DISASTER RESILIENCE
Through Women’s Eyes

Unclear communication: Plans to “get out” made hard by lack of clear information about safe roads and places
Communication needs to take into account different audiences (i.e. literacy levels and ability to understand)
“Some knew about what to do, others didn’t.”
No clear guidance was given on where to go or what to take.

Not having a plan: “No, we don’t have a written plan (majority).”
It meant we weren’t prepared and talked about it.

Cost of implementing a plan:
Renting often means not eligible for help, people poorly off in socioeconomic terms (some people cannot afford to pay rent, others are eligible for government help)
No money for emergency services, no one to call, no one to help.

Government – too much or not enough: Authorities & organisations can only do so much. Resilience and natural disasters are seen as a country problem – more need assistance from government

Not knowing a soul: People isolated without many community activities, no support provided, no reason to stay.

Resilience – What doesn’t help

One size of resilience doesn’t fit all.
Don’t categorise people – must treat everyone as an individual

People were quick to help, others were slow; some were not helpful; some were very helpful.

Inadequate Infrastructure & planning: No power or water = no phones = no mobile/internet = no information to make decisions = no advice from police = no pumps = no water

People building in risky areas, flood plains are a planning issue.

Making it hard to volunteer:
Organisations are keen volunteers; training requirements; volunteer insurance for over 70’s; freshers are not seen as spaces for women, children.

Anger & Blame: Thinking it is someone else’s responsibility

Paperwork = stress. People affected by disasters are often traumatised, weary & sick of filling out forms

Disaster Resilience” Insights and stories from 31 women, aged 14 – 80 years, who lived in small groups across the Alpine Shire to share their experiences. (January – May 2012)

Further information: www.wwhealth.com.au
or www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au