

In 2012 two National Women's Alliances (NWA's) received Special Project Funds from the Office for Women to develop projects that focused on the economic impact on women in disaster affected areas in Australia. One condition of the funding was for those alliances to discuss their respective projects, identify opportunities for cooperation and collaboration and information sharing.

In 2013:

1. The National Rural Women's Coalition launched a kit titled "*Weather the Storm*" which is an engagement program which can be used by community groups to support women to prepare for emergencies and disasters. It comes in a presentation folder and consists of three manuals. The kit is available to download for free from the NRWC website. <http://nrwc.com.au/Projects/WeatherTheStorm.aspx>

2. economic Security4Women launched "*Women's voices from the floodplains*", a report by JERA International, that focused an economic gender lens on responses in disaster affected areas in Queensland and Victoria (2011 floods). The report is attached.

In June 2014, these alliances held a roundtable discussion at Australia's Parliament House in Canberra and plan another community discussion in October in SE Queensland, one of the areas affected by disaster. The purpose of these discussions is to inform positions to be taken by the alliances in their engagement with government. These positions will be outlined in a final report to government. The aim of the second roundtable is to take the findings of the first to an affected community for discussion and review. Local men as well as women and the agencies who were involved in the disaster preparation and response will be invited to this event.

The alliances also invited the Australian Women's Health Network to the Canberra roundtable discussion and to present on their recent position paper "*The Impact on Women's Health of Climatic and Economic Disaster*".

While there is an existing awareness of the significant contributions that women already make to the preparation for and management of emergencies, there remains more work to be done in effectively responding to the gendered nature of the impacts on women of emergencies and disasters and acknowledging and taking advantage of the resources which women bring to these disaster situations.

We believe that the Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements should address these gendered impacts to ensure that the needs of women are equitably reflected in planning, rebuilding and post disaster projects.

Please find also attached the following documents for consideration by the Productivity Commissioner's Inquiry into Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements:

The full report on the APH Roundtable discussion as well as a summary document.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information

Kind regards

Sally Jope

Executive Officer

economic Security4Women Incorporated