



DFES Teacher Professional Development – 24 October 2017



Geography teachers at an Education & Heritage Centre PD

This year the DFES School Aged Education team has developed a strategy to implement teacher professional development for school teachers across the state.

The first professional development session was held in Geraldton at the beginning of August for primary school teachers interested in learning more about the Home Fire Safety and Firefighter School Visit Program. Towards the end of August, the team presented to 21 teachers who attended the annual Geography Association of

Western Australian (GAWA) teachers' conference. These teachers had a tour of the Education and Heritage Centre, discovered more about DFES as WA's leading hazard management agency and found out how the department can support them in implementing Disaster Resilience Education in their classrooms.

The next professional development session for primary school teachers will be held on 24 October at the Perth [Education and Heritage Centre](#). This session will be held in the afternoon from 1 – 4pm and will cover these topics: Disaster Resilience Education; home fire safety; bushfire and natural hazard education; DFES programs on offer to support classroom learning. The afternoon will include a tour around the Centre and time to network with other teachers while enjoying an afternoon tea.

To book a place, please RSVP to educationandheritage@dfes.wa.gov.au with the following information: Your name, school, year you teach and dietary requirements.

Please contact us if you live outside of Perth and are interested in attending a DFES professional development session in 2018. Next year we will be travelling around the state in an effort to connect more with school communities. Professional development session locations will be influenced by teacher interest.

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience



AIDR Knowledge Hub

AIDR have recently launched their new [knowledge hub](#) which brings together a wealth of information and resources on

Australian natural and man-made disasters. Use this new site to learn more about Australian disasters and find interesting case studies and stories from around the country. Use the interactive disaster [website](#) with your students to find out more about recent and past disasters in your region.

Natural Hazards for the Coming Summer



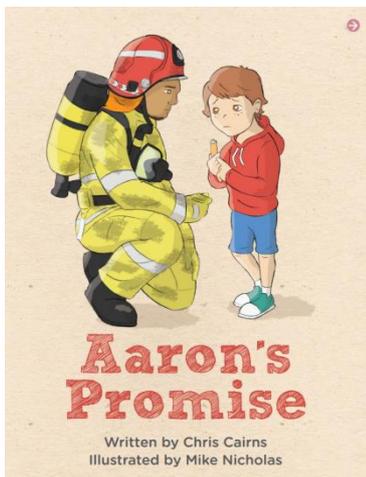
As we move closer to summer, it is important to consider the natural hazards that you and your students may face in the region you live. Western Australia is vast and encompasses a wide variety of biogeographic regions and climatic conditions. This means, that while the South West Land division begins to prepare and plan for the upcoming bushfire season, the North West of our state is preparing for cyclone season.

It is important that our students learn about the natural hazards that are most relevant to them so that they become active and informed citizens who play a role in disaster risk reduction within their communities.

If you are heading into cyclone season, discuss with students the risks that this natural hazard might pose to them and their families and then task them to research what they can do to prepare for cyclones. The [Cyclone Smart Brochure](#) will provide you with more information about understanding the risks and knowing how to prepare, while cyclone lesson plans and resources, found on the [DFES website](#) will assist you with teaching the topic in your classroom.

For those schools from Geraldton to Albany (including Perth and the South West), you are heading into bushfire season. Find out if your school and/or community are in a bushfire prone area using the [Bushfire Prone Map](#). Discussing with students how to prepare for and respond to bushfires will increase their resilience to this natural hazard. The DFES school education program [Bushfire Patrol](#) which aims to raise students and their family's awareness, perception of risk and shared responsibility around bushfire will assist you in teaching this topic.

Aarons Promise: A Story about the Dangers of Playing with Fire



Last year, DFES launched the educational story book, Aaron's Promise, to teach young children about the dangers of playing with fire.

Aaron's Promise is aimed at children between four and eight years old and tells the tale of a young boy whose curiosity has disastrous consequences after finding a lighter at the park. It's normal for children to be curious about fire, however when their curiosity gets the better of them it can result in heartbreaking consequences including serious burns and devastating damage to property and the environment.

In the past three years over 800 bushfires and 145 structural fires have been caused by people under 18. These are preventable fires that put the community at unnecessary risk. Aarons Promise aims to teach children about the possible consequences of preventable fires.

This book is a wonderful addition to the education programs already on offer by the department and includes questions for classroom discussion and a fire safety checklist for families.

Aarons promise was distributed to all primary schools in Western Australia in December 2016. You can locate a copy of Aaron's Promise by Chris Cairns in your school library/resource room, (ISBN 978-0-9872070-0-5). The story book can also be found [online](#) for you to use on your interactive whiteboard. A literacy-based lesson idea on Aaron's Promise is included in our, [Home Fire Safety and Year 3 School Visit Program Teacher Guide](#). Click the link to access the lesson and other home fire safety lessons for your classroom use.

International ShakeOut Day: October 19

Many areas of the globe are prone to earthquakes. In Western Australia, earthquake swarms and earthquakes are most common in the South West Seismic Zone which is one of the most seismically active regions in Australia. You could be anywhere when an earthquake strikes: at home, at work, at school or even on vacation. It is important to consider what may happen when an earthquake shakes your area, so that if it happens you will be able to protect yourself.

The [Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills](#) are an annual opportunity for people in homes, schools, and organisations to practice what to do during earthquakes, and to improve preparedness and response. Organisations like schools can register to take part in international ShakeOut day which is held on Oct 19 every year.

The drill promotes the [Drop, Cover, Hold On](#) concept for surviving an earthquake. Emergency management organisations around the world all agree that "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" is the most appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. The Great ShakeOut event is your opportunity to practice how you and your students can protect yourself during earthquakes.

Contacts

For excursion bookings at DFES' Education and Heritage Centre phone: (08) 9395 9866

For all other school enquiries call: (08) 9395 9816

Website: <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/schooleducation/Pages/default.aspx>

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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**

