

# SEMC COMMUNIQUE



May 2023

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) met on 3 May 2023.

## Presentations

### Overview of COVID-19 Response

Dr Andrew Robertson, Chief Health Officer and Health SEMC member provided an overview of the achievements and lessons identified from the COVID-19 response in WA in order to inform improvements to preparedness and resilience against communicable diseases and other relevant health-related emergencies.

Key achievements included:

- Governance structures were mobilised swiftly and early to respond to the pandemic
- Communications teams were in high demand and managed an unprecedented high frequency, high volume of work
- There was increased collaboration within the WA health system and with other government agencies
- The response highlighted the capability within WA Health and presented the opportunity for further development.

Opportunities for improvement included:

- Clarifying roles and responsibilities within WA Health emergency management structures
- Regular testing of emergency plans and procedures

The SEMC considered emerging issues, determining that with the increasing complexity, scale and frequency of natural and other disasters, risk management and the public sector and local government capability development becomes even more important.

### [SEMC Subgroup Review](#)

The SEMC approved new subcommittee Terms of Reference for:

- Response Policy Subcommittee
- Risk and Capability Subcommittee

and \$250,000 grant funding for initiatives with local impacts, or up to \$2.5 million for projects that will result in State, region or sector-wide risk reduction.

Applications for the NDRR grant round opened on 24 April 2023 and close on 29 May 2023. Applications must be submitted in the online portal accessible via the SEMC website (<https://dfes.smartygrants.com.au/NDRR2324round>).

More information on the NDRR can also be found on the SEMC website or by contacting [semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au).

### Disaster Ready Fund

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### All West Australians Reducing Emergencies

The All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant program will distribute a total of \$200,000 to fund activities aimed at building capacity and preparedness at a local level. Projects may apply for funding between \$2,500 and \$30,000 to support eligible local government initiatives. Applications for the 2023/24 AWARE grant round will open on 16 August 2023 and close on 20 September 2023.

More information on the AWARE can be found on the SEMC website or by contacting [semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au).

### Community Disaster Resilience Strategy

The draft Strategy was published on the SEMC website on 13 December 2022 and remained open for comment until 3 March 2023. Sixteen submissions were received during the consultation period and the feedback is currently being considered for inclusion.

The final Strategy will be submitted to the SEMC for endorsement at its August 2023 meeting.

### Philanthropic Review

The Philanthropic Review aims to develop governance and assurance arrangements for the engagement of philanthropic and other not for profit organisations in emergency management. Consultation with key stakeholder groups has commenced and the outcomes of the review are expected to be presented to the SEMC at the August 2023 meeting.

### District and Local Emergency Management Committees Review

The objective of the District and Local Emergency Management Committees Review is to establish clear responsibilities, functions, and governance for the committees to support the strategic objectives of the SEMC. Consultation with key stakeholder groups has commenced and the outcomes of the review are expected to be presented to the SEMC at the August 2023 meeting.

## Contact Us

If you have feedback or questions, get in touch at [info@semc.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@semc.wa.gov.au).