**SUBMISSION TO FLOOD REVIEW – SALVATION ARMY**

Hi Brian, thanks for the opportunity to comment in regards to the Government Flood Review. (any general comments)

 Due to time (I go on leave Tuesday 29/11), I will provide a few comments in relation to The Salvation Army  (**TSA**) Emergency Services Catering infrastructure, training, the regional governance, the activation process and my comments/concerns .

As discussed, although I am currently working part-time as the TSA Emergency Services Coordinator for the State , I previously was the Chairperson of the Southern Regional Social Recovery Committee from 2002 to 2012 (10 years), a responsibility attached to my position within the Department of  Health & Human Services at that time.  I was involved with the Queensland floods (2011), cyclone YASI, St Helens fires (2006) , Port Arthur (1996) and others

**Background**
Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan : Function: Emergency Catering
The Salvation Army's role in an emergency is to provide emergency catering to individuals/families/communities who have been evacuated, usually  to an Assembly/ Evacuation Centre, as well as  providing meals to Emergency Service personnel (SES, Police & Fire Services)

**TSA Infrastructure**
The Salvation army has nine (9) Emergency Service Catering trailers located across the State.  These trailers are based at our Corps in Burnie, Devonport, Launceston, Hobart, New Norfolk and Carlton.  The trailers are basically a mobile kitchen and considerable investment has been made in keeping these trailers up to date, both equipment and consumables.

**TSA Emergency Services Training**
The Salvation Army relies heavily on volunteers to support  the catering trailers and many other functions.  Regular in-house training is provided to all emergency service catering volunteers across the State. The training is both theory and practical and once again The Salvation Army invests considerable time and effort in recruiting and running the training programs.

**Governance**
The Salvation Army is represented on each of the 3 Regional Social Recovery Committees across the State however,  there is  no representation on any Statewide Emergency Service Committees.

**Activation Process**
The Salvation Army Emergency Catering Service is only activated by the Regional Social Recovery Coordinators across the State.  The exception being Local Councils, they  can activate TSA direct for small events

**Comments/concerns**
The Salvation Army expressed concern to both the NW and North Regional Social Recovery Committees as to the lack of involvement with the NW fires and Northern floods.
As with other NGO's, we invest considerable time, money and effort in preparedness for an emergency, usually fire or flood.

Concerns were raised by The Salvation Army Board following the NW fires, as to our lack of involvement and the fact that there was no contact made to confirm that TSA Emergency Catering Services were not  required.  This is important.

Once again, with the Northern floods, there was no initial contact made however, the Launceston Corps were involved with providing meals at the University at a later stage

**Summary**
The Salvation Army strongly believes that in an event, all NGO's should be involved with emergency planning from the outset.  This would then determine if we are to be involved or not.  Our volunteers are reminded at training  to be prepared to make themselves available, in the time of an emergency.  (media updates etc)  They may not be involved, but at least they can be told yes or no.   The Salvation Army also understands that other emergency catering providers can be utilised and this is often the case.

The Salvation Army invests in both emergency equipment and volunteers and this maybe reviewed if not utilised

It is important that The Salvation Army is involved  as early as possible in an event.  In my experience it establishes great networks, offers potential valuable resources at an early stage, as well as the opportunity to provide accurate information to our volunteers.

To my knowledge The Salvation Army does not have any formal agreement in  place with the Government, specifically clarifying reimbursement of costs incurred.

As discussed, there is a submission , auspice by the Red Cross, seeking funding from the "Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Program" to explore issues raised by the NGO's involved.

My personnel view as to why the  NGO's  may not be involved initially is, new personnel (understanding of our roles)  and possible concerns as to managing costs.

I hope this helps Brian.

Good luck  with the review.   I am available on 0419 519682 if you need to talk to me.

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