentation

AIDR webinar recording

This webinar recording and slides will be uploaded to the AIDR Knowledge Hub:

<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/spotlight-series/>

RMIT's Vice Chancellor's Research Fellows

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/our-research/our-researchers/research-fellows/vc-research-fellows>

The Future of Extreme Heat in Cities: What We Know — and What We Don't

<https://www.wri.org/insights/future-extreme-heat-cities-data>

Australia's record-breaking weather in 2022: a very wet and sometimes very hot year

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/dec/30/australias-ninth-wettest-and-20th-hottest-year-looking-back-at-the-weather-in-2022>

Konstantina's study

<https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371/journal.pclm.0000618>

Connect with Konstantina

konstantina.vasilakopoulou@rmit.edu.au

Disaster, Climate and Adversity Unit at University of Melbourne

<https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-mental-health-and-community-wellbeing/disaster-climate-and-adversity>

Delayed Disaster Impacts on Academic Performance of Primary School Children

<https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/scholarlywork/1370279-delayed-disaster-impacts-on-academic-performance-of-primary-school-children>

Long term mental health trajectories after disasters and pandemics: A multilingual systematic review of prevalence, risk and protective factors

<https://research-repository.uwa.edu.au/en/publications/long-term-mental-health-trajectories-after-disasters-and-pandemic/>

Understanding encounters with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Australian veterans and Families (Cowlshaw)

<https://www.openarms.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022->



[11/Understanding encounters with Intimate Partner Violence among Australian veterans and families.pdf](#)

School staff support after major emergencies here

https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/5328680/Teachers-Health-Foundation-Final-UOM-Research-Report.pdf

Read more about Hobfoll's work

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18181708/>

Giving students time for recovery and learning

<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/giving-students-time-for-recovery-and-learning>

Resources for parents and caregivers

<https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/resources/resources-for-parents-and-caregivers/#recover>

Beyond Disasters

<https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-health-equity/research-group/beyond-disasters>

Children's Health Queensland

<https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au>

Queensland Kids Partnership

<https://qkp.org.au>

ARACY

<https://www.aracy.org.au>

Thriving Kids in Disasters Action and Investment Plan

<https://tqkp.org.au/resources/tkid-action-investment-plan/>

Economic and Social Impact of Disasters on Children and Young People report

<https://www.unicef.org.au/publications>

Birdie's Tree

<https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/our-work/birdies-tree-natural-disaster-recovery>

State of Australia's Children 2025 report

<https://www.unicef.org.au/publications>

Announcements

Resilience Matters webinar: The role of local government in disaster risk reduction

1.00pm (AEST), Tuesday 14 April 2026

[Resilience matters webinar series](#)