



'Partners in Health'



A REVIEW:

AFTER THE HEATWAVE





- What happened in your organisation in the heatwave
 - How did the heat wave affect your community & clients?
- What worked well
 - Enablers and barriers
- What would you do differently?
 - What didn't happen that you would have liked to happen?
- Do you have some learnings or observations from the Heatwave?







Summary of learnings

- Prior to summer:
 - Promote awareness of hydration prior to summer and ongoing i.e. Seniors Week
 - Promote looking after self in the heat in newsletters and communications
 - Promote awareness in shop fronts such as the Shire buildings, local pharmacies, senior citizens and other social venues

Summary of learnings

Policies and Procedures

- Have policies and procedures in place
- Easily accessible to carers including on weekends with power failure
 - Individual Client Emergency plans
 - in 2 places for client & carer & organisation
 - Extreme weather
 - Risk management for hazardous environmental conditions.
 - Designated 'Cool venues'



Policies need to cover

- Procedures to ensure up-to-date information is available and accessible to contact and check on the vulnerable
- Cancel external outings
- Limit travel on high risk days as risk reduction strategy for workers (carers)
- Limit type of work in extreme heat (for carers)

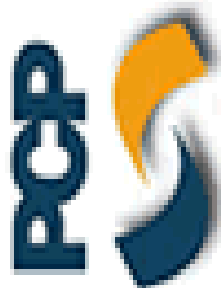


Summary of learnings

- Carers address cooling by getting out fans, checking fans and air conditioners are plugged in, clean & working - if required, arrange for repairs
- Improve shaded areas
 - for the community at large i.e. play grounds
 - for travelers with shaded way side stops, driver reviver areas etc.
- Check generators for size and practice!

Identified gaps to consider

- Focus was across the shire during the week but on the worst day, at 48 degree plus - the focus was within towns
- 'Out of towners' - phone contact - but could not be 'collected'
- Mobile phones don't work when network congested
- Phones generally need electricity and with extreme heat comes load shedding and fire
- **What would have helped?** - UHF radio



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So Simple

- 600 ml bottles of water on Meals on Wheels trays for the duration of heat wave
- Bottles of water to give away in Shire offices and other appropriate places
- Enlarge DHS information sheets on caring for self in the heat.
 - Circulate, enlarge and place in windows i.e. pharmacy windows, shire buildings, maternal & child health, schools, kinders and everywhere!
- Everyone checks on everyone else - from the top of the chain and back up again!



Cool venue

- Have formal procedures for a **cool venue** and for conveying vulnerable people to and from these venues.
- Day centres and hospitals have back up power generators, staffing, easy access to food and fluids and re-hydration practices.
 - Staff are also likely to have a pre-existing relationship and 'know' the vulnerable people.
 - Generally, these facilities have access to air conditioned buses that are suitable to transport elderly and disabled people: to collect them and take them home in the evening.

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