

Indigenous healing and disaster recovery: A summary of dialogue



More **culturally responsive practices** in working with **Indigenous peoples** are sorely needed before, during and after **disasters**.

And in a world of **increasingly complex and severe risks**, we need new approaches to better support disaster resilience and recovery for **all communities**.

Indigenous healing and disaster recovery can be brought together through **respectful and thoughtful dialogue** between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, to create new opportunities to support disaster-affected communities.



So, what might healing-informed disaster recovery support for Indigenous communities (and all communities) look like?

HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO WELLBEING

Holistic understandings of post-disaster wellbeing, encompassing people, lands, waters and non-human beings

Spiritual, cultural and social recovery strategies (e.g., artistic expression and storytelling)

SOCIAL RATHER THAN SOLO PROCESSES

Strategies that simultaneously support individual and community healing (e.g., group activities, community events, and story-telling therapies)

Frameworks and resources that are more inclusive of and culturally relevant to Indigenous peoples

IDENTIFYING AND TREATING THE ROOTS OF TRAUMA

Understanding of how personal and community contexts (e.g. intergenerational trauma, and previous disasters) intersect with disaster recovery

Embrace of systemic change (e.g. for decolonisation and climate justice) as a legitimate part of recovery processes

STRENGTHS-BASED AND COMMUNITY-LED PROCESSES

Grassroots disaster recovery initiatives that are culturally and socially specific to each community or person

Strategies for evaluating intervention approaches that are flexible, diverse and dynamic by design

THE NEED FOR SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY SAFE SPACES

Prioritisation of culturally safe and inclusive community recovery spaces during and after disasters

INDIGENOUS NOTIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY, JUSTICE AND FORGIVENESS

Alternative models for responding to post-disaster family violence

Highlighting personal agency alongside attention to systemic issues after disasters

Full article: Quinn P, Williamson B, Gibbs L. Indigenous-informed disaster recovery: addressing collective trauma using a healing framework. *Progress in Disaster Science*. 2022. 100257. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pdisas.2022.100257>.

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