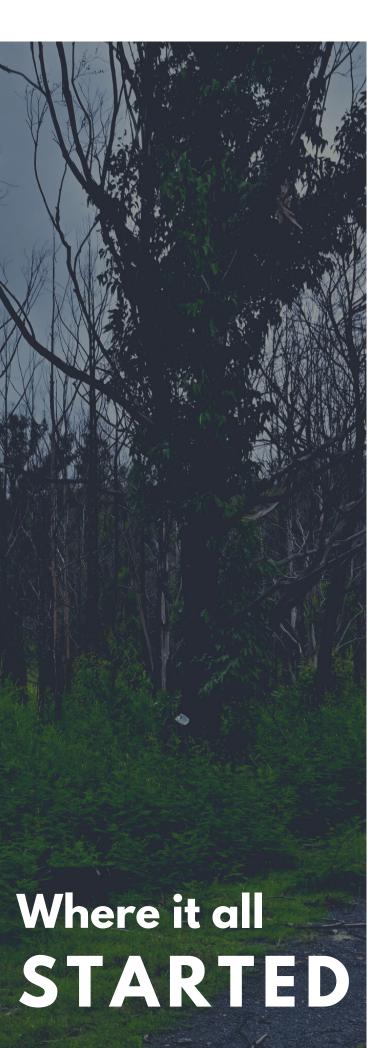


THE BUSHFIRE& RESILIENCE PROJECT (BRRP) -PHASE 2 PROPOSAL







The Bushfire Recovery & Resilience Project (BRRP). which was funded by the Bushfire Recovery Victoria (Local Economic Recovery Round 1), provided specific support services to families with children with additional needs.

The communities that were supported include <u>Orbost, Buchan, Cann River,</u> and <u>Mallacoota</u>, with smaller roles in Lakes <u>Entrance, Bairnsdale</u> and <u>Sarsfield.</u>

The project was enabled through the support of the Children with Additional Needs Working Group (CWANWG).

The project had three key outcomes:

1.Build the capacity of parents/carers of Children with Additional Needs across East Gippsland;

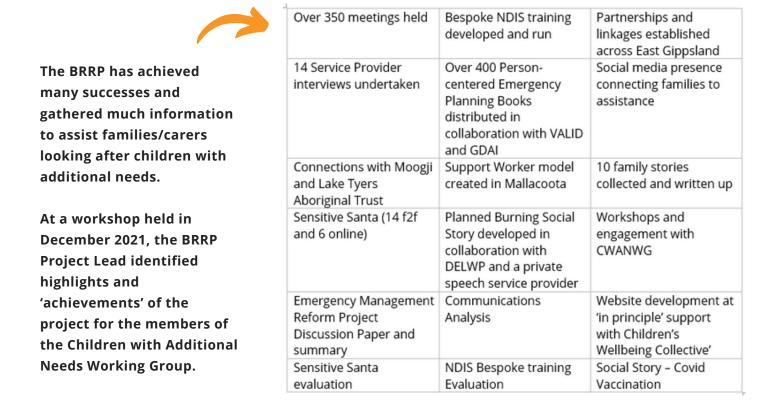
2.Map and document pathways for children/families in ways that are easy to understand and

3.Improve feedback from children and families to improve support services

The project runs from 1 May 2021 until 7 July 2022.

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CURRENT STATUS



Sensitive Santa	Monthly meetings are	Strategic connections –
	rich in information	Disability Advocacy
		Committee (EGSC)
Info sessions	Getting to small/remote	Funding for OT sessions
Mallacoota- NDIS	communities	in Mallacoota & Cann
		River, including with
		medical and school staff
		to assist with recovery
Promoting work on	2 families identified for	Voices of community-
social media/ and print	pathway to the Royal	parents and service
media coverage	Disability Commission	providers heard
Getting service provider	One stop shop-	Link to Parks Victoria
list and questions to ask	education/ school	
	readiness info	
Submissions to NDIS	Strengthen network for	
 NDIS reform 	voices and families	
 Disability act 		
- Price		
arrangements		
Parks Victoria and		
Victorian Disability plan		

Key achievements then complimented the list by contributions from the CWANWG members:





SO WHAT'S NEXT?

This Emergency Management Reform Project has emerged from the issues identified through the Children with Additional Needs Working Group as one of its top 2 priorities.

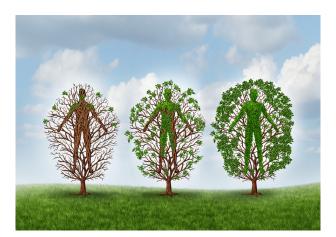
The Emergency Management Reform Project Discussion Paper specifically discusses feedback received from families and service providers across East Gippsland and highlights the challenges and opportunities which presented during and after the Black Summer Fires.

As a result of the feedback from families in East Gippsland, key projects have now been identified as **priorities** to seek resourcing to implement. These include:

- Preparedness Planning through Person-Centered Emergency Planning
- Capacity building for Emergency Responders through a working group
- Safer refuge/relief centres for families and carers of children with additional needs
- Pathways to recovery by establishing a strong community of practice with private service providers and looking at the way funding is granted
- Accommodation Project seeking alternative accommodation arrangements and identifying a key lead
- Application of the Vulnerable Person's Register through the East Gippsland Region during the Black Summer fires.

The stories from families and services require a genuine commitment and funding for everyone involved in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. It should be noted that many of these experiences can and should be considered across all emergencies/hazards.

The impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires and COVID demands us to listen to communities and have a willingness to actively deliver on what we are being told by families and service providers. This is our opportunity to understand our obligation to follow through on the recommendations and actions for us to be prepared for future disasters, particularly for families with children with additional needs.



FOR NOTING

As a result of a Workshop with the Children with Additional Needs Working Group members, eight key areas were highlighted and prioritised from the tables of information collected from families and service providers.

These priorities include:

- 1. Continue funding Bushfire Recovery and Resilience Role
- Actions and Emergency Response strategies to be implemented to support wellbeing during emergencies (combined with number 10 priority – Emergency Response Reform)
- 3. Consultation/Audit Forum Share evidencebased information collected
- 4. To have a process supported that designs a system of support for the future
- 5. NDIS how to access, use it and thin markets
- 6. Diagnostic pathways
- 7. Department of Education and Training to improve inclusion and transition
- 8. Develop better communication methods

It is important to note that there are still many areas from evidence collected that require further investigation. These can be made available on request. The top eight priorities have now been worked into smaller discreet projects and the CWANWG are now seeking funding to progress through grant applications.





NEXT STEPS

The original application to BRV sought \$350K over three years to cover off this key piece of work. Out of the original request, BRV supported three outcomes which are on track to be delivered on time and within budget.

The key priority "Emergency Management Reform Project" (as identified by the CWANWG) forms the basis of the request to seek funding to resource the key activities and is informed by families/carers and service providers' experiences through the Black Summer Fires.

Future grants will be sought to cover other projects as identified by the CWANWG.