



# South Australian Country Fire Service

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Shifting the paradigm: trialling student and school community led disaster risk reduction programs in South Australia

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### Acknowledgement of Country

Nina marni, I acknowledge that I am hosting this meeting from the lands of the Kaura People, the Traditional Custodians of this land where I am.

I also acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the various lands on which you all work today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this meeting.

I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of our country.







# Introduction

- Who is the South Australian Country Fire Service?
- What are our roles within the organisation

# History of Education at SA CFS

- What have we done in the past to engage the child and youth sector?





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# Why Disaster Resilience Education?

- What informed our change?
- What was our response as an organisation to implement DRE?













# Changing the Paradigm

- What do we see currently and why are we working towards changing the paradigm?
- Why the need for change?
- What have we done as a response?



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# **Program Overview**

- New initiative we are trialing, set to launch next year
- Purpose
- Youth voice
- Informed by research
- Place-based model
- Holistic approach



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# **Program Overview**

Natural enquiry about educational support via our website/word of mouth/stakeholders

Welcome letter, VOICE: adult survey monkey (informs PD), child survey monkey (informs educational support/lessons/resources Thorough follow-up document with 3-4 challenges observed during PD session provided to school or centre

Tailored lesson plans and resources with curriculum links provided to kindergarten through high school

Online Learning Module on the benefits and importance of DRE in the classroom is also promoted Connections made with Community Engagement personnel to provide opportunities for our established Bushfire programs to occur at the site for families and the wider community

Connection to local brigade to support school/centre if requested and available to support

Consistent support via email and Padlet platform being trialled currently

Survey responses analysed to construct a site-specific PD session for all staff/helpers, child survey analysed to support learning within the classroom Professional development session at site. 'Poll Everywhere' used. Emergency management preparedness session. Scenariobased planning workshop. Posed the 'what ifs' and work together to make procedural change

COMING SOON...Development of a new program for families including children and youth to be actively involved in the bushfire planning process





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Examples of child survey responses to 'What do I want to know about bushfire?' and 'What do I want to know how to do, in regards to bushfires?'



#### GOING FURTHER

These questions have been designed to give children the opportunity to share their understandings, views, thoughts and ultimately youth voice. We encourage you to draw out as many responses as the children have and record these below, in order to guide the program ahead. There are no right and wrong responses and any notes taken will be beneficial. Please add additional paper if needed.

\* Use the options below the question, if need be, to help prompt further thought and responses '

#### Question 1:

#### What do I want to know about bushfire?

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(What about last season? What about what happened in KI or the Adelaide Hills? What about those that can help us? What might be difficult? What about at our school? What about at home? What about preparing for a fire? Etc.)

How quick does it spread? · How thick are firemens suits? . How high can the fires go? · Why does it spread faster uphill? . How long does it take to fully extinguish a big fire? · What happens when you lose control of a fire? . How many litres of water do planes pick up? . How long can a fise go for?



#### **Question 2:**

#### What do I want to know how to do, in regards to bushfires?

(What about options at school? What about home? What might happen and why? What about feeling safe? What could you learn from school? What could you do at home? What could you learn from others? What would you do before next season? If you could do anything about bushfires, what would that be? How could you help? Etc.)







