

STORIES AND INSIGHTS OF COMMUNITY-LED DISASTER RESILIENCE WITH QUEENSLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES





Neighbourhood Centres Queensland acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of Country; we pay our respects to Elders and Ancestors past and present, and extend that respect to those with us today.

Sovereignty has never been ceded.

It always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

State Snapshot of Neighbourhood Centres

2023 Annual Figures

155



Neighbourhood Centres

1,598



Community Projects Run

1,547



Staff Members

2,454



Volunteers each week

Over 960,000

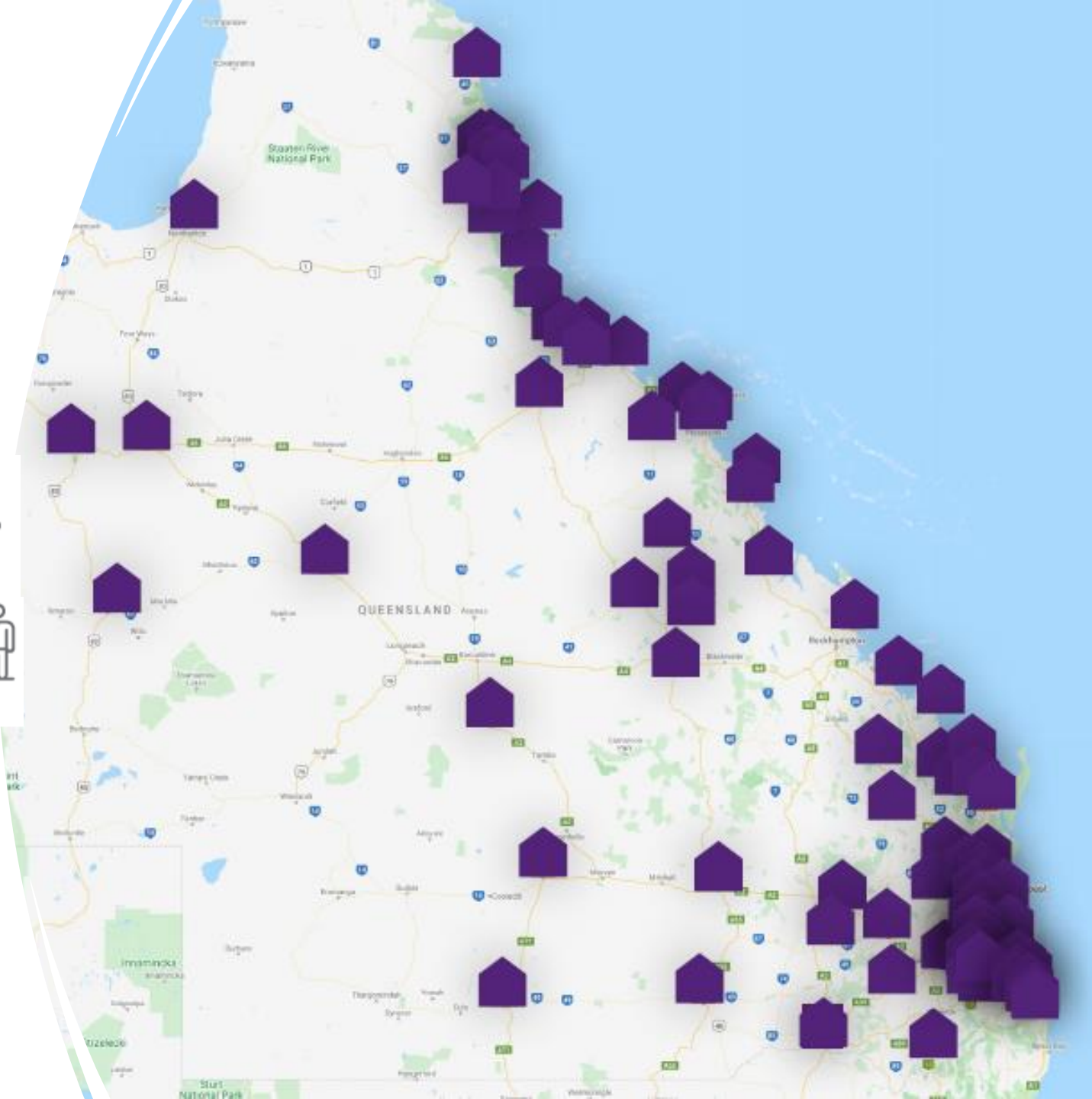


occasions Centres assisted community members to link to formal or informal support



2.4 million

Visitors per year



Neighbourhood Centres' alignments

National Disaster Recovery Principle 3
'advocate a community-led approach to
empower individuals and communities
to manage their own recovery'

Community development is a recognised
method of community-led practices, which
is an underpinning framework of many
place-based Neighbourhood Centres.



