

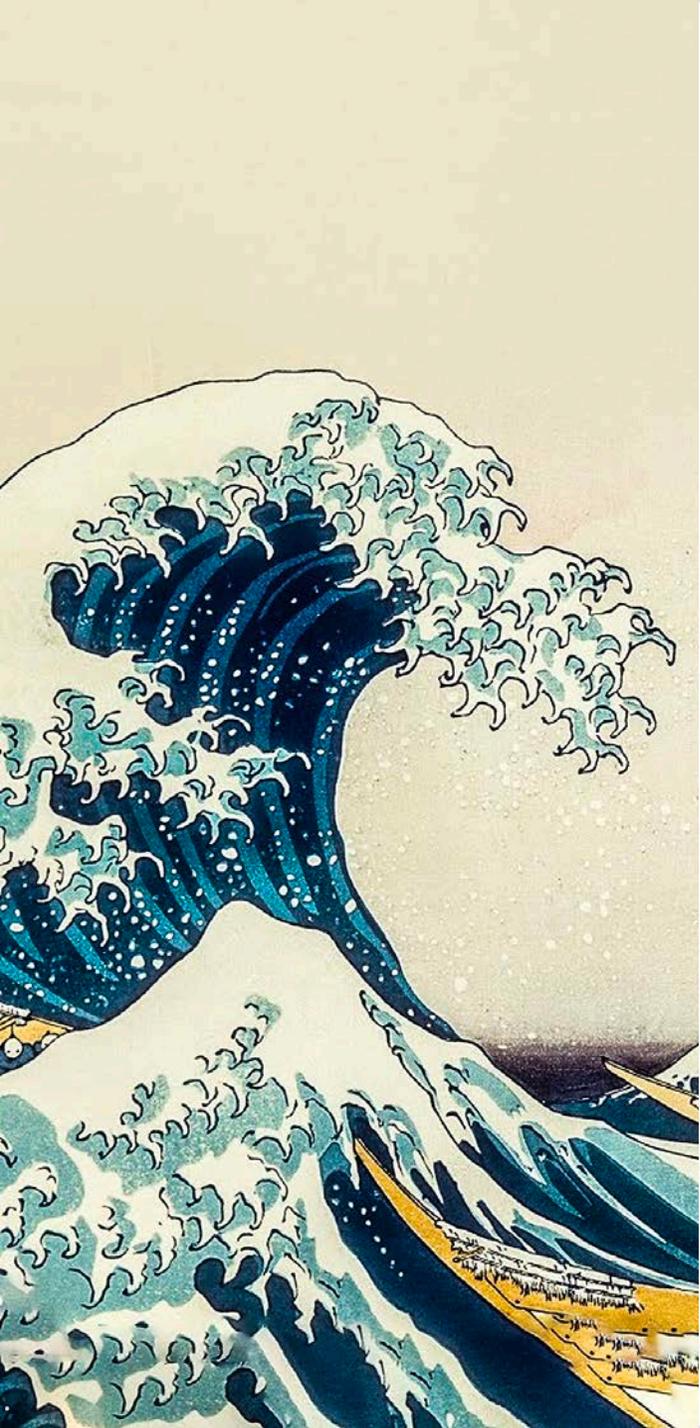
Disaster Readiness for the Legal Assistance Sector



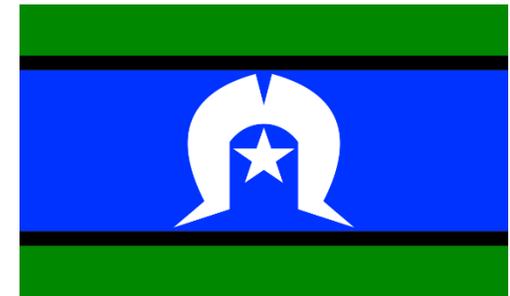
EMERGENCE
OUR STORIES IN THE NEXT DECADE

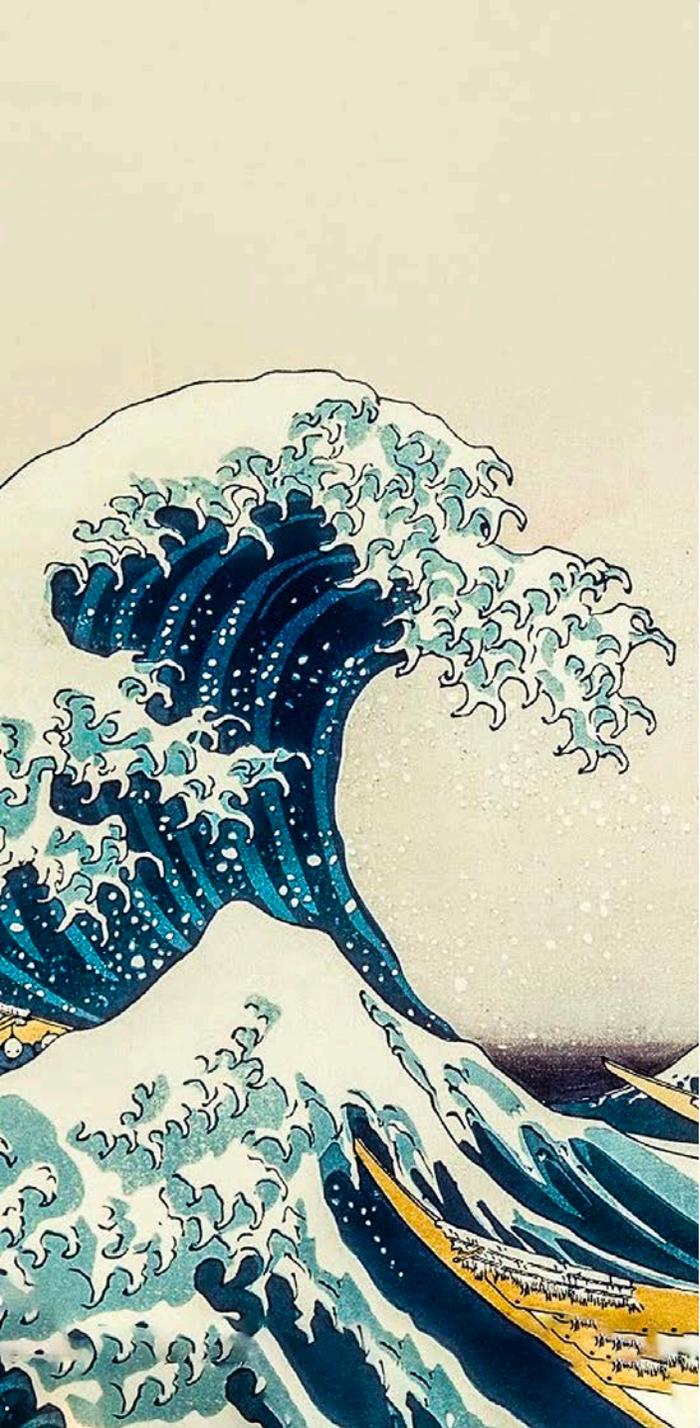


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Townsville Community Law acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pays respects to elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the tradition, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the nation. We extend our respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.





The project is supported by:



