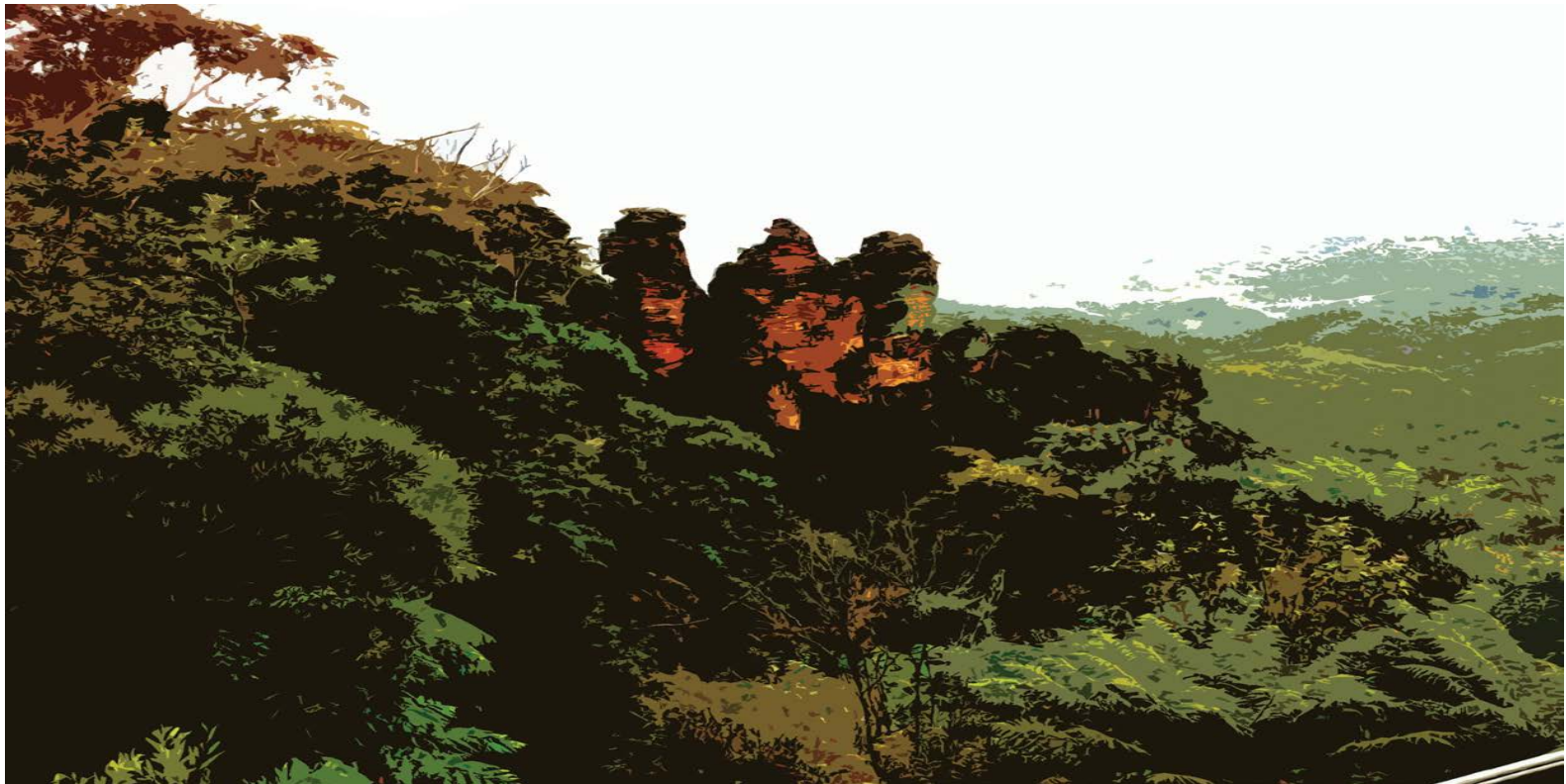




Springwood Neighbourhood Centre
Co-operative Ltd
Striving for a community that is vibrant, caring and inclusive



Shared Responsibility – Shades of Grey



Who are we?

