

FOREWORD

Trans-Tasman collaboration setting the new recovery agenda

*Andrew Coghlan and Sarah Norman reflect on the increased interest
and commitment to disaster recovery in both Australia and New Zealand*

Since the events of September 11 and the Bali Bombings, many people have noted the amount of attention given to activities traditionally defined as response. At the same time there has been somewhat of a 'quiet revolution' in the recovery arena as models have evolved and been adapted to meet the ever-increasing range of risks to which communities may be exposed. This edition of the *Australian Journal of Emergency Management* highlights the interest and commitment of those working in the area of recovery. It provides a range of articles reflecting both recent and continuing developments in the areas of recovery policy, planning, management and professional development.

Two major activities, both sides of the Tasman Sea, have typified this development, renewal and strengthening of recovery arrangements. In New Zealand, a strategic framework for recovery is being developed, encompassing an holistic approach and activities to enhance New Zealand's ability to recover from disasters. In Australia, a major review of community support and recovery arrangements has been completed under the auspice of the Community Services Minister's Advisory Council's Disaster Recovery Sub-committee.

Recovery developments in New Zealand

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management has made a commitment to recovery from emergencies under Goal 4 of the *National Civil Defence Emergency Management Strategy*. The draft document *Focus on Recovery: An Holistic Framework for Recovery* is a discussion document setting the direction and proposing a framework for recovery planning and management in New Zealand. It outlines the context and direction of future work for recovery including the identification of activities that work towards enhancing New Zealand's ability to recover from disasters. The aim is to increase the capability of organisations to undertake short, medium and long-term recovery activities, enabling a timely and effective response to the recovery of affected communities.



*Symposium delegates reflect on both continuing development in
recovery policy, planning and management*

On 12 and 13 July 2004 approximately 300 delegates from a variety of professions, organisations, and backgrounds gathered in Napier, New Zealand to attend the New Zealand Recovery Symposium. Delegates contributed to the development of the recovery framework through discussion and debate of the multifaceted aspects of recovery outlined in the draft document *Focus on Recovery: An Holistic Framework for Recovery*. A range of international and national experts presented, including Professor James K. Mitchell (USA), Dr. Anne Eyre (UK), Professor Brenda Philips (USA), Professor John Handmer (Australia), Dr. Rob Gordon (Australia), Dr. David Johnston (NZ), and Professor Emeritus A.J.W. Taylor (NZ).

In opening the Symposium, Professor Ken Mitchell, Rutgers University, USA, provided a fascinating insight to the 1976 earthquake in the City of Tangshang in China; an event little-known to many. The earthquake claimed over 250,000 lives and the population is still recovering. This emphasised the complexity and long-term nature of the consequences to be managed as the result of disaster. In this time of discussion and consideration of 'consequence management,' it was a timely reminder of the complexity of post disaster management.

While discussions at the Symposium were energetic and opinions varied, there was clear agreement in a number of key areas. The holistic approach addressing the key components of recovery were endorsed while the naming of the components as suggested at the Symposium, being community, psychosocial, environment, infrastructure and economic, will