

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross Outcome

**Question No:** 021

**Topic:** Business Continuity and Emergency Response

**Hansard Page:** 24/2/2011 - CA4

**Senator Moore** asked:

Could you provide a report in terms of the way the emergency response plans clicked in, and also the role that FaHCSIA had at the regional level in the various emergency responses.

**Answer:**

FaHCSIA's business continuity management planning responses were initiated in accordance with alert advice provided by State and local emergency authorities and where necessary FaHCSIA facilities were shutdown.

The State Office in Brisbane was evacuated during the Queensland floods and the Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) in Townsville, Cairns and Mt Isa were evacuated during Tropical Cyclone (TC) Yasi.

FaHCSIA's Northern Territory (NT) Office, Darwin ICC and NT Remote Housing Office were also evacuated and briefly shut down due to the threat of TC Carlos. Offices in Western Australia (WA) including the Karratha and South Hedland ICCs were also evacuated when TC Carlos briefly re-formed along the WA coast before passing out to sea.

FaHCSIA also played a role as a member in a number of Commonwealth and State emergency response committees and within the Department, a Flood/Natural Disaster Coordination Unit was established to coordinate FaHCSIA's input into the whole-of-government recovery responses.