

Concept Map of the Community Safety Approach to Bushfire in Australia: Values, Principles and Desired Outcomes

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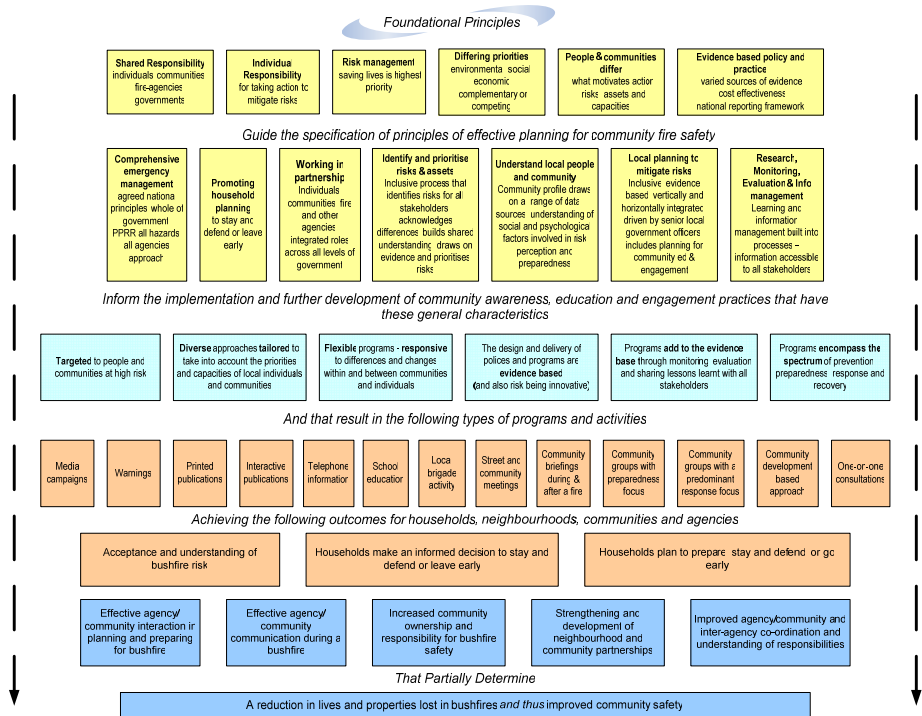
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This concept map draws on two projects undertaken to inform the development of a framework to evaluate community bushfire education, awareness and engagement activities:

1. a review of recent Australian bushfire reports
2. a developing database of bushfire specific community education, awareness and engagement programs

The review of recent reports generated information about values, principles and characteristics that represent the expression of the community safety approach in emerging bushfire policy and program development.

The database of community education, awareness and engagement programs provided examples of a wide range of types of activities that have been developed across Australia with the aim of generating outcomes for households, neighbourhoods, communities and agencies that will contribute to improved community safety in bushfires.



The synthesized concept map illustrates the coherence of the Australian community safety approach to bushfire while revealing potential paradoxes, possible conflicts and missing elements.

It also provides an overview of the possible causal relationships between community safety policy (including the 'stay and defend or leave early' recommendation), the types of activities and programs designed to implement or support the policy, and the potential short-term and longer duration outcomes that are intended to lead to a decrease in the loss of lives and property from bushfire and a minimization of environmental damage.

It thus provides one important source of values informed and policy relevant criteria for the evaluation of specific community safety activities and programs.