

Resilient Places Project

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health is the peak body for the mental health community sector in Queensland. The Alliance is an independent charity which represents over 200 community organisations working in mental health ranging from large national organisations, to small, unfunded support groups in the community. The Alliance is working to create communities that value differences, promote wellbeing and create a sense of belonging for everyone.

The Resilient Places Project

The Resilient Places Project has been made possible through funding provided under the Mental Health Disaster Recovery Package (MHDRP), which is a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The Project has received funding until 30 June 2013 through the MHDRP to establish and deliver a Mental Health Community Coordination Project and Mental Health Resource Hub.

The Mental Health Community Coordination Project complements recovery responses in communities, working closely with the Community Development and Engagement Initiative through the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ). Mental health community coordinators have been employed by the Alliance to work in three parts of the state to enhance service linkages, coordination and collaboration with communities which are recovering from natural disasters.

In addition to employing workers on the ground, the Resilient Places Project has established a Mental Health Resource Hub. The Hub is the Project's primary mechanism for developing a mental health promotion framework and supporting the delivery of community mental health promotion activities. It aims to offer practical resources to MHCC staff, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) community development officers and the communities of focus.

Which communities does the Resilient Places Project work in?

The Queensland Department of Communities has funded the Alliance to locate mental health community coordinators in three parts of Queensland:

- Ipswich and the Lockyer Valley
- Toowoomba, Dalby, Chinchilla and Roma; and
- The Cassowary Coast, Ingham and surrounding communities

How does the Resilient Places Project engage with communities?

The Resilient Places Project consulted with communities to identify the best approach to enhance mental health services in the community sector. As a direct result of this process, employment of mental health community coordinators, each with unique local knowledge of their regions has been achieved. Coordinators are currently operating locally to provide support to local non-government organisations.

A further goal of the Resilient Places Project is to support community capacity building. The Project has developed and is currently distributing a Mental Health Micro-Grant program to support local activities that promote positive mental health, improve wellbeing and build community resilience.

How can I have my say about the Resilient Places Project in my region?

Throughout the life of the Resilient Places Project the Alliance will be actively consulting with Local Governments, community and government agencies that work in, or connect with, the mental health sector. If you would like to be involved contact the Alliance on (07) 3252 9411.