Charles Sturt University:

Dr Val Ingham & Dr Sarah Redshaw

Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre:

Kath Harrison, Manager

Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Co-operative Ltd:

Toni Quigley, Manager

Blue Mountains City Council:

Prue Hargrove, Aged & Disability Services Development Officer

Mountains Community Resources Network

Kris Newton, Manager

Guiding question

What are the needs of identified vulnerable community members within the Blue Mountains to be connected and supported in their community environment?

This includes connection and safety at home, in the immediate locality, and in disaster situations such as bushfires, storms and extended power outages.

Starting point

Community Connections \$40,000

Comprising \$10, 000 from each organisation

Participatory Action Research

Survey, focus groups and interviews- report



Community Connections is about:

- Investigating connections in the wider community - social capital
- Examining the level of vulnerability and risk in the community
- Investigating procedures which support community disaster planning and recovery

Survey results



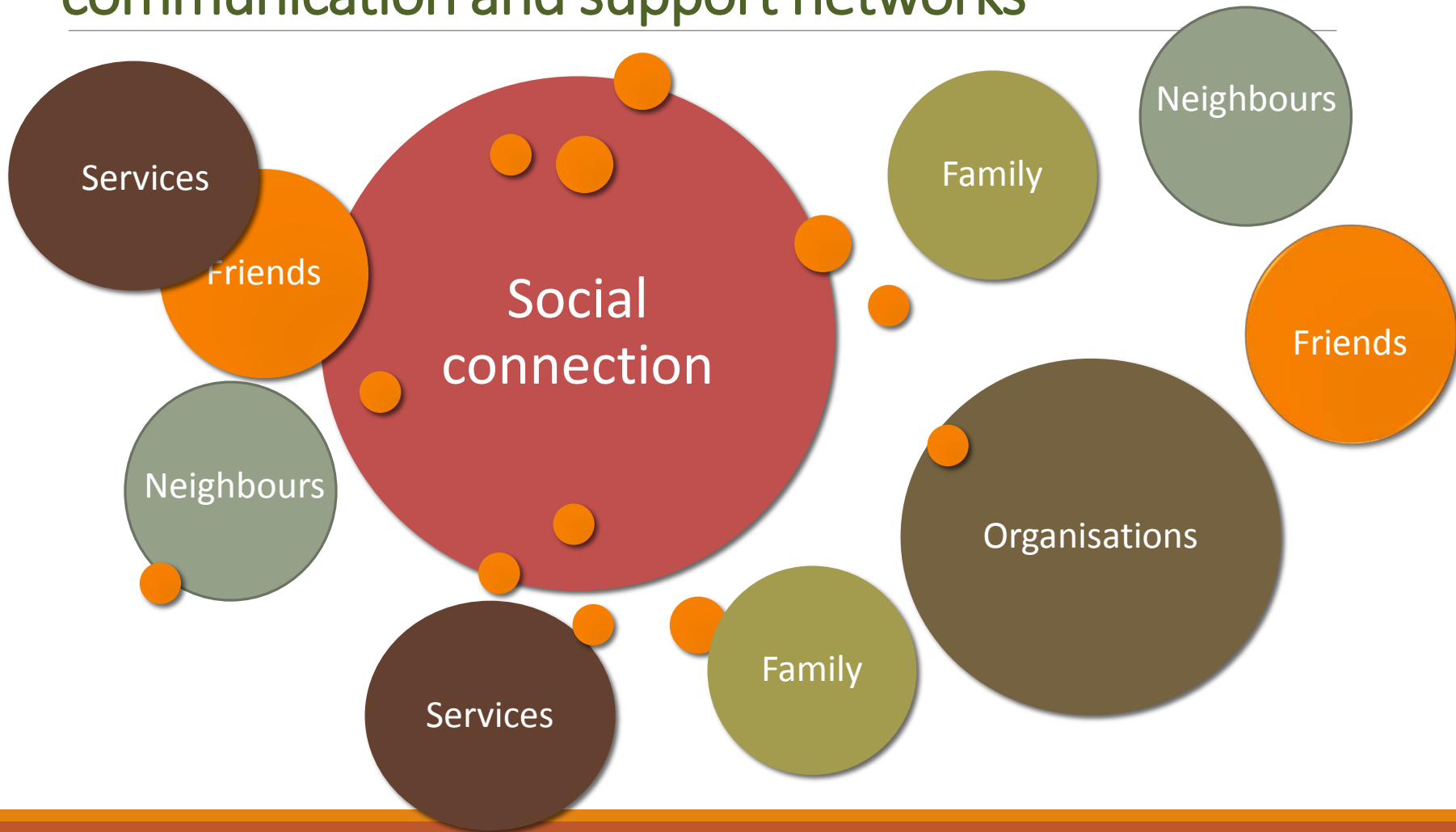
1103 returned, 1072 analysed

Demographic factors

Three scales – Community Participation, Network Connection and Social Cohesion

Less community connection for those with chronic conditions especially <65, living alone and in particular areas