### Examples of adult survey responses to 'What concerns you the most about bushfires?'

| Belinda w  | 100773 Safety of family friends and our school community   | nal    |
|------------|--|--------|
| guest393   | 589300 Unpredictable Development session   | on     |
| Emma       | 76642 It's unpredictability, My kids   | 71     |
| Annon      | 383791 Getting to the kids   |        |
| guest289   | 324461 Being separated from family   |        |
| Sonia      | 454910 My family and the kids I teach  |        |
| guest414   | 236022 Getting my children, My family  |        |
| Amie TEA   | 828670 Family& friends   |        |
| guest033   | 39424 Family and pets  |        |
| Toni Burfc | 758592 People on staff making last minute decisions and leaving not enough people at school. My personal responsibilities vs school                                    |        |
| guest352   | 545308 The unpredictability of fires.  |        |
| Anne Cart  | 881002 Conflict between needs of school and personal needs   |        |
| Maureen    | 741984 Getting trapped   |        |
| guest108   | 99292 conflict between school and personal needs,getting information to family   |        |
| guest500   | 740380 Helping my class through the trauma of the bushfire   |        |
| Flash      | 58249 Their speed  |        |
| guest026   | 782109 My family, colleagues & friends welfare   |        |
| Anon       | 286352 Enacting my own plan whole I'm at work, My pets, My children, Driving through the hills from where I work to where I live, Not always being aware of what's hap | pening |
| guest623   | 922583 Being safe and knowing that the kids and my own family are safe.  |        |
| guest700   | 468669 Evacuating safely   |        |
| Anon       | 561907 My family's safety  |        |







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# Other DRE initiatives involving the SACFS

Aside of the Bushfire Education program, we are/ have been engaged with :



ABC's Behind the News and Ask a Reporter





Adelaide Hills Be You Bushfire Response Program recorded panel of experts for Adel Hills and KI

Red

Cross

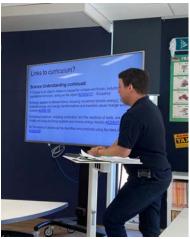


SA Science Teachers Association Conference and Oliphant Science Awards Judging and Sponsorship



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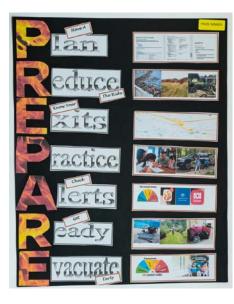






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### Examples of paradigm change in action!











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## Just to finish off.....

### **Historical Approach-**



- Traditionally delivered by firefighters
- Visit schools and centres for a small stand-alone lesson and focus on many features of a fire truck
- Imposed program or activity surrounding topics such as 'Stop, Drop and Roll' and not revisited again for another year.

### **New Approach-**

- Delivered by skilled and empowered educators who have been supported to become experts themselves
- Actively involve students by empowering youth voice to make a difference within DRE
- Inquiry-based, supports what child and youth believe is most important to them so they can actively contribute to decision-making
- Interactive, connective and bridging gaps
- Long lasting disaster resilience outcomes by providing knowledge, skills and attitudes to understand local hazards and disaster risks at a local level.

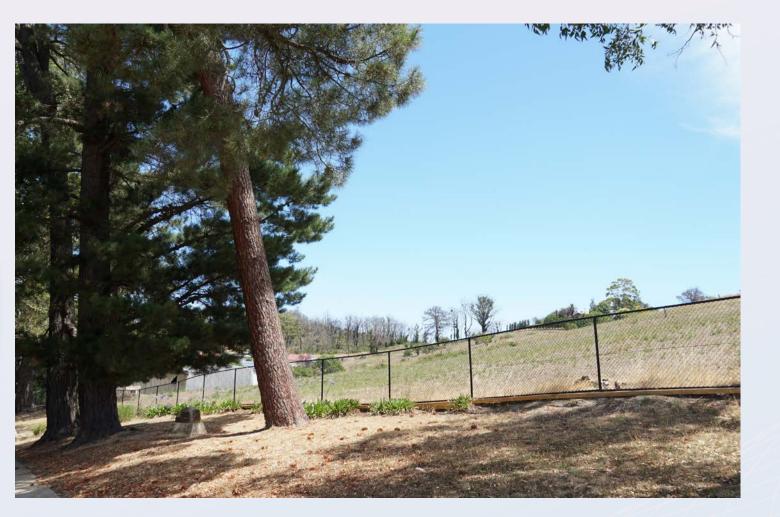




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### Thank you for joining us!

### For more information, please visit

cfs.sa.gov.au/child-and-youth or

email belinda.dunbar@sa.gov.au

