

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #102

1. Title:

Addressing Children's Needs in Emergency Management via Implementation Science

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3. Key words:

Consolidated Framework Implementation Research; Disaster; Policy; Youth

4. Abstract text:

a. Background and aims

Australian communities have a long history of natural disasters with significant impact. There is an equally long history of public inquiry into causes and reports and recommendations to improve public policy and emergency management (EM) practice. Together with evaluations of operational disaster response, these findings provide a rich source of lessons learnt and recommendations for improvement.

The needs of children are routinely overlooked in EM planning in Australia. Despite guidance on key elements of EM plans in the international literature, there has been little change in national EM practice. Furthermore, EM planning takes place in a complex environment, involving different levels of government, emergency management agencies, the community and other stakeholders.

The Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR, Damschroder et al., 2009) developed for the health sector can be applied to EM research. The framework contains five major domains which interact in complex ways to influence implementation effectiveness making this framework appropriate for monitoring the uptake of innovative EM practice.

b. Methods

The CFIR provides defined constructs to guide data collection which will be used to develop a list of appropriate measures to evaluate the barriers and facilitators for individuals and organisations implementing changes to EM planning to include the needs of children. The project focuses on local and state EM planning and the interaction between these and other key stakeholders.

c. Conclusion

The CFIR is a promising model that can be translated into the EM field to assess the barriers and facilitators affecting uptake of effective practice.