



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

MEDIA LEAD

Linkage Projects Round Two **For funding commencing in 2010**

Victoria

Victoria will receive \$17,996,010 for 64 Linkage Projects.

The University of Melbourne will receive \$1,285,047 over five years for the following project:

Bushfires, social connectedness and mental health (LP100200164)

The 2009 Victorian bushfires caused much loss of life, property destruction, and community disturbance. It is important that an accurate understanding is achieved of the factors that contribute to optimal recovery from natural disasters.

This research program aims to profile the trajectories of individual and social responses to the Victorian 2009 bushfires using multiple methodologies and involving multiple community partners, including academic, disaster management, health and community organisations.

It will survey affected and unaffected communities to map the predictors and outcomes of mental health and social functioning in children, adolescents, and adults.

Conducting the research over five years and focussing on social networks will provide new insights into the interplay between individual and community factors and their influence on recovery from natural disaster over time.

The research findings will thereby expand understanding of long-term disaster recovery needs for individuals and communities.

Media contacts

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