Community: Social Connection, communication and support networks

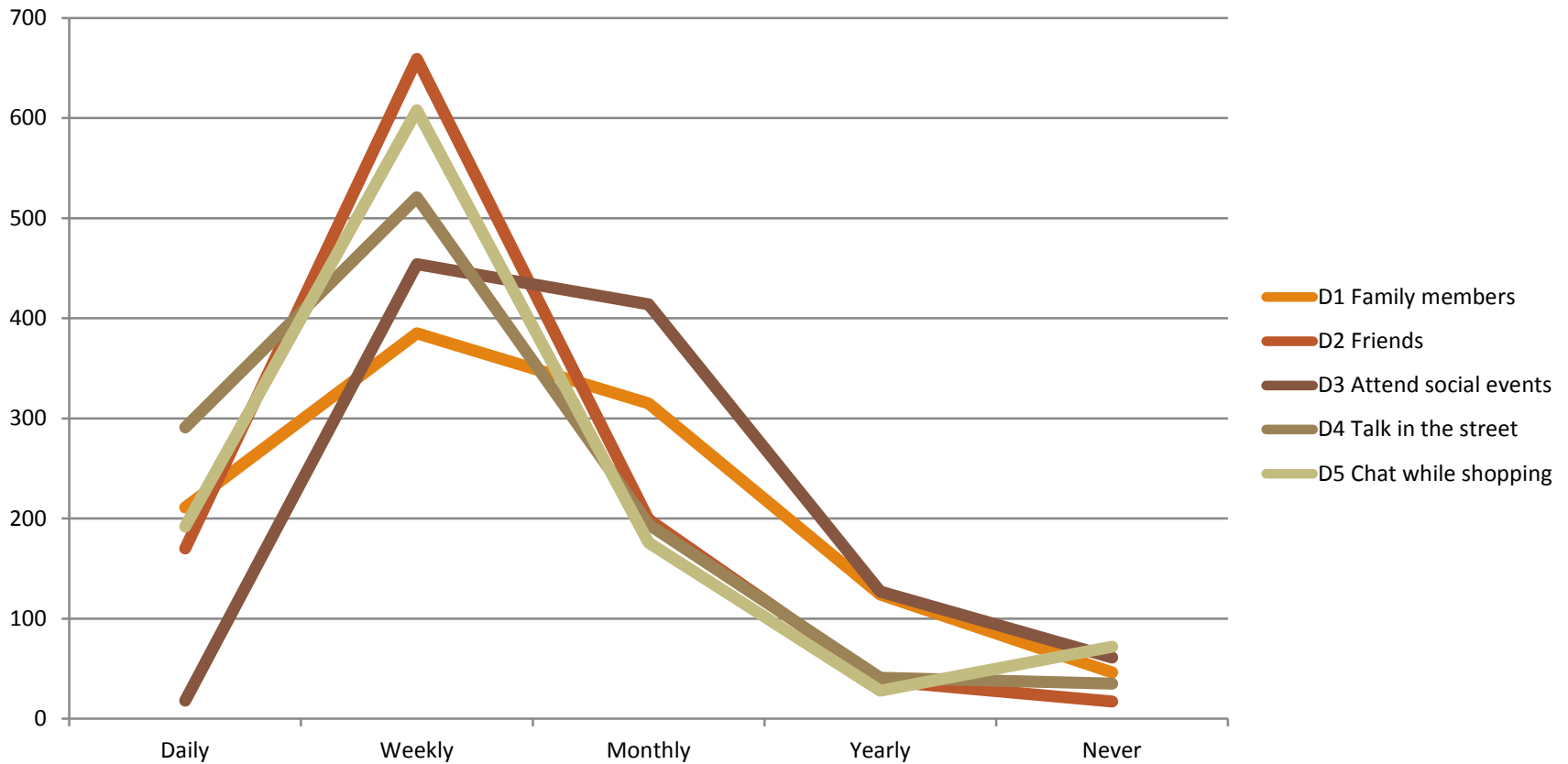


Community participation: the involvement of residents in the community

