



Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Creating Guidelines for Psychosocial Response to Terrorism

Professor Beverley Raphael, School of Medicine, and her team, in partnership with NSW Health and national and state counter-terrorism agencies, has received funding from the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet to research and develop best practice guidelines to assist those responding to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.



'There has been increasing commitment to emergency capacity for chemical, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents but there is the need to ensure the capacity of first responders to recognise and manage the psychosocial reactions of those exposed to these incidents, both within Australia and internationally' said Professor Raphael. 'There is also evidence of significant psychosocial impacts on first responders. These gaps highlight the need to establish an integrated framework and guidelines for responding to these incidents, as well as high quality field-level decision support tools and training for emergency responders'.

A broad evidence-based literature review will be conducted to develop a resource base regarding "best practice" psychosocial response processes, training programs and field-level decision support tools for CBRN terrorism and other incidents. A response framework will be developed and tested to provide a set of generic response guidelines. These core guidelines will then be refined with collaborating partner organizations and shaped into specific and effective guidelines relevant to each organization's functions and requirements. The project is being supported by a panel of international experts from USA, UK and Canada.

Project Title: *Psychosocial Best Practice Guidelines for Response to CBRN Incidents*

Funding has been set at: \$204,785 with contributions from project partners and UWS bringing the total for the project to \$514,262.

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