



# Scenario 5: Background

Across the world, rising global temperatures are having a catastrophic effect, driving changing weather patterns and causing more frequent and severe extreme weather events including heatwaves, bushfires, droughts, severe storms, floods and cyclones.

Extreme weather events often result in significant human, economic and environmental loss.

Amid these challenges, healthcare professionals and community members play a crucial role in emergency responses and broader health system adaptation to climate change.

# Instructions

- This simulation will be conducted as a 'table-top' group-based simulation activity.
- Participants should form into six groups. Each group will have a pack of cards that profiles a different extreme weather event.
- **Read the first two cards in your pack only. The remaining cards are to be left upside down** until the facilitator calls 'start', at which time your group is to read and discuss how you would respond to the situation described on the **next card only**.
- At specific points in time, the facilitator will call 'next card' and your group will turn over the next card and discuss how you would respond to the unfolding situation described.
- When responding to the situations described in the scenarios, it is important to think broadly and consider more than the immediate healthcare concerns presented. Your focus should be on coordination of the emergency response, as well as prioritisation and communication.
- **While you may not feel that you have the experience to manage the situations presented, you may in fact be the most experienced person in a disaster situation and others will turn to you for advice – this simulation is about being resourceful and creative ... so do the best you can with the information at hand.**
- At the end of the simulation activity, the facilitator will lead a debrief and discussion with the whole group.

# Scenario 5: The cyclone

## Part 1

A category five cyclone has struck a remote community in northern Queensland with unprecedented force. It is causing widespread damage, with many homes and public facilities destroyed. Essential services have been disrupted and both power and communication lines are down. Many people are injured or in shock, complicating the response efforts.

At 4pm you are asked to set up and coordinate the evacuation centre at the town's basketball stadium.

## What are your immediate priorities?

# Scenario 5: The cyclone

## Part 2

It is now late into the night. More than a hundred people are at the evacuation centre. You've just been told that the Riverside Caravan Park has been so badly affected by the cyclone that its 60 residents also need to come to the evacuation centre. You are aware that the park's residents include a number of vulnerable groups – people with unstable housing, some who have recently been released from prison, people who are recovering from substance abuse issues, as well as women and children escaping domestic violence.

Many of the people at the evacuation centre have lacerations and other injuries. Some are also showing signs of psychological trauma and emotional distress.

**How are you going to manage these challenges?**

# Scenario 5: The cyclone

## Part 3

It is 8am the next day. There are limited supplies of drinking water and food, and sanitation issues are emerging in the evacuation centre. Emergency services are trying to organise urgent housing, but it is expected that the evaluation centre will be needed for temporary accommodation for at least a week.

**How will you coordinate the needs of the people at the basketball stadium?**

# Scenario 5: The cyclone

## Reflection

What might be the immediate and longer term social/emotional/mental health impacts of this extreme weather event?

You are aware that changing weather patterns will result in more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as cyclones. What advice would you give to community members and community organisations to help them better prepare for such events?