

**FOR RELEASE**  
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## **Disaster and Terrorism Health Emergencies in the Spotlight**

Responding to large-scale health and medical emergencies during disasters like floods, cyclones and terrorist attacks will be the focus of a short course in Darwin next week.

The 'Health Aspects of Disaster' short course will run from 7-11 April at Charles Darwin University.

The course examines recent disasters such as the Asian Tsunami, Bali bombings, Jogykarta plane crash, regular cyclones and Katherine floods that have affected top end services, with international case studies and participants to add breadth to the course.

It will teach health practitioners and students how to deal with the health effects of a major disaster or medical pandemic, covering topics such as infectious diseases, trauma management and international aid response.

Developed by the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health, the Charles Darwin University Graduate School for Health Practice and Menzies School of Health Research, the course combines input from the academic, health, military and civilian sectors.

Associate Professor David Cooper, previous Chair of Disaster Response and Preparedness at the Graduate School of Health Practice (CDU) will present the course along with other experts in the field.

"Northern Australia is particularly accustomed to the devastating health effects of disasters, from Cyclone Tracey which killed 71 people and injured 560 in 1974, to the recent spate of floodings throughout North Queensland," he said.

"It is imperative that our local health practitioners know how to best deal with the population health and medical issues that can arise from such disasters, as well as coordinate international aid efforts."

A/Prof Cooper, an emergency physician with experiences such as involvement in the emergency health response efforts during the Asian Tsunami disaster will be joined by other experienced experts to present the short course.

A team of Indonesian health experts who have been closely involved with Aceh and many other disasters in Indonesia will fly to Darwin to take part.

"Health Aspects of Disaster' is available to CDU and other domestic and international students as well as non-students. Those enrolled in the MSHR Public Health Coursework Program and other postgraduate awards may also be eligible for credit."

Those interested in registering for the course or future courses can call 08 8922 7873 for more information.

CMVH and The University of Queensland School of Population Health will run a version of the course in Brisbane in November.

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**For more information/interviews, please contact:**  
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