Queensland Neighbourhood Centres

Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2023-2026

A plan to strengthen the resilience of Queensland's local communities facing COVID-19, flooding and rainfall events, drought, bushfires and other disasters.



PRIORITY 2



Strengthen Relationships & Collaboration

Strengthen relationships towards greater collaboration of NCCs within the disaster management sector; and relationships towards greater inclusion of community members in all stages of disasters.

Key Points

- ❖ Neighbourhood Centres across the state are working **with** their communities in **preparedness, response and recovery**, taking **community-led** approaches.
- ❖ Neighbourhood Centres are **unique** and **shaped by their local communities**.

Photo: Food support for pets with Better Together Community Support, Atherton





Taking a Neighbourhood Centres' Lens

- ❖ The **community members are central** to '*community-led*' practices, *rather than organisations*.
- ❖ As place-based organisations to play a **supportive role** and **hold space** for community members to:
 - **identify shared needs**
 - **form shared visions, and**
 - **take ownership of the process.**

Key strengths:

- ❖ **Trusted relationships** with community members
- ❖ Current **connections** and **knowledge** of **vulnerable groups'** needs, trends and experiences
- ❖ **Localised** and **adaptive** to communities
- ❖ 'Core business' is **working with** and **supporting** local **communities**

Neighbourhood Centres are recognised as '**hubs of community knowledge**', where community connections can form.



Working with a Community Development Approach

Principles

- Working *with* people rather than *for* them
- Enhancing **participation** in the community and in **decision making**
- Focusing on geographic communities as **integrated wholes**, not just target groups



- Building on the **existing strengths**, skills and organisational capacities of communities
- Providing opportunities for **relationship building** within and between communities
- Building **collective action** between people to **share power and resources**

Source and further information
on Community Development:
cdqld.org

A Neighbourhood Centre's practice reflections:

“We are able to *identify* the issues and the challenges in our community and then *respond* with opportunities.

We've built that *relationship* with people. It's all about building *rapport* and *listening to stories* and being mindful that *we aren't taking ownership* of other people's stories, *we're working with them*”.

resilient
kurilpa

[About](#) [2024 Events & Recordings](#) [Learn](#) [Connect](#) [f](#) [@](#) [▶](#)

Community-led
support, sharing, action



resilient
kurilpa

[About](#) [Projects](#) [Learn](#) [Connect](#) [f](#) [@](#)

[Apartment Toolkit](#)

[Kurilpa Flood Library](#)

[Resources](#)

[Local Insights Blog](#)

[Things You Should Know](#)

Kurilpa Flood Library

Kurilpa is located on the most developed floodplain in Australia.

A changing climate and urban landscape means future floods may be different and hard to predict.

Explore the Kurilpa Flood Library below to learn about different experiences of local impacts and possibilities for life on the Kurilpa floodplain. Or download the Library cards to print out.

How can I use the Library? +

Where does the Library source knowledge? +

Submit to the Library +

About the project +

We support critical knowledge and resource sharing, led by frontline experiences, for people to prepare, respond, recover and plan for future floods.



there's always options outside of the body corporate world



Benarrawa Community Development Association

Measuring Impact – how building community connections informed community led disaster recovery, resilience and preparedness in Southwest Brisbane

The Background

- *Strengthening Neighbourly Connections Project*: aimed to connect residents experiencing social isolation and loneliness during Covid
- *Where* and *How* can we connect?
- Theory of Change evaluation process in partnership with ‘Community Services Industry Alliance’ highlighted that door step visits were an effective community led, grassroots community development strategy

Benarrawa’s Disaster Recovery, Resilience & Preparedness Project

- *Doorstep visits* prioritised as the most significant strategy for engaging with flood affected residents in Corinda and Oxley
 - *Oxley Resilience Festival* – July 2023
 - *Oxley Creek Flood Action Group* – 35+ members
 - *Continued Doorstep Visits* – partnering with Queensland Health Metro South Recovery Flood Team
 - *Development of Street/Neighbourhood Disaster Plans*
- *Brisbane Neighbourhood Centres Disaster Network*
 - Support each other to enact the *QLD Neighbourhood Centres Strategy for Disaster Resilience* and advocate to strengthen the role of Neighbourhood Centres in Disaster Management Arrangements

“Benarrawa” – John Tatten

“Benarrawa is flowing. We dream that the people listen to the land and to each other”



Questions?

Feel free to contact us ...

Neighbourhood Centres Queensland

Natasha Odgers
*Sector Lead - Disaster
Resilience*

E: natashaodgers@ncq.org.au

M: 0424 240 964

W: ncq.org.au

Community Plus

Melinda McInturff
*Community
Resilience Coordinator*

E: melinda@communityplus.org.au

M: 0488 084 533

W: communityplus.org.au

Benarrawa Community Development Association

Sandiellen Black
*Community Development
Coordinator*

E: sandiellen@benarrawa.org.au

P: 07 3379 9925

W: benarrawa.org.au