

PLANNING & OPERATIONS

Urban Search and Rescue Capability Development Project

The Australian Government has formed a partnership with all States and Territories to augment national Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capability.

Emergency Management Australia is working with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, State and Territory First Ministers Departments and Emergency Services Departments to develop capability in the following areas:

- Equipment caches to those jurisdictions with less developed capability;
- Augmentation of others to support a national capability model;
- Training for rescue personnel;
- Development of training for task force Commanders;

- Development of training for senior decision makers in Government; and
- Supporting policy and an operational concept for national capability.

The Australian Government will acquire the bulk of the materiel assets and the States and Territories will design and deliver the bulk of the training.

Equipment procurement will comply with *Australian Government Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines* and *Attorney General's Department Chief Executive Instructions*. Interested parties should refer to EMA or Aus Tender web sites.

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PM congratulates EMA's tsunami workers



Shown with the Prime Minister at the reception are from left: Joanne Laurence, Kate Keane, Taru Farrelley, Judith Reeves, Trevor Jenner, Janelle Keyes, Kathy Hilgert, Carly Panagiotopoulos, and Debbie Cowell.

Prime Minister John Howard personally congratulated a number of Emergency Management Australia staff at Parliament House recently, during a special reception recognising the efforts of Australian Government officers involved in the Boxing Day tsunami response.

Many Australian Government people attended the 20 June reception. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition praised the immediate and responsive contribution by a range of departments and agencies in the weeks after the massive earthquake and resulting tsunami off the west coast of Sumatra.

Within hours of the disaster, EMA's Director General David Templeman, activated the National Emergency Management Coordination Centre, with more than 30 staff called in from holidays throughout the following weeks.