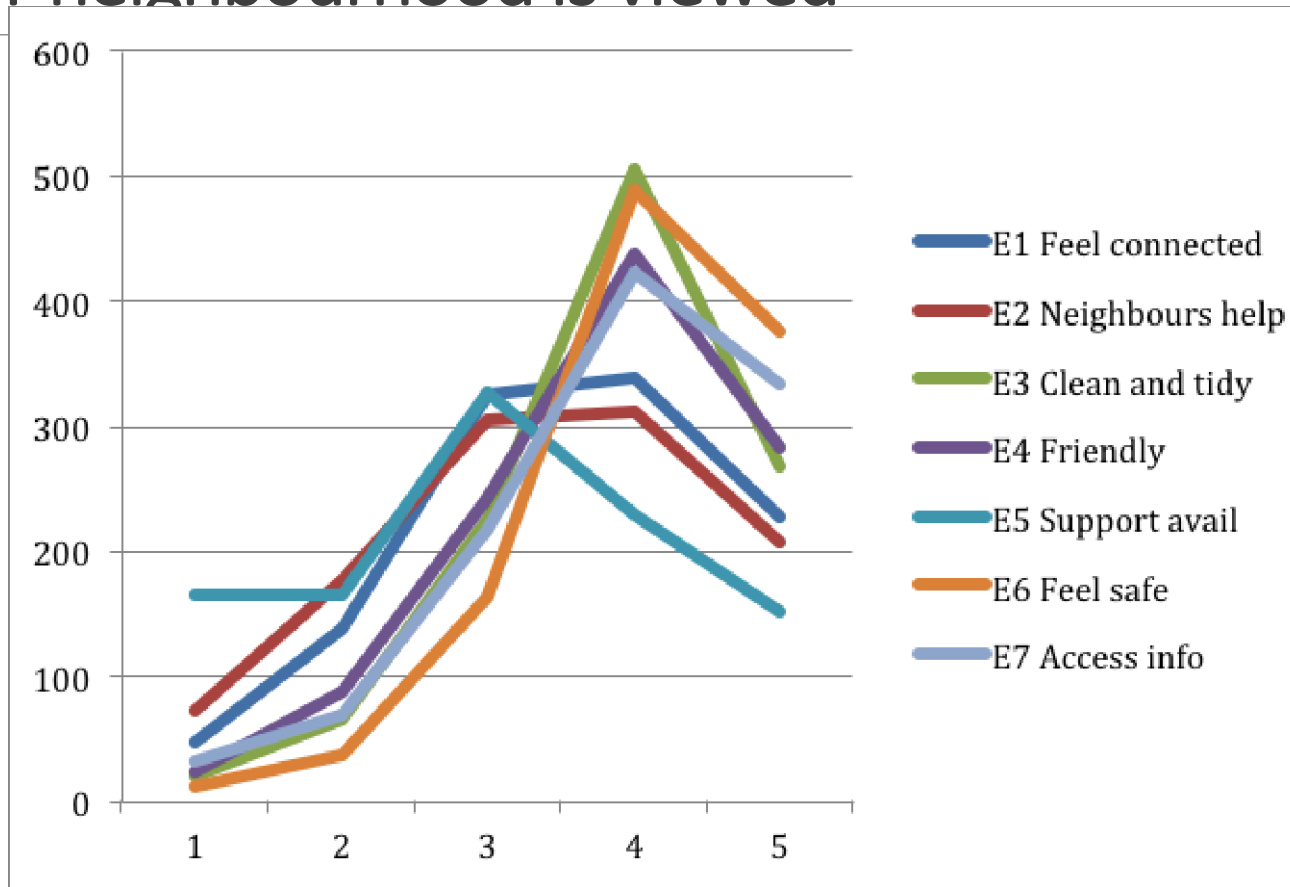
	Yes per cent	No per cent
B1 Attend festivals	79.7	19.1
B2 Volunteer	50	49.6
B3 Go out	72.9	26.5
B4 Local Assoc	67.3	31.9
B5 Share Meal	74.8	23.4

