



Media Release

Regional Flood Recovery partnership welcomes evaluation report

(embargo, 7am 14 August 2024)

Researchers from Swinburne University have today released their evaluation report on a unique regional approach to recovery after the October 2022 floods. The report concludes that providing timely resources to local communities can have long-lasting, positive impacts.

The Goulburn Flood Recovery Service (GFRS) brought together seven independent service providers, who worked cooperatively across the five local government areas in the Goulburn Valley. Only weeks after the flood waters started to recede, plans to set up the service were well underway. Since then, the GFRS has provided support to 832 households impacted by flooding.

The staff involved have worked hard together to address community needs. They have learned, laughed and cried together. To quote directly from the report:

We know that we're not going to solve all our problems in this disaster recovery programme, but we're going to have a crack. That's the intent, the vision. It's that step change approach.

Shepparton-based FamilyCare has been the lead for the GFRS. Its CEO, David Tennant, paid tribute to the other agencies involved. *'I am so grateful to our colleagues and staff across the partnership, for the contribution you have made.'*

Tennant also paid tribute to the many other locals who kept people safe as the floodwaters rose and in the aftermath. *'Rural and regional communities know how to look after each other. From the first responders, to businesses, service clubs and everyday people who have opened their hearts and often their wallets, we want to say thank you. This report confirms place matters in a really fundamental way.'*

A copy of the Evaluation has been shared with the Victorian Government and relevant agencies to help with future planning. More climate-changed induced emergencies and disasters may well be inevitable – but we have many human skills and resources available to us to respond.

For additional comments, please see the list of partner contacts attached.

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