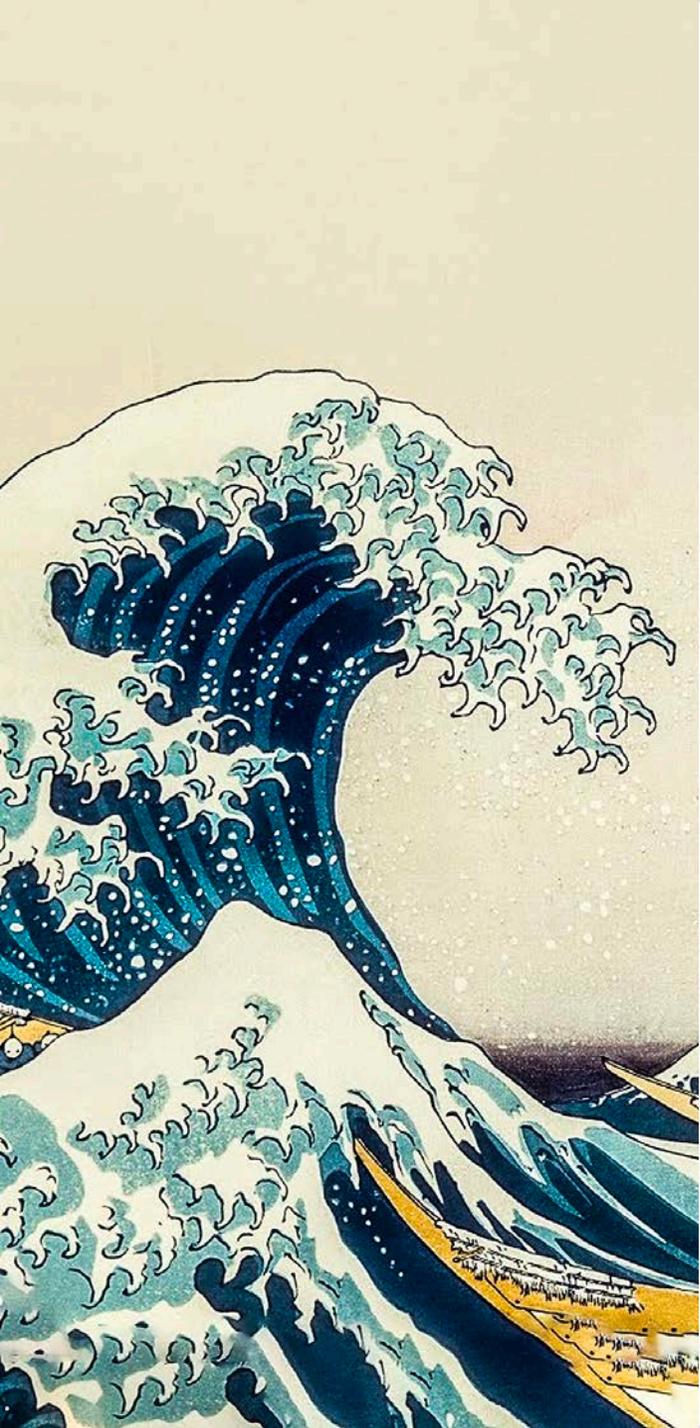
**Community
Legal Centres
Queensland**



Community Legal Centres
Australia



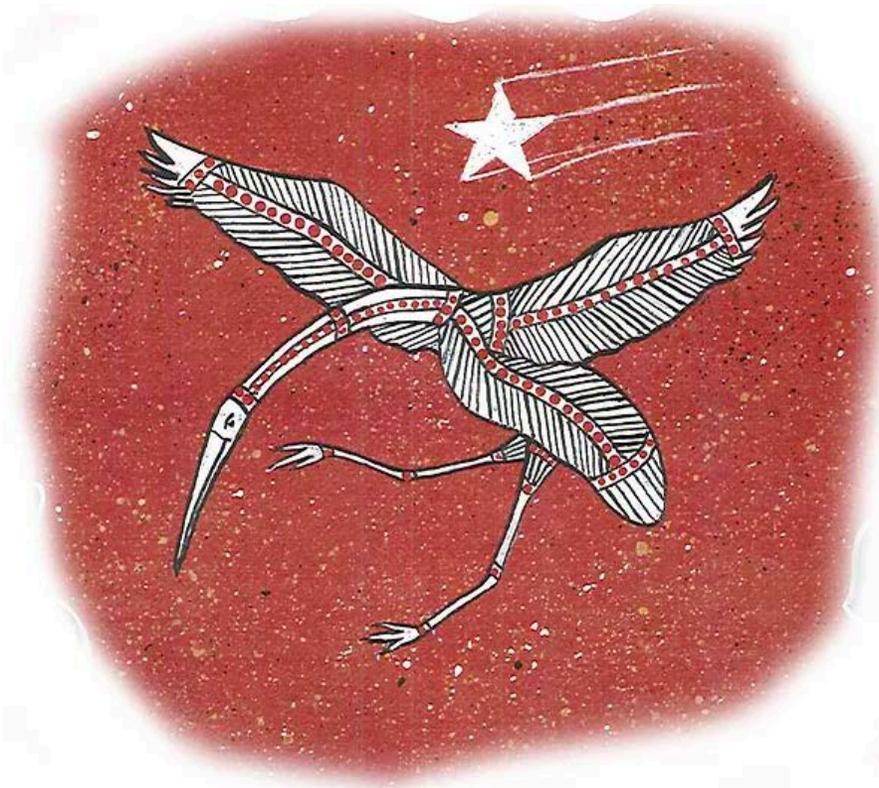
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The Bindal people call the country “Thul Garrie Waja”.

An important symbol for the Bindal people is the shooting star.

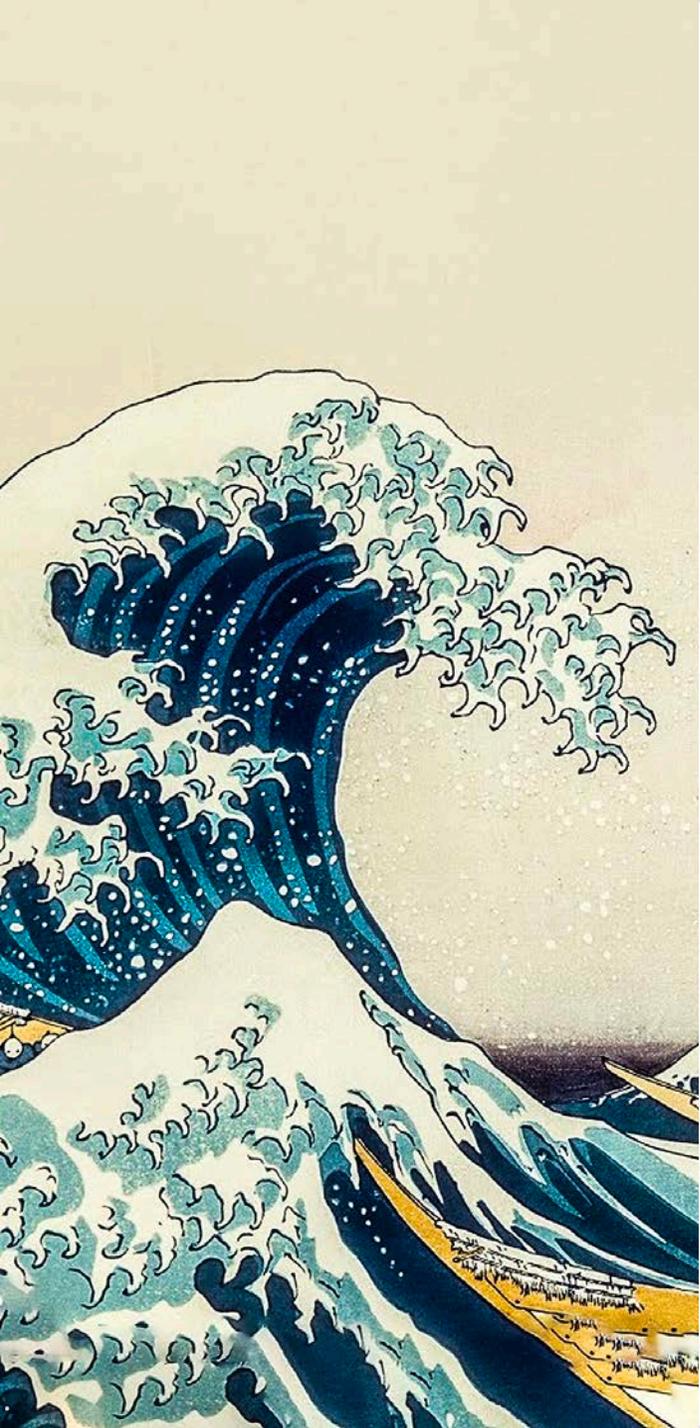
They believe that wherever the star fell, or the the direction the star fell meant there was either danger coming or someone from that direction was in need of help or in danger.



Bindal Totems - The dancing
Brolga and Shooting Star.
©Mannie Ross SNR 2012



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Funding

This project is jointly funded under the Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018.

Although funding for this product has been provided by both the Australian and Queensland Governments, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of either Government.



