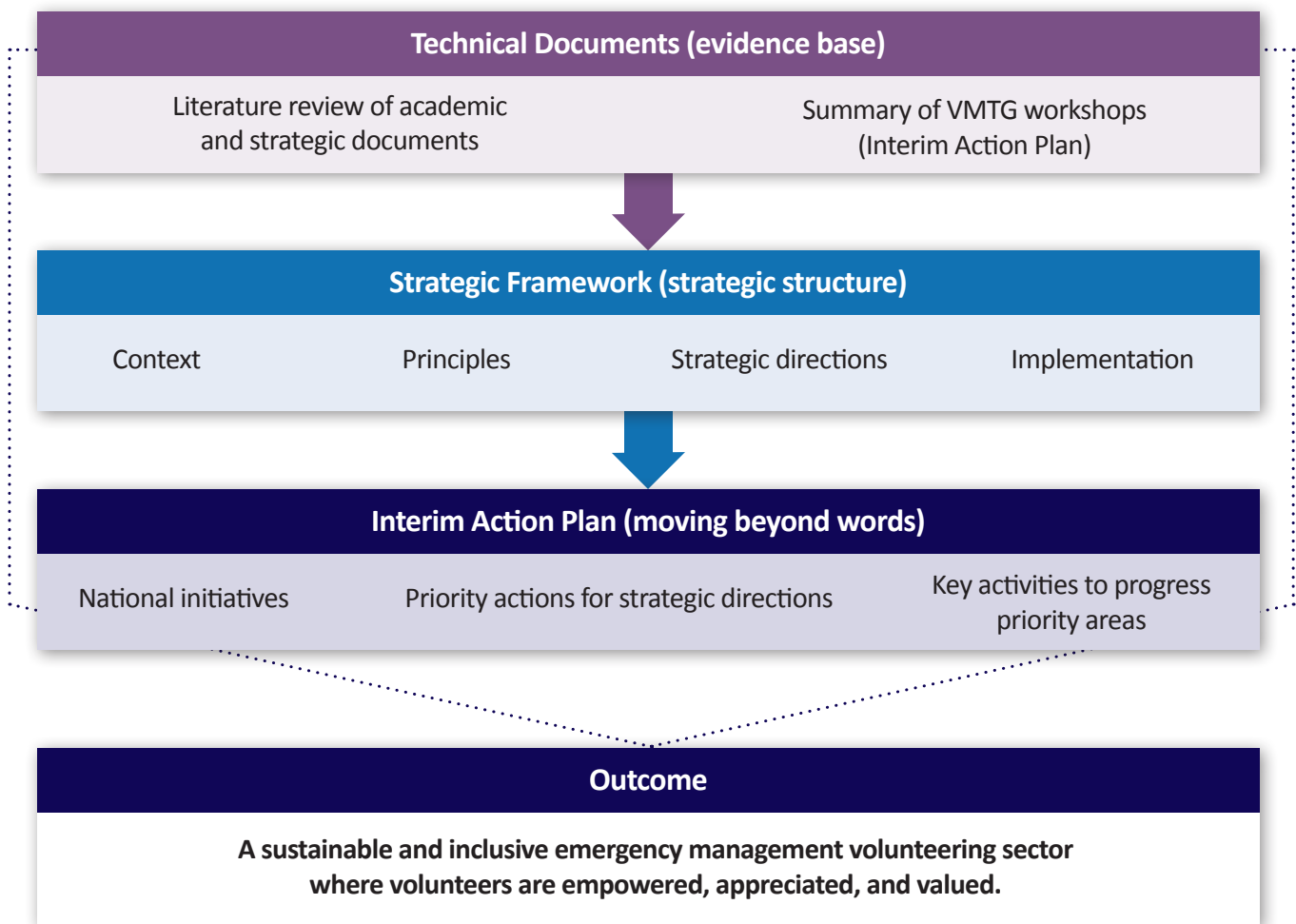


The Emergency Management Sustainable Volunteering Blueprint Explainer

What is The Blueprint?

The Blueprint was developed as part of the ‘Emergency management volunteering: more than just words’ project. This was conceived with a clear goal in mind – to move the emergency management (EM) sector beyond discussing challenges for EM volunteering and the need for change within the sector into practical, tangible action that addresses long-standing challenges.

The Emergency Management Sustainable Volunteering Blueprint – more than just words



The Blueprint comprises of three components:

- > research and industry knowledge
- > The Emergency Management Sustainable Volunteering Blueprint: Strategic Framework (The Strategic Framework), and
- > The Emergency Management Sustainable Volunteering Blueprint: Interim Action Plan (The Interim Action Plan).

The AFAC Volunteer Management Technical Group (VMTG) is the champion for **The Blueprint** and steward of **The Strategic Framework** and **The Interim Action Plan**.

Why do we need this?

A number of long-standing and acknowledged issues confront the EM volunteering sector. These have been exacerbated by the increasingly dynamic context in which EM organisations operate and communities live, making sector-wide action an imperative. The invisibility of those who volunteers, what they do and where, and the value of their contributions, are central challenges.

Although widespread and sustained efforts have been undertaken in areas such as recruitment and retention, many deeper underlying issues remain unaddressed. Current drivers of change and system influences are changing expectations of those who want to volunteer and how they wish to volunteer. The roles volunteers undertake in EM have also expanded beyond response to the whole preparedness, prevention, response and recovery (PPRR) spectrum. Organisations need to change and adapt in response to these factors, leveraging the opportunities change offers to strengthen and grow their volunteering workforce.

How does it work?

Because the issues facing the EM volunteering sector are systemic, addressing these is a long-term prospect, which requires bringing together big picture strategic thinking with on ground action. Collaboration, innovation, accountability, resources, and decisive leadership are central to achieving effective outcomes. **The Blueprint** provides a structure that can be built on to support these efforts. It also enables practitioners, volunteers, communities and organisations to work collaboratively to achieve sector-wide changes. Enabling aspects of **The Blueprint** are:

- > Strategic directions that are aligned to current AFAC, EM organisational, and Volunteering Australia strategies to enable tracking of progress over time.
- > A structure to highlight where initiatives are occurring so these can be coordinated across the sector.
- > Principles that outline the basis for an inclusive, respectful, and ethical processes.
- > A pathway to enhance the volunteering experience and build EM organisations' volunteering capability through innovation, and education and learning.
- > Live documents that can be adapted to incorporate changes as they occur whilst still maintaining focus.

The championing of this through the AFAC VMTG provides a mechanism for volunteers and other participants within the EM volunteering ecosystem to contribute through their organisations.

How can you get involved?

Scan the QR code to download **The Strategic Framework** and discuss it with your team or colleagues, or follow this link: <https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/research/research-projects/emergency-management-volunteering-more-just-words>