Social network engagement: social networks and connections

Contact frequency



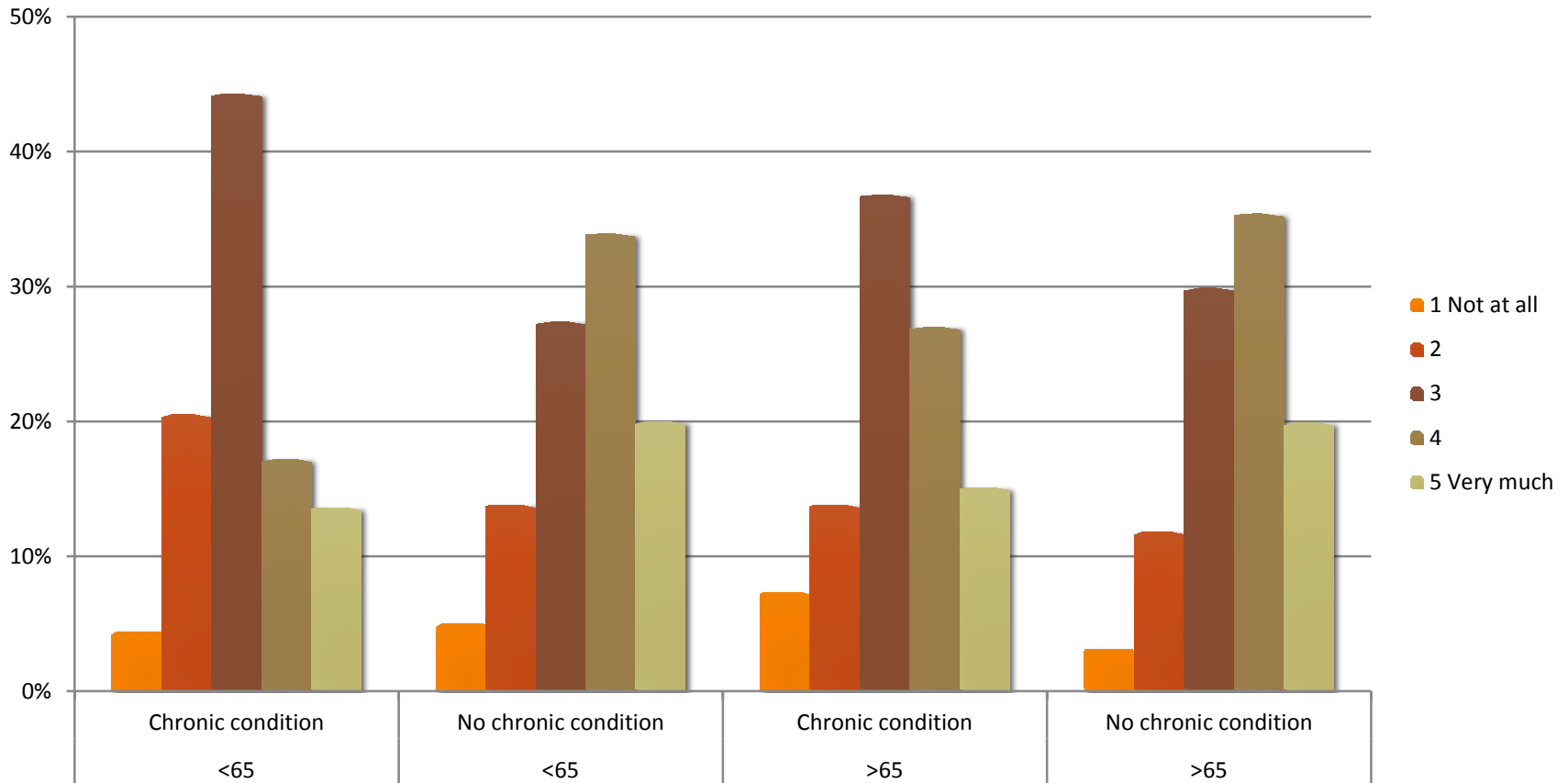
Social cohesion: the way the local area or neighbourhood is viewed