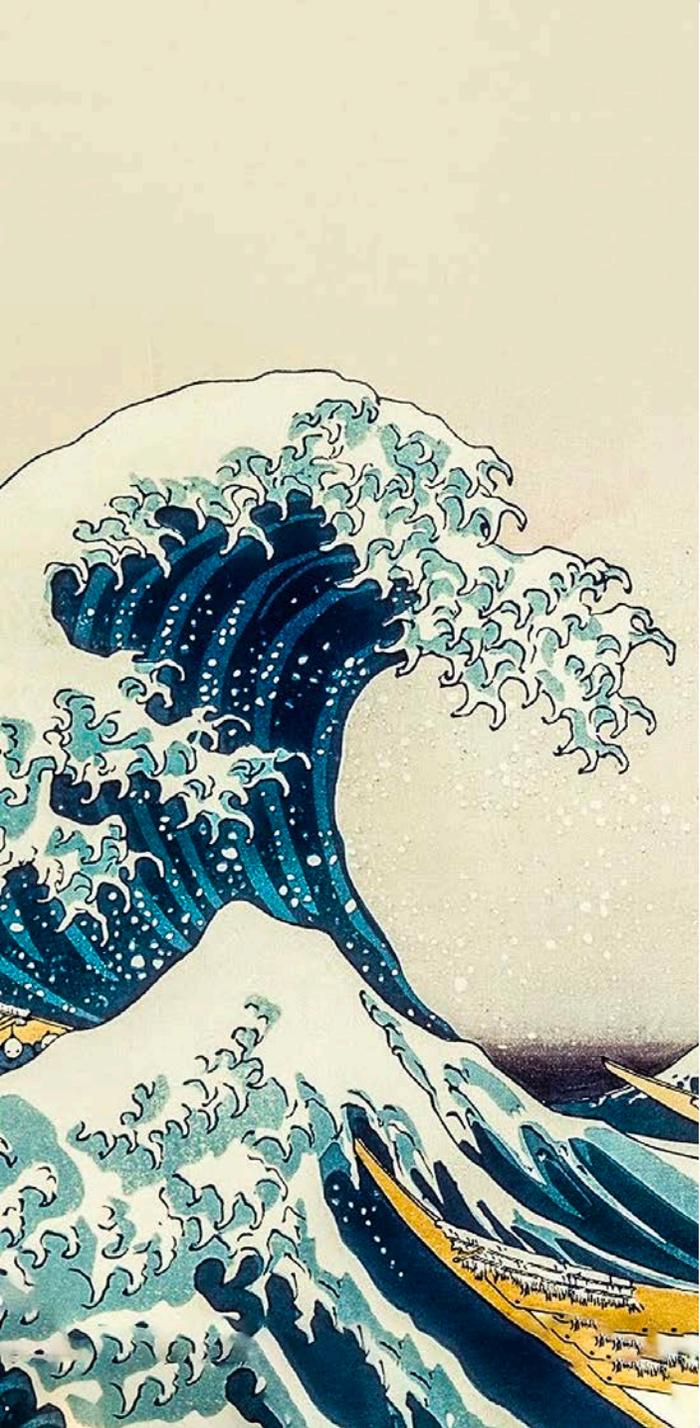
Australian Government



**Queensland
Government**



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Scope of Session

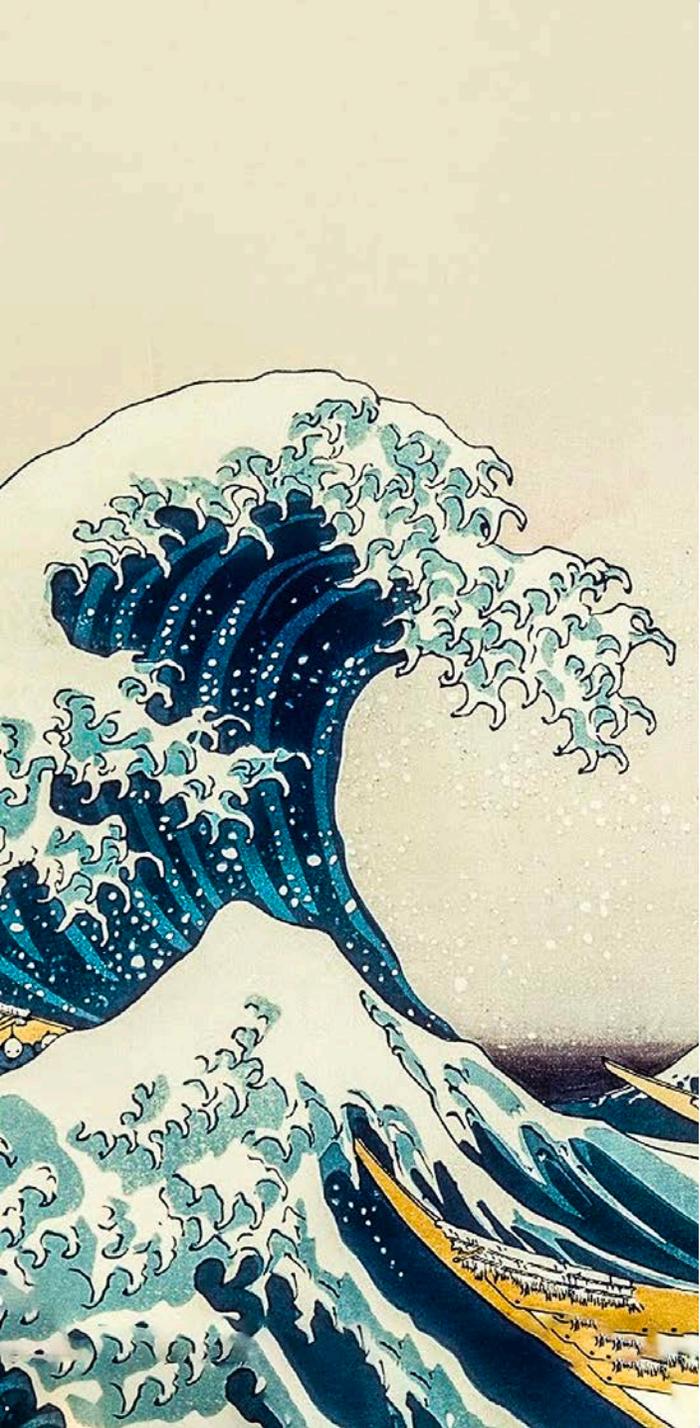
- About 45 minutes but time for discussion

Coverage

- Background
- The Project: Disaster Readiness for Legal Assistance Sector
- Disaster Legal Assistance and Disaster Legal Needs
- Alignment with Legal Assistance Frameworks
- A Comprehensive Approach
- The Way Forward



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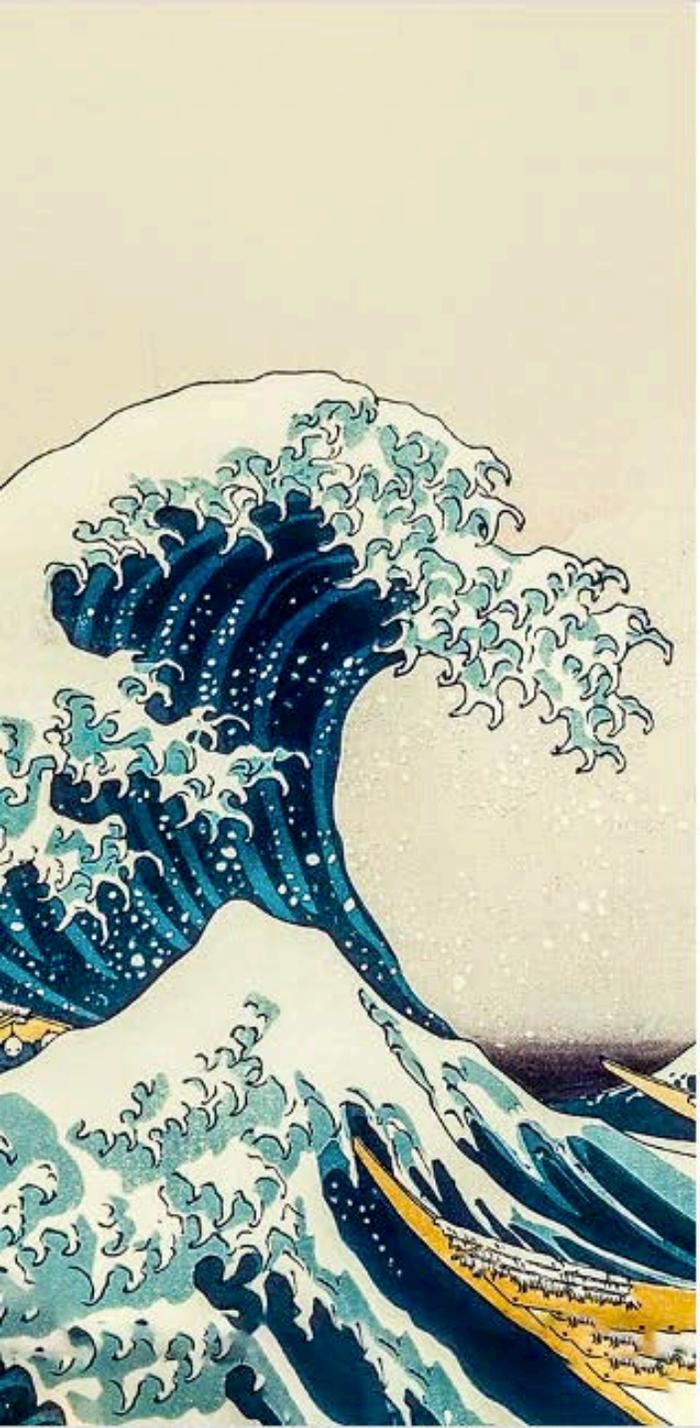
Emergence Series

Our stories in the next decade

The communities we are part of – local, national, global – face an uncertain future of complex challenges and threats.

