

## 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](#)