



# AFTER THE FLOOD

Community recovery in the northern rivers

## Mental health in the aftermath of the flood: initial findings from the Community Recovery After Flood survey

Presented by Dr Veronica Matthews and Dr Jo Longman, Community Recovery After Flood, Research Project Leads with Professor Ross Bailie, UCRH Director

**Abstract:** The Northern Rivers of NSW is a known 'hotspot' for natural disaster declarations. In late March/early April 2017, rainfall from Cyclone Debbie caused devastating flooding in the region. Since then the UCRH has been working with local community and government organisations to improve understanding of the impact of flooding on the mental health and wellbeing of communities in the Northern Rivers. Over 2,500 residents responded to our survey in October/November 2017 - six months after the flood. Almost all reported being affected by flood damage in their own home, their business or farm, the home of a close friend/relative, or in their neighbourhood. The impact on mental health has been greatest among people who were affected by flood damage in a variety of ways, and who were displaced from their homes for extended periods. This seminar will be an opportunity to discuss the implications of the early findings of this research for service delivery, policy and further research.

## Health Research Seminars 2018

Thursday 22 March 2018

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Lecture Theatre, University Centre for Rural Health, North Coast (UCRH)  
61 Uralba St, Lismore (opposite Lismore Base Hospital) or via video-conference.

The Community Recovery after Flood project has been designed, conducted and supported by a team of UCRH researchers with other researchers and representatives from community and government organisations. The project is managed by Dr Veronica Matthews, Research Fellow with support from Dr Jo Longman, Research Fellow and overall leadership from Professor Ross Bailie, UCRH Director.

To attend please register by Eventbrite:

<http://uchresearchseminarseries.eventbrite.com.au?s=83491412>

To attend by video-conferencing please contact Aimmee: [reception@ucrh.edu.au](mailto:reception@ucrh.edu.au)  
by **Tuesday 20 March 2018**

Brought to you by University Centre for Rural Health, Northern NSW Local Health District, Southern Cross University and North Coast Primary Health Care Network



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