

Innovative programs honoured for making communities safer

Tuesday, 9 November 2010

Seven projects have been recognised at an awards ceremony recently for their individual and collaborative initiatives aimed at making South Australian communities safer and more resilient.

Now in its 11th year, the 2010 Australian Safer Communities Awards, sponsored by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, were presented by the Minister for Emergency Services, Michael Wright and SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) Chief Executive, David Place and at the Adelaide Oval Function Centre on Thursday 4 November.

Minister for Emergency Services, Michael Wright congratulated the winners and commended the organisations for providing their staff the opportunity to contribute their time and skills to projects that reduce the threat and consequence of emergencies in our communities.

"The projects all demonstrate a commitment to the fundamental shift in focus of emergency management beyond disaster response and toward prevention and preparedness and resilience. They illustrate that everyone can do something to prevent or reduce the consequence of emergency hazards", Minister Wright said.

Mr Place thanked the successful nominees and urged all of the entrants to continue making South Australia a safer place to live.

"There were a number of exceptional projects entered this year and deciding the winners was a challenging task. A significant feature of many projects was the collaboration that occurred across public and private sector organisations, enhancing the community benefit beyond what can be achieved independently by each organisation. It is a privilege to support these awards and I wish our three State Winners every success at the forthcoming National Awards," Mr Place said.

The first State Winner Award was presented to the SA State Emergency Service (SES), SA Health, Department for Families and Communities and the Bureau of Meteorology for their collaborative Extreme Heat Response. The project provides well researched, strategically consistent and complementary services to effectively deploy their collective resources.

A joint project between SANTOS and SA Police also received a State Winner Award for a trilogy of exercises based at Moomba and conducted over an 18 month period. The exercises tested response to a suspected terrorist incident, in a remote location in extreme weather conditions. More than 200 people from a large and diverse group of public and private sector organisations were brought together to determine best practice and identify opportunities for innovation and effective interaction.

The final State Winner Award was for the Patient Delay Project, in recognition of the outstanding personal commitment made by Intensive Care Paramedic, Mr Steven Holmes. Mr Holmes developed and has personally presented interactive information sessions to more than 6400 participants, outlining how to recognise heart attack symptoms and reinforcing the need to dial 000 to seek assistance. This project clearly illustrated the difference that can be made through the vision, drive and determination of a single individual, providing effective and broad reaching community education.

The State Winner entries will now be considered for the 2010 National Safer Community Awards. National Winners will be announced in Canberra on 29 November 2010.

A complete list of Award recipients is attached.

For further information please call SAFECOM Public Affairs:
MFS Line: (08) 8204 3770
CFS Line: (08) 8212 9849
SES Line: (08) 8211 6176



2010 SA Safer Communities Awards – Recipients List

Presented 4 November 2010

State Winner Award	Initiative
<p>SA State Emergency Service Graeme Wynwood 08 8463 4173</p> <p>SA Health Christine Andrews 08 8226 6248</p> <p>Department for Families and Communities Ronnie Faggotter 08 8415 4301</p> <p>Bureau of Meteorology John Nairn 08 8366 2723</p>	<p><i>Extreme Heat Response</i> The collaboration between these agencies focussed on the use of research based information and strategic management of information to inform organisations responsible for community services at times of Extreme Heat. This collaboration addressed cross-agency communication, cooperation and coordination issues to maximise the impact of collective resources beyond what any individual agency could achieve on its own and ensure no group of individuals is overlooked.</p>
<p>SANTOS Craig Harris 08 8116 7279</p> <p>SA Police Critical Infrastructure Support Group Alistair Robertson 08 8124 4275</p>	<p><i>Exercise Pilatus</i> Over an 18 months period, a trilogy of exercises was conducted at Moomba, designed to test response to a suspected terrorist incident in a remote location and in extreme weather conditions. This brought together a large and diverse group of private and public sector and more than 200 people to practice existing procedures, determine best practice and identify opportunities for innovation and effective interaction.</p>
<p>Mr Steven Holmes 08 8326 5990</p>	<p><i>Patient Delay Project</i> A one hour interactive information session outlines how to recognise heart attack symptoms and reinforces the need to dial 000 to seek immediate assistance. Mr Holmes has personally presented this information to more than 6400 participants, many of whom have acted on this information and avoided significant long term health issues. This award recognises the difference that can be made through the vision, drive and determination of a single individual.</p>
Highly Commended Award	Initiative
<p>Cummins Emergency Ready Committee John Randall 08 8676 2001</p>	<p><i>Cummins Emergency Ready</i> This community driven committee provides education and emergency management functions including conducting a number of local emergency exercises and providing crucial information to the community before, during and after emergency events. This ongoing collaboration significantly enhances the</p>

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	effectiveness of local resources to manage all manner of emergency events as they arise.
Flinders University Centre for Disaster Resilience and Health Alison Hutton 08 8201 3429	<i>Staying safe and healthy at Adelaide Schoolies Festival</i> A broad ranging project team considered the effectiveness of current mass gathering event education programs and venue organisation and procedures with respect to the impact on the safety of youth participants. The findings have national applicability and have influenced a number of changes to pre-event education seminars and practices within the event venue to create a safety environment for young people and reduce the impact on other support agencies.
Department for Environment and Natural Resources Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Project Communications and Community Engagement Team Judith Bleechmore 08 8204 9363	<i>Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Drought Response</i> The Communications and Community Engagement Team have significantly contributed to the success of the overall CLLMM Project by developing a Communications and Community Engagement Plan and pro-actively engaging the community to embrace and assist the implementation of wide-ranging initiatives that focus on achieving a level of recovery in the future.
Commended Award	
Royal District Nursing Service of SA Inc Judy Smith 08 8208 5303	<i>Heatwave Response</i> During the first 2009 heatwave, RDNS recognised a need and undertook additional community visits, making more than 2000 additional phone calls to ensure their clients were safe. After the event RDNS aligned its strategies with Government and other agencies, establishing a register of vulnerable clients, an early warning system and clear client management procedures are now in place as part of daily business during heatwaves.

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