Issues in Disaster Health

Education:
Opportunity
Lack of strategy
Awareness raising
Specialisation
Workforce capacity

Volunteers:
Preparation
Knowledge
Expectations
Recovery

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Education

Limited education opportunities
Low rate of uptake of available training
Relative lack of national consistency.
  - MIMMS/ICS
  - NDMC and spin offs
  - multi casualty triage
Good agreement on principles
Limited research evidence
Difficult to specialise
Undergraduate awareness raising
Strategy for clinicians - incentive and opportunity to engage with disaster medicine knowledge and to develop appropriate skills
Clear articulation of available training and resources to support learning
Recognition of training by professional colleges
Internationalization of training
Three arms: Emergency management knowledge, discipline specific clinical skill development, and understanding of Australian arrangements
Workforce capacity and training for community volunteers
Education

Developing research and the evidence base
Providing better access to current best evidence and knowledge
Coordination of training efforts
Volunteer issues

Required to work in difficult, disorganised and poorly resourced situations.

Traditional limits on their scope of practice challenged

Are Australian Nurses Ready to Respond?

Tsunami Hotline / little thought to practical details

Evidence of significant shortcomings among nurses and within their organizations

How do we want to contribute?

How do we organize our volunteers?
Volunteer issues

Nurses:
3,683 volunteered..
Majority 40-49yoa (30%)
No military or disaster exp (83%)
Not visited affected countries (85%)
No suitable language skills (83%)
No Passport (73%)
Unsure of immunization status (40%)
Volunteers

Programs to inform nurses about education, language, speciality, immunisation and experience that might be required in a disaster response would be a useful.

Consideration of the impact on Australian health care venues that supply volunteers.

Other volunteer groups and reorganization of workplaces and roles

A disciplined response.