Are we ready to face the decade ahead fighting for our rights are inter-connected and aware of the fact that healthy communities are essential to defining the quality of our relationships? How can we make sure that we are prepared for future events and continue to adapt with resilience? How do we ensure our voice, and that of our clients, is heard?

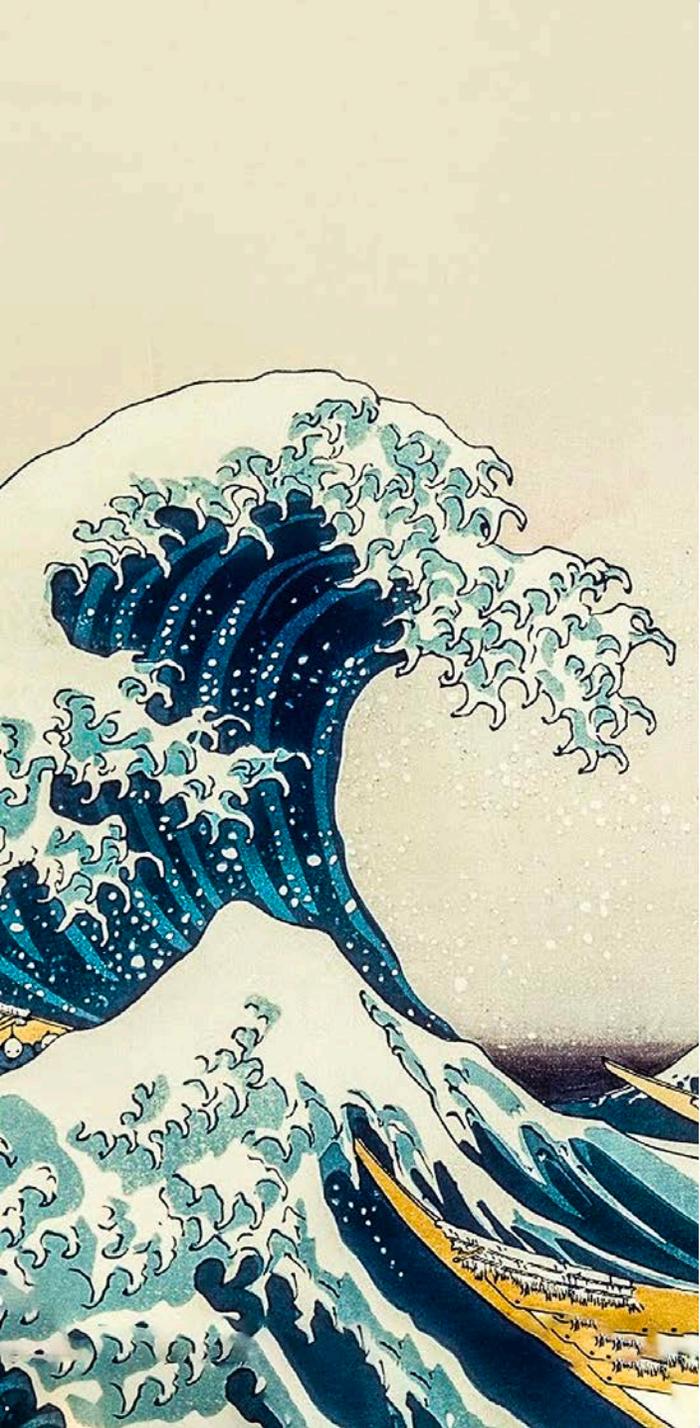




The Biggest Story of the Next Decade?



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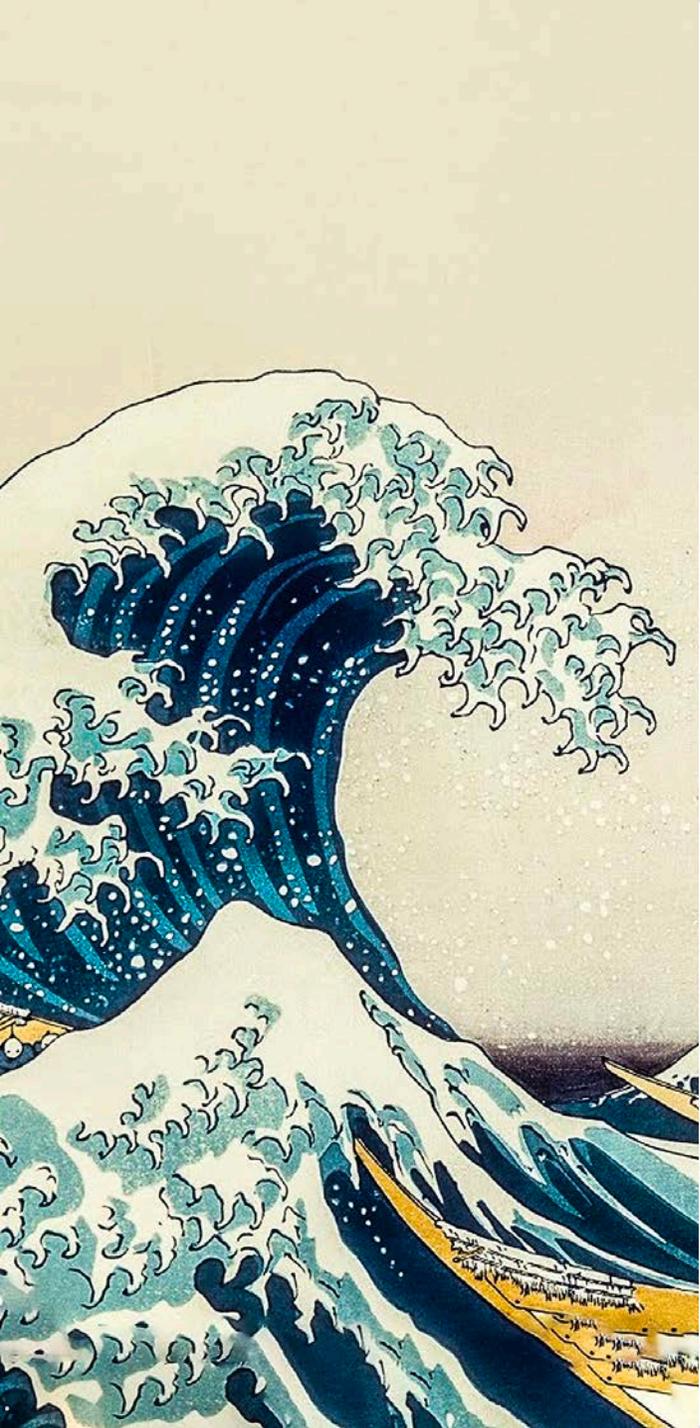
2019-2020: A Harbinger?

The summer of 2019-20 was defined by a series of consecutive and at times coincident natural events involving a confluence of bushfires, floods, drought and heat extremes.

Their cascading effects have impacted Australian communities and industries. Apart from loss of life, the cost to the community and government of these events is significant. For example, insurance losses for this year's bushfires already exceed A\$2.3 billion, and for the 2019 North Queensland floods social and economic costs exceed A\$5.6 billion.

Climate change influences the frequency and severity of these events and will be a factor into the foreseeable future, given the long timeframes associated with current climate trajectories.

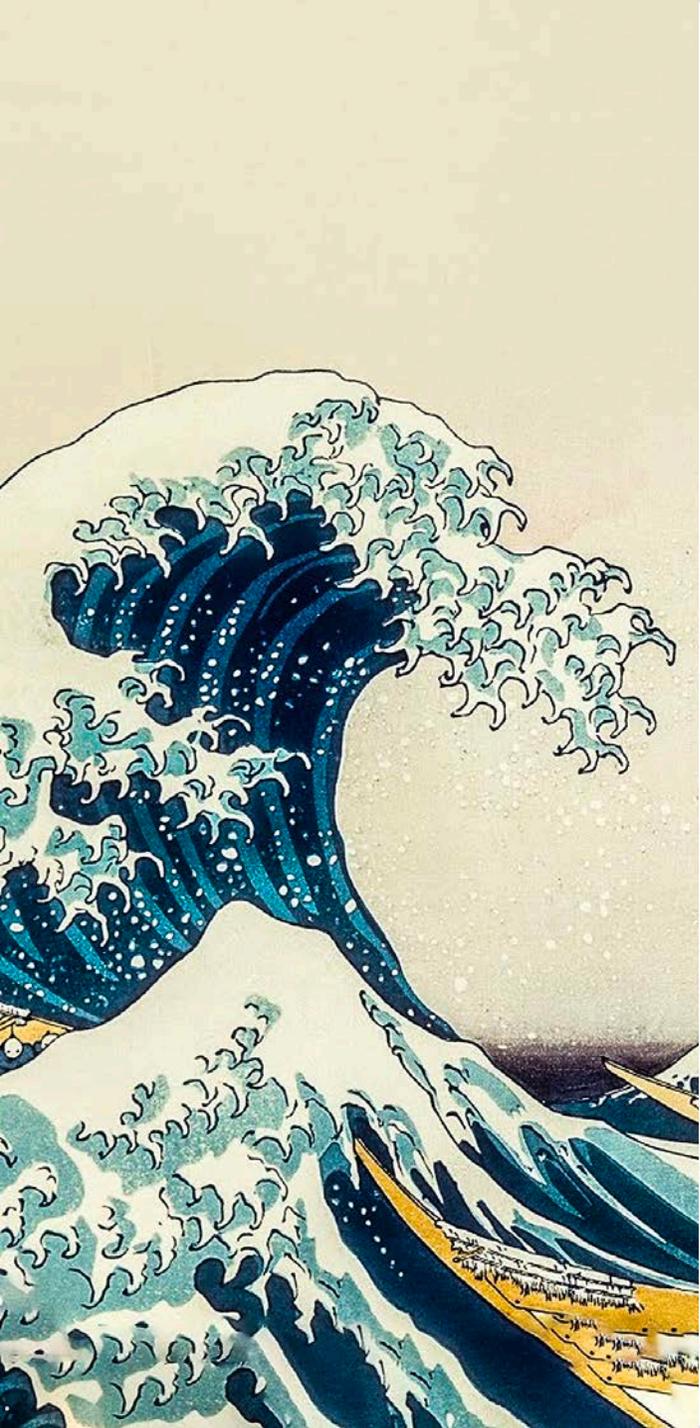
> CSIRO (2020) Climate and Disaster Resilience



Climate Change

- Australia will warm substantially during the 21st century
- More frequent and hotter hot days and fewer frost days
- Mid-latitude weather systems are projected to shift south in winter and the tropics to expand
- Cool-season rainfall is projected to decline in southern Australia; other changes to average rainfall are uncertain
- Extreme rain events will become more intense
- Time in drought is projected to increase in Southern Australia, with a greater frequency of severe droughts
- Snowfall in the Australian alps is projected to decrease, especially at low elevations

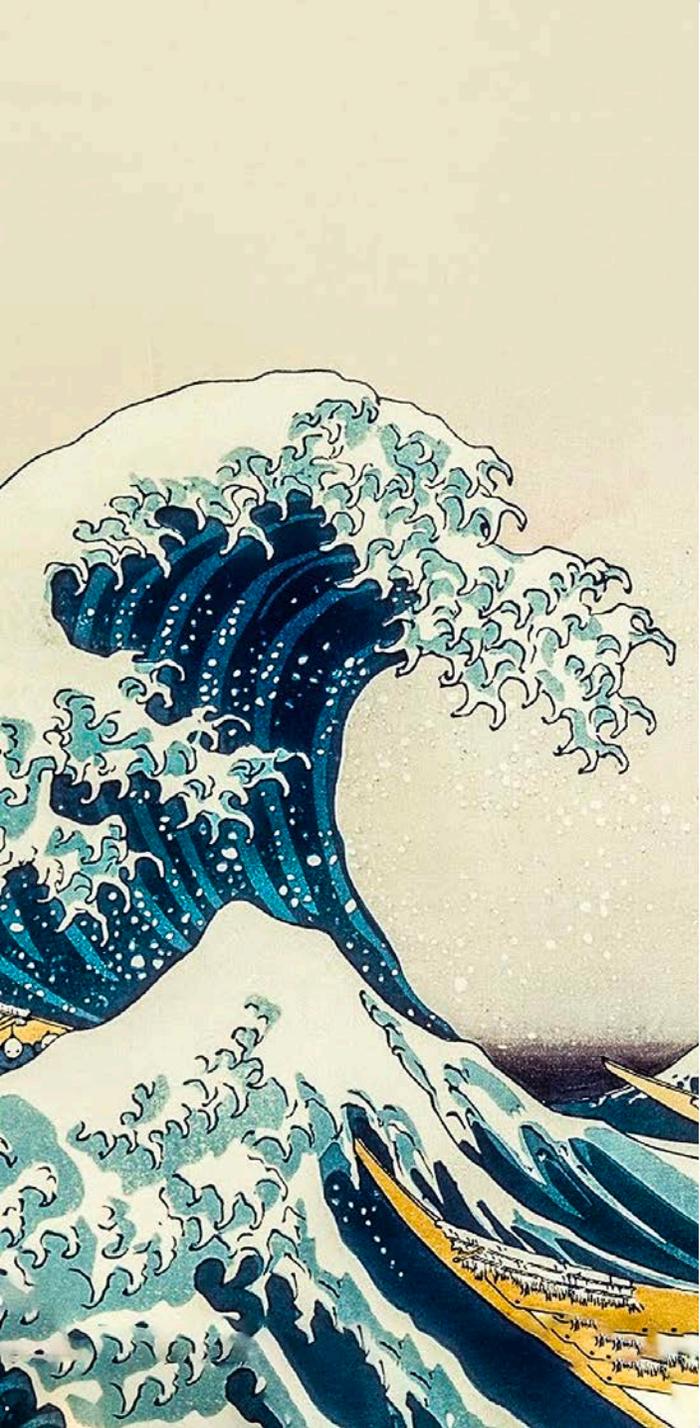
> CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology 2015, Climate Change in Australia Information for Australia's Natural Resource Management Regions: Technical Report, CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia



Climate Change

- Tropical cyclones may occur less often, become more intense, and may reach further south
- More sunshine is projected in winter and spring, with lower relative humidity and higher evaporation rates throughout the year
- Soil moisture is projected to decrease and future runoff will decrease where rainfall is projected to decrease
- Southern and eastern Australia are projected to experience harsher fire weather; changes elsewhere are less certain
- Sea levels will continue to rise throughout the 21st century and beyond; extreme sea levels will also rise
- Oceans around Australia will warm and become more acidic. Salinity may also change

> CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology 2015, Climate Change in Australia Information for Australia's Natural Resource Management Regions: Technical Report, CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia



Outcomes for Communities

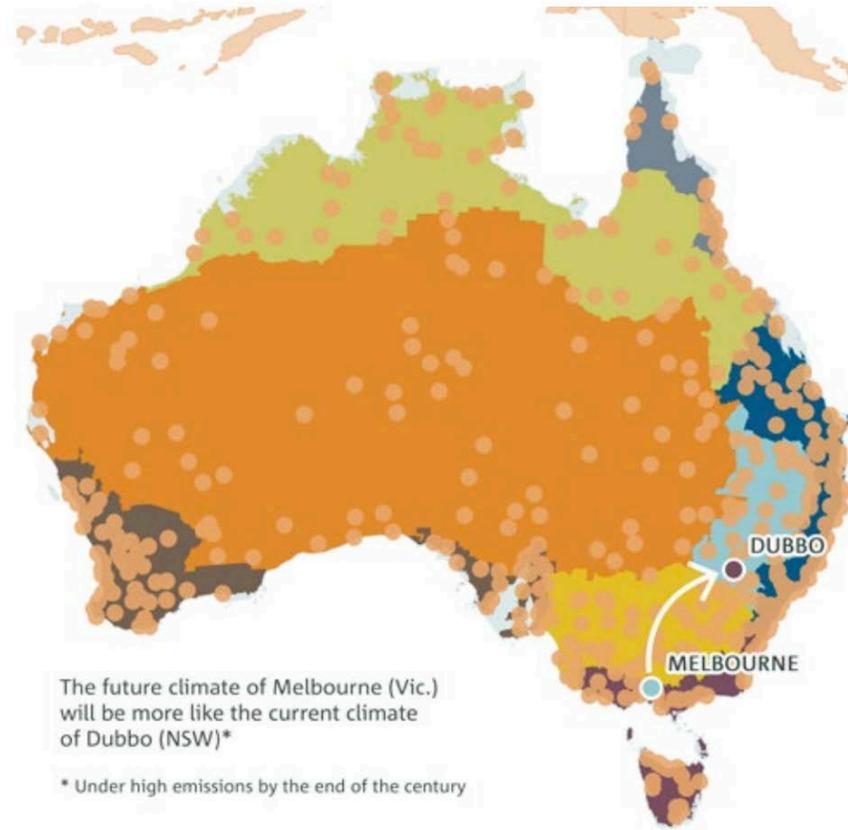
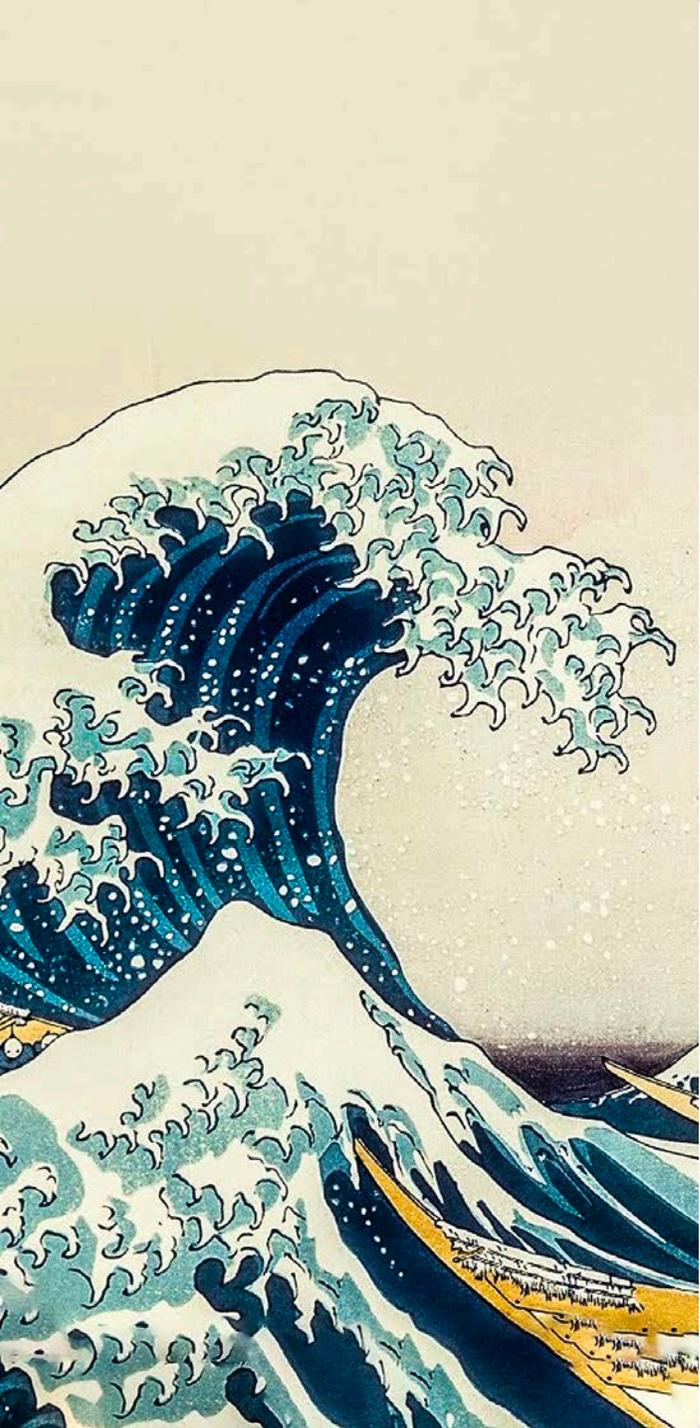


FIGURE 9.11: CLIMATE ANALOGUE EXAMPLE (MELBOURNE, +3 °C AND -15 % RAINFALL).

Major impacts on frequency and severity of:

- Floods
- Fires
- Drought
- Cyclones
- Storms
- Agriculture
- Food production
- Economy

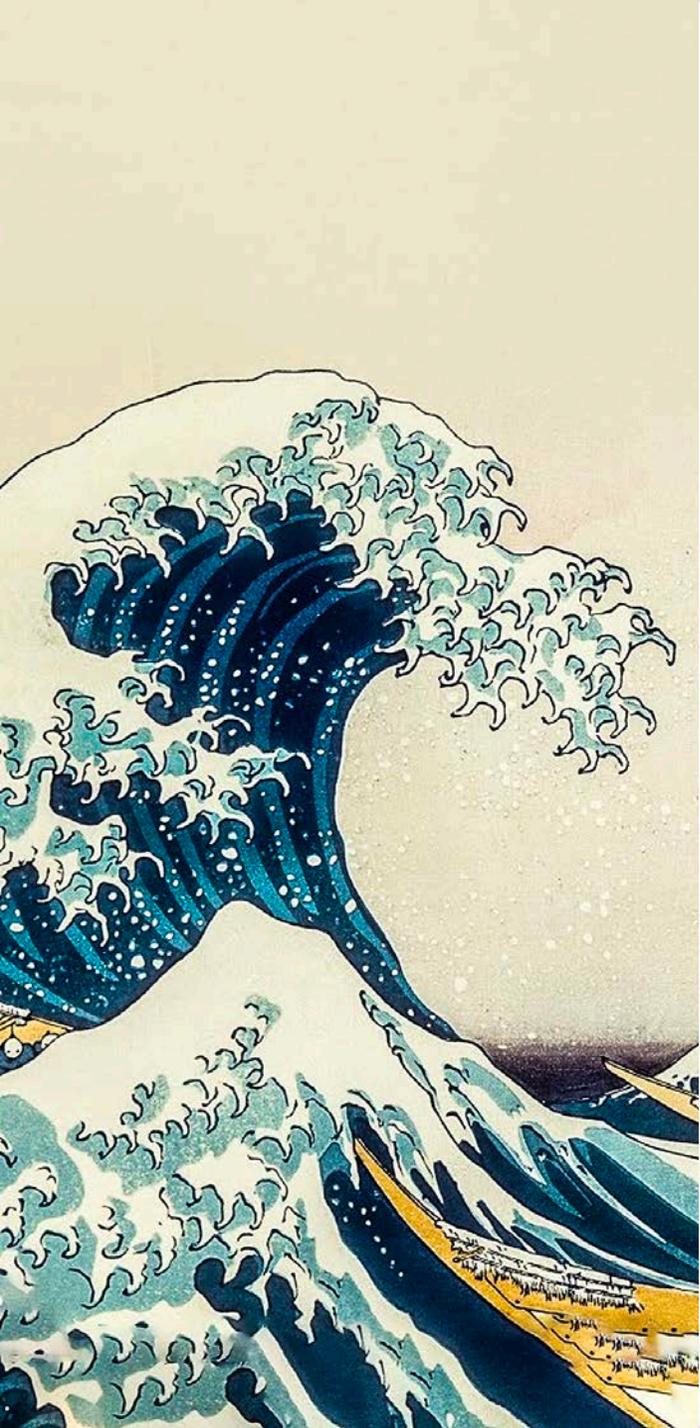


Global Norms

In light of our increased risk of disasters, our obligations under international law become more critical.

- Obligations under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - UNDRR)
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals) (Goals 1,2, 11, 13)
- Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (A/RES/71/141)
- Siracusa principles on the Limitation and Derogation Provisions in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (E/CN.4/1985/4)
- The Johannesburg Principles on National Security, Freedom of Expression and Access to Information (International Standards Series; ISBN 1 870798 89 9)

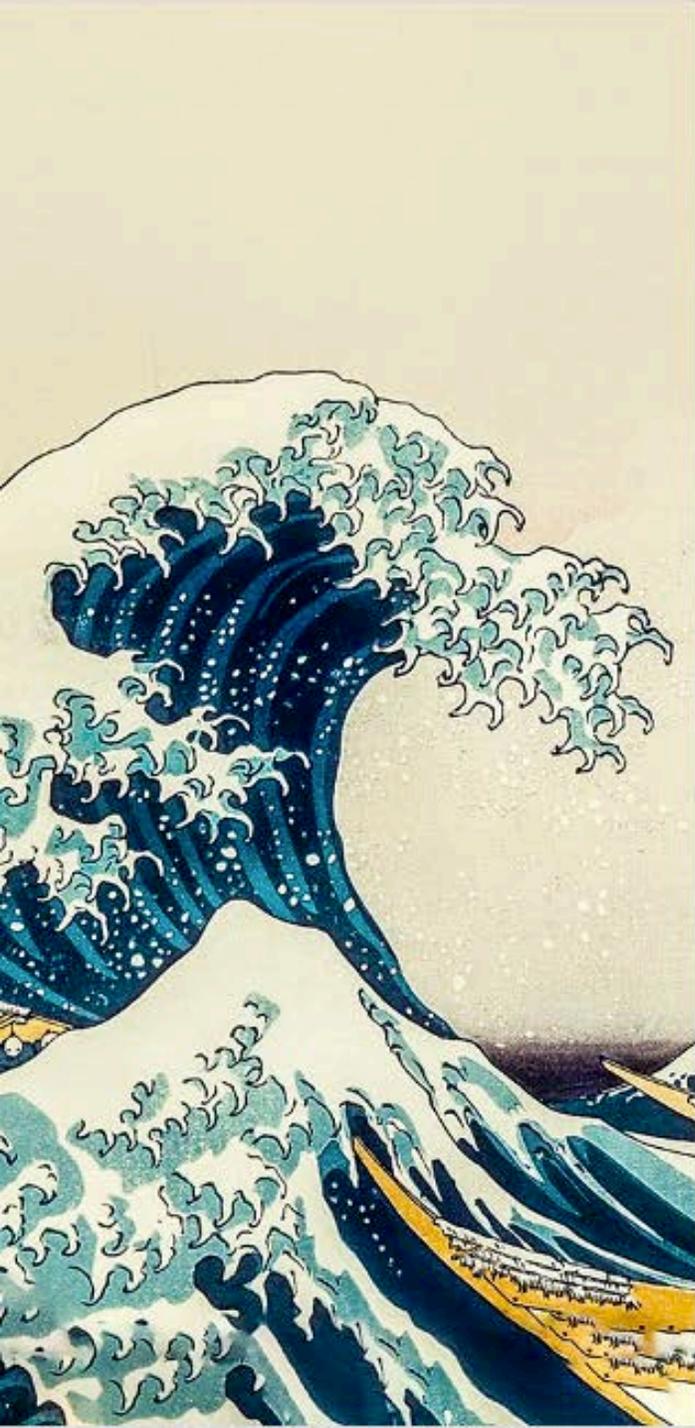




Covid-19

And then there was (and still is) the Covid-19 pandemic...

- The legal assistance sector has seen widespread and wide sweeping changes to how and where we provide legal services
- Like any disaster, Covid-19 changed our model of service delivery and the substantive issues that arise for our clients and communities
- Community legal centres have been particularly adept at providing services remotely, and in scalable and adaptable ways
- Unlike other disasters, Covid-19 affected all providers and all clients
- This one isn't over and will not be the last pandemic
- It has reinforced the need to continuity of operations plans, to balance the impacts on our staff and volunteers with the need to provide legal assistance services

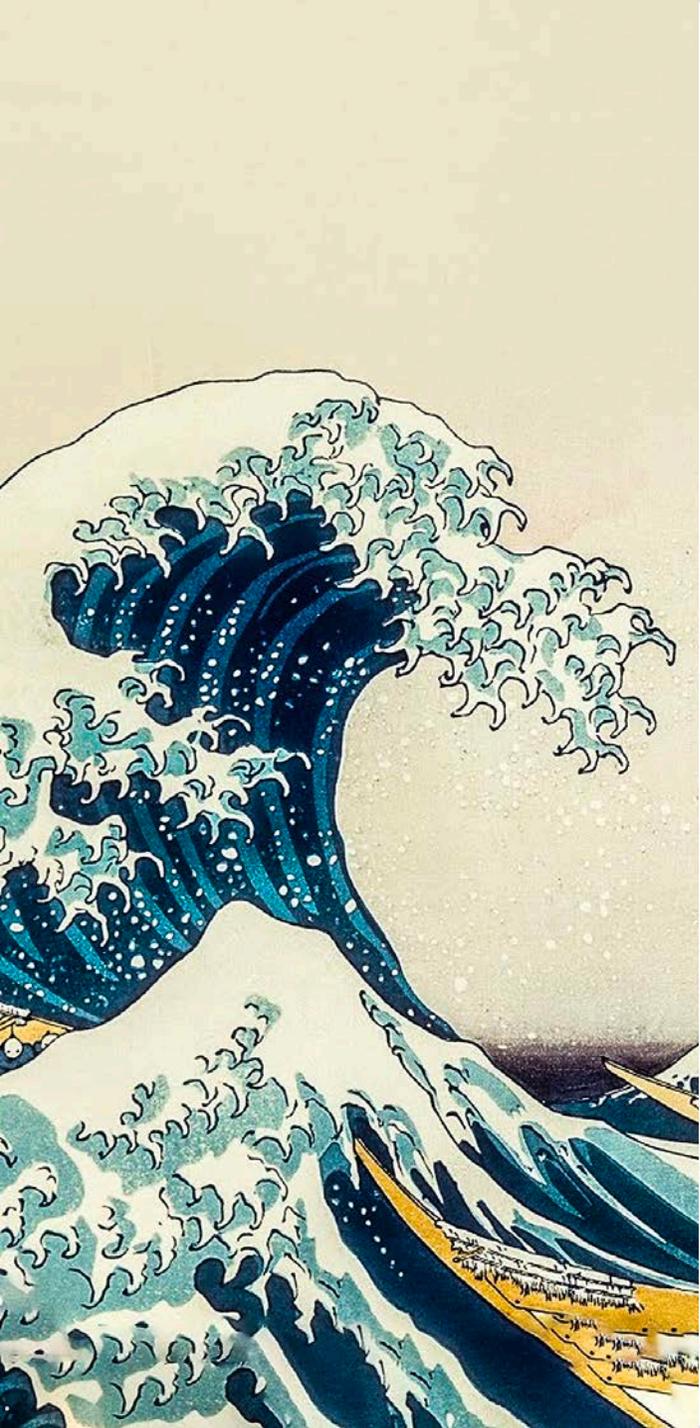


The Project

Hokusai, Under the Wave at Kanagawa aka The Great Wave 神奈川沖浪裏



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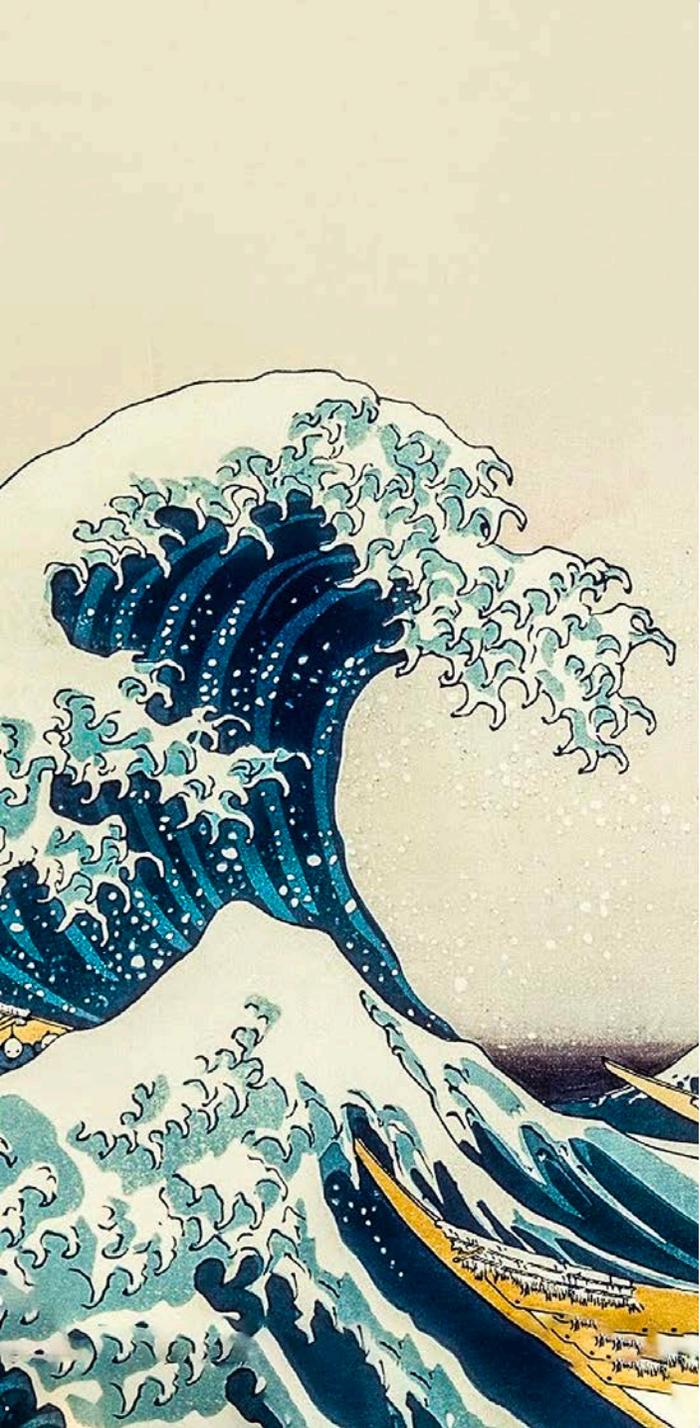
Our Experience

“There will be a report on the Bushfire Legal Help in the next few months I think, and this may well assist others to put plans in place. Looking down the barrel of TC Ului this weekend, we are again hopelessly prepared to respond collectively to these sorts of matters.”

> Email to colleague at LAQ (13 July 2010)

Townsville Community Law’s history of disaster legal assistance:

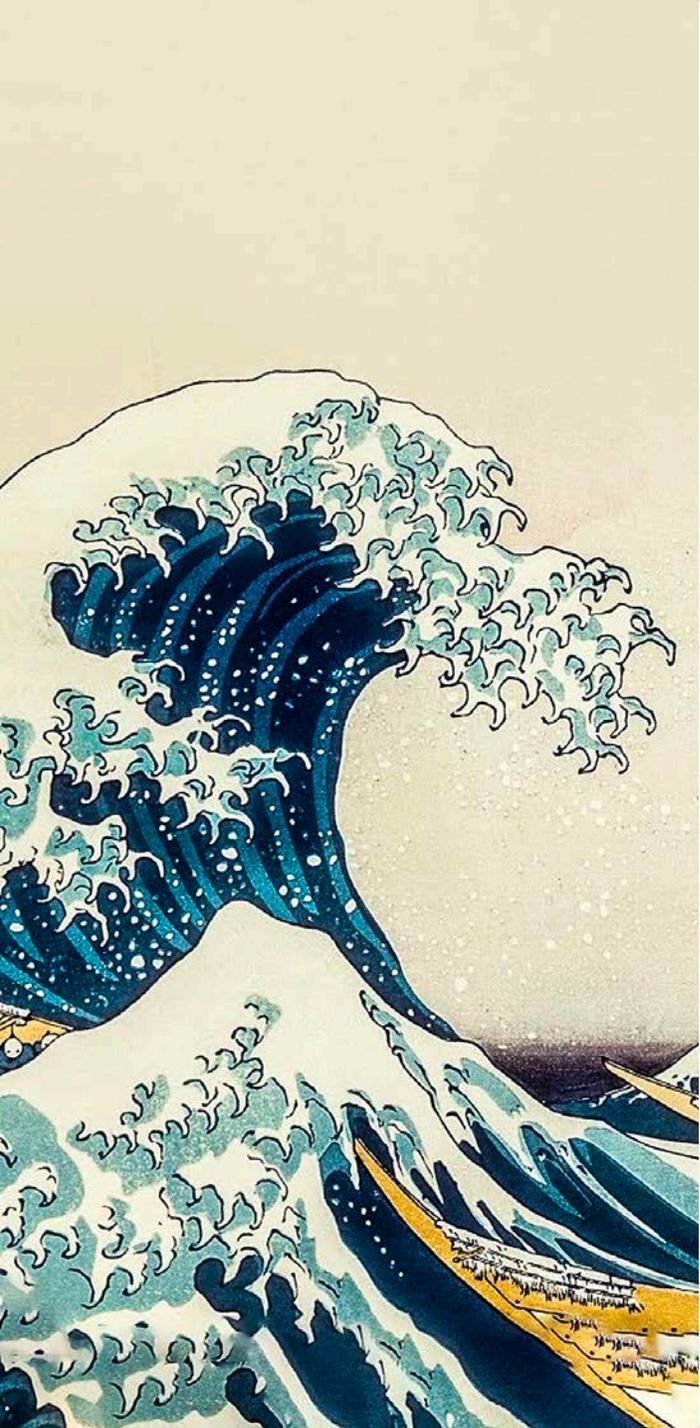
- Floods (1998, 2010 - 2011, 2012, 2019)
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Justin (1997)
- Tropical Cyclone Tessi (2000)
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Larry (2006)
- Tropical Cyclone Anthony (2011),
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi (2011)

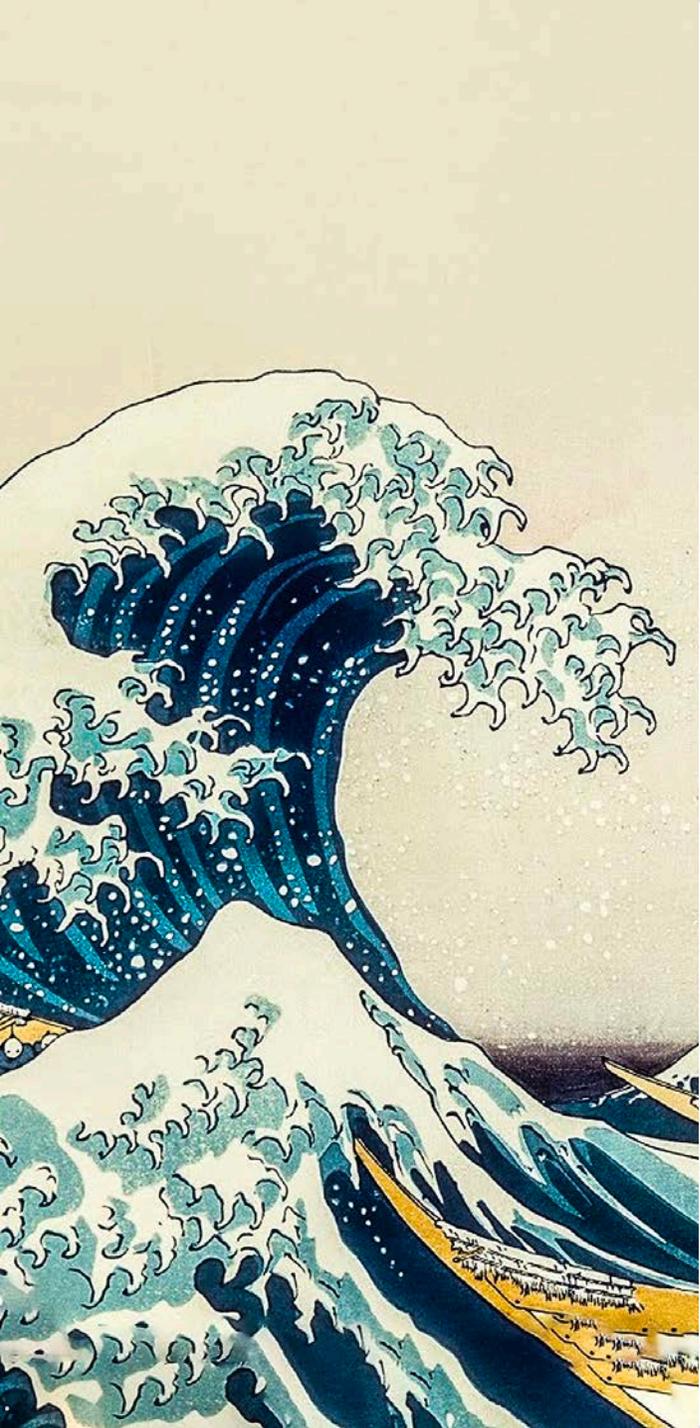


Townsville Monsoon Event

- Townsville Monsoon Event January-February 2019
- One of the worst natural disasters to ever impact the region
- 5 fatalities (drowning and tropical disease