

Vulnerable Groups

The Northland Welfare Advisory Group was responsible for this project and submitted the application on behalf of the group.

Existing research, and reviews of the Canterbury experience, both highlight the importance of support service organisations in helping people during a CDEM event. These organisations often have existing relationships with vulnerable people. The potential to work with these organisations to not only improve their own preparedness; but also to improve their clients' preparedness and resilience.

This project sort to achieve two main outcomes:

1. Improved preparedness for organisations that support vulnerable people
2. Improved preparedness of people at higher risk of not coping with an event.

Key components of the project were:

1. Stock-take of support service organisations

A survey to identify organisations that link with vulnerable people has been undertaken and a data base for the Northland region has been created with in excess of 150 agencies listed. Interviews and brief surveys have been conducted to further understand how these organisations could support these people during an emergency.

2. Development of a communications pack

This communications pack covers:

- Preparedness material for support service organisations
- Key messages, and techniques for talking about preparedness with individuals.

The communications pack information is modelled on the Northland CDEM Group e CRP templates and highlights the "Get Ready Get Thru" branding.

3. Conduct a series of welfare workshop for support service organisations

Aimed at improving understanding of the CDEM environment and how support service organisations can work in it a series of workshops throughout the main centres in Northland.

The key outcomes of this project have been an -

- Improved understanding of the social service organisations that work with vulnerable people
- Development of a communications pack covering :
 - Supporting preparedness for support service organisations
 - Key messages and techniques for talking about preparedness with potentially vulnerable individuals.

Contact for further information - Shona Morgan shonam@nrc.govt.nz