

Local Government Planning Day

September 18, 2009

Keeping cool – relief centres and cooling centres

Julian Meagher

**Manager, Public Health Emergency
Management**

Department of Health

Heatwave Planning Guide



Development of heatwave plans in local councils in Victoria

Cooling centres

A cooling centre is a temporary air-conditioned public space set up to deal with the health effects of a heatwave. Usually situated at a number of locations throughout a city, they are intended to reduce the risk of extreme heat to vulnerable people, especially those who do not use or have access to air-conditioning, especially among older people without air-conditioning at home, or homeless people.

Heatwave Planning Guide, 2009

What does this mean for councils?

- A group of experts recently debated cooling centres and concluded that the use of cooling centres needs further consideration and debate.
- Today is an opportunity for you as a group to commence this important debate by work shopping some of the issues associated.
- Cooling centres in relation to extreme heat should not be seen as a separate issue to safe havens from bush-fire, or relief centre operations for other emergency events

Cooling centre discussion points

Q.1

What is your view / understanding / belief in relation to cooling centres?

Q.2

What is your councils view / understanding / belief?

Q.3

What types of facility are considered suitable?

Take 5 mins at your table to share your views

Cooling centre discussion points

Q.3

Who should (or will) use cooling centres?

Q.4

How will you identify and manage extreme vulnerability in these settings?

Take 5 mins at your table to share your views

Cooling centre discussion points

Q.5

What facilities and services are you going to (or should) provide at a cooling centre?

Q.6

What are the risks? How do you intend to manage them

Vulnerable people who are sick, or showing signs of being affected by the heat **NEED** to go to hospital

Places to keep cool

- Identification and promotion of existing public (or private) places and assets where mobile, well, independent people can go to keep cool. Examples include:
 - Swimming pools
 - Shopping centres
 - Cinemas

Q.7

What services and arrangements need to be negotiated and put in place to support this strategy?

Where to from here...?

Summary of captured points from today

What do we need to do now to progress these?

What are the top 3 that need a focus...