

## WHO WE ARE



### The NSW Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network

PO Box A2266  
Sydney South  
NSW 1235

[DRCN@nat.uca.org.au](mailto:DRCN@nat.uca.org.au)

[nswdrcn.org.au](http://nswdrcn.org.au)

The NSW Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network (DRCN) is a multifaith, multicultural network of chaplains.

Our volunteers come from a wide range of Christian denominations and other major religions.

Our chaplains show compassion, maturity and have excellent listening skills.

Our code of conduct requires that our chaplains support all people regardless of race, ethnicity, belief, gender identification or culture. We also forbid all chaplains from seeking to convert people to any religion.

## BRING COMFORT IN CRISIS



The DRCN is a ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia (Synod of NSW and ACT)





## WHAT WE DO

Emergencies and disasters can create chaos in our lives. People may be traumatised, grieving, injured or sick. Our chaplains are highly experienced at being beside people in a wide variety of life's circumstances.



### A CALMING PRESENCE

Our chaplains are trained to bring a calm and compassionate presence. They have the time to listen to, and support, affected people.

### EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE

Our chaplains create quiet calm spaces within the chaos. They are trained to sit with people experiencing great loss and deep and strong emotions, supporting and accompanying them in the darkest moments of their life.



## WHERE WE DO IT

### EVACUATION CENTRES

We are there when emergencies force people to flee their homes. These are set up by Family and Community Services under Disaster Welfare Services. Here, people may register, connect with others, can access shelter, food and other practical assistance.

### RECOVERY CENTRES

As disasters subside and people begin to comprehend the extent of their loss and need, these centres are set up by local governments and supported by state government resources. Chaplains are available either at the centres or by referral to visit and spend time with people as required.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH VISITS

We are there going into the community which has been affected by a crisis, or following up on door-to-door visits by Red Cross and Anglicare volunteers.

### COMMUNITY GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS

Where community meetings have been arranged to provide information about an emergency we are there. This is often the only opportunity for people to connect with a DRCN chaplain.

### ON SITE OF AN EMERGENCY EVENT

There are occasions when it is appropriate for chaplains to attend a location where the emergency has taken place to provide immediate support to those directly affected and witnesses to the event.

## WHEN WE DO IT

Our chaplains are only called out when requested to by state or local governments or agencies requiring our support.

Since 2009 we have been supporting people through emergencies which include:

- Bushfires and house and unit block fires
- Floods
- Storms and other weather events
- Large scale fatal accidents
- Terrorist attacks and criminal violence
- Emergency Evacuations