Neighbourhood connection levels for each question

Chronic condition: effect on feeling connected

Chronic condition and feeling connected



Shared Responsibility

‘shared responsibility’ is most commonly used in Australian fire and emergency management to refer to the need for communities to be more self-reliant in preparing for and responding to hazard events. Further, ‘communities’ are conceived primarily as households and individuals.

(McLennan and Hanmer 2012, p.11)

In countries such as Australia and the US, the theme of ‘shared responsibility’ in developing the capacity for ‘resilience’ has featured strongly in recent years, and consistently advocates a direct role for the individual and the community in disaster risk management. But other than in development of numerous ‘self-help’ or small-scale community resilience planning guides ... there appears to be little real attention to the provision of effective guidance in the practical development of such a role.

(Jones 2013, p.18)

Shared responsibility: government to individuals and households



Community sector: dealing with vulnerable people



Community sector

Neighbourhood centres and related agencies – Mountains Community Resources Network

Family support agencies – Mountains Outreach Community Services

Disability services and agencies

Services for the aged

Health services working in the community – people's homes

Blue Mountains experience after 2013 fires

A combined inter-agencies meeting was called by MCRN within 10 days of the October 2013 fires, attracting 55-60 people, including a representative from the Ministry for Policing and Emergency Services (MPES)

Created a work plan and a number of sub-committees with short, medium and long term planning blocked in, starting with the coordination of immediate relief and recovery work

Major burden for staff involved for quite some time with various sub-committee meetings requiring attendance for a couple of hours once or twice a week, and Recovery Committee meetings two or three hours twice a week.

Additionally there was the process of getting the rest of the community sector geared up and connected.

Formal systems are now being put in place within both Council and the community sector to formalise, role to role, the kind of triggers that need to be recognised, who should respond to them, what roles should be involved and who should be chairing.

The Blue Mountains is one of the first areas in New South Wales to have economic and community recovery dealt with jointly.

Emergency Management at state level

Excludes local community organisations from planning, preparedness and recovery

LEMC – Local Emergency Management Committee is now allowing a community sector representative to sit on the committee as an observer

Legislation will need to change to include community organisations at emergency management level

An alternative way of conceiving ‘shared responsibility’ could be to refer to the need to develop and strengthen responsibility-sharing institutions that cross some of the conventional divides in Australian fire and emergency management.

(McLennan and Handmer 2012, p.11)

Outcomes: Achieved and anticipated

- An overarching model mapping community connections in a social capital framework
- Mapping social networks of vulnerable community members
- An advisory committee for older and vulnerable persons, Blue Mountains City Council
- Increased communication between NGO's & ES
- Publications, conferences and report
- Informing the local, state and national emergency management planning process



Future prospects

Expanding beyond the Blue Mountains - Connecting with communities in Australia and overseas

Linkage Project, collaboration with other organisations



Contact details:

Val Ingham

vingham@csu.edu.au

Sarah Redshaw

sredshaw@csu.edu.au