

The Rockhampton Region VOAD Consortium: A Mechanism to Support Collaboration, Coordination and Communication of Volunteer Organisations Active in Disasters.

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I acknowledge our **First Nations People** and the **Traditional Custodians** of the land upon which we meet and honour them and all **Elders** past, present and future

The VOAD Concept

The Voluntary Organisations Active in Disaster (VOAD) concept was developed in the United States over 50 years ago and is in place at the national, state, and local level.

VOADs have 4 Core Principles:

- Cooperation
- Communication
- Coordination
- Collaboration

Capacity building of Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs).

Volunteering Queensland and the VOAD Concept

Volunteering Queensland has advocated for the development of VOADs in the Australian context and has lobbied Local, State, and Commonwealth governments.

A gap was identified by VQ in disaster management arrangements to formally involve local volunteer involving organisations in the disaster cycle.

An opportunity exists for the community to be an active and important leader in their own recovery.

The Rockhampton Region VOAD



- 12 Month Project (2020-2021) funded under a 2018 Category C - Central Queensland Bushfires Flexible Funding Grant.
- The project was embedded in the Rockhampton Regional Council's disaster management unit.
- Included both rural and urban Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs).

VOAD Membership

The Rockhampton Region VOAD Consortium consists of the following **types** of groups:

Multicultural association

Meals on Wheels

Men's Sheds

Residents' associations

Rotary

Disability advocates



Cooperation



- VOAD members working closely with emergency services, council, and funded community organisations.



Communication



- Consistent messaging on disaster preparedness.
- Single point of contact between the VOAD Consortium and Local Government.
- Link to the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) during disaster.

Coordination



- Draft VOAD Sub-Plan considered as part of the Council's Local Disaster Management Plan.
- Volunteer Coordinator role assigned to the Incident Management System.
- Volunteer VOAD Liaison Officer to be appointed to the Local Disaster Coordination Centre.
- Council can coordinate the use of volunteer resources through a single channel – VOAD.



Collaboration



- Disaster response and recovery exercises.
- Collaboration of VIOs on disaster projects.



Tangible Benefits



- VOAD collaboration on successful Category C disaster funding proposals.
- Innovation and identification of need:
 - CALD disaster volunteers.
 - Rockhampton Men's Shed social connectedness hub.
- Rockhampton Meals on Wheels – Business continuity planning and supply chain logistics.

How can a VOAD help?

Planning and Preparation

Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) can prepare their members for disaster season.

VIOs can develop organisational disaster and business continuity/recovery plans.

VIOs can promote disaster preparedness messages.

VIOs coordinate with Council prior to disaster season on the volunteer resources and equipment available.

How can a VOAD help?

Response and Recovery

Volunteer human resources, equipment, and information.

Access to on the ground local intelligence.

Lead medium to long term recovery projects.



Australian Government

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



#ADRC21

Thank you

Further details on the VOAD project can be provided by Volunteering Queensland:

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