

Unimutual Risk Management Services

Issue: Post Event Disaster Assistance – Notice 3

In January and February 2011 a Unimutual *Emerging Risk Report* and follow-up notice was circulated to Members and the sector, suggesting the establishment of a tertiary “resource bank” of technical and professional expertise to assist universities in recovering from a major catastrophic event. With ongoing catastrophic losses occurring both nationally and globally, such a network facilitating rapid collaboration between institutions seems warranted. As mentioned, in the 23 February 2011 update, Unimutual has received an endorsement of this program from the Board of Universities Australia. At the meeting, the UA Board stated:

- The creation of a clearing house for post-disaster inter-university support and expertise is a good initiative and has the full endorsement of UA.
- The initiative should not be limited only to Members of Unimutual, but should encompass all Australian universities.

Unimutual has already received suggestions from Members and others in the sector, and will continue to seek support, suggestions and recommendations. The program will be discussed at all metropolitan Business Continuity Special Interest Groups (BCP SIGS) held by the Mutual over the next few months, with invitations extended to non-Member universities as well.

At this time, we envision a web-based clearing house, to be used as a resource for the sector in locating university staff with experience in assisting in disaster recovery in areas such as facilities, IT, security, student services and media services. We ask you nominate any similar websites which might serve as useful models in the development of this resource.

Christchurch Earthquake

The University of Canterbury has resumed a staged teaching program, called UC Progressive Restart this week, with some on-campus teaching resuming on Monday, 14 March 2011. This is the first resumption of teaching since the 22 February 2011 earthquake. The week marks the opening of their major library, the McMillan Brown Library, which was seriously affected by the September quake and is providing study space and high demand books. The library is still sourcing electronic books, to facilitate distance learning, and has received ongoing support from providers of electronic journals and other web-enabled services. The University has established an individual on-line space for UC courses, called LEARN, allowing all UC students to locate course materials and interact with instructors, tutors and classmates for all courses. Alternate teaching spaces have been established off-campus, with shuttle services and there are temporary marquis on the campus providing teaching and study spaces for returning students. It is hoped the need for the tents will be over by Easter.

Special Re-start timetables have been developed and are continuously being upgraded to include all courses. Many faculty offices have been relocated across the campus. Lincoln University has provided assistance in accommodating UC’s MBA and MBM programs. Currently 40 campus buildings have been cleared for use, leaving another 40 structures to be inspected and cleared.

Unimutual seeks your support in this initiative, and will work to compile the register. If any Members have similar skills registers in place, please send a template to us to use as model. Any staff members interested in participating are asked to contact Harry Rosenthal, at Harry.Rosenthal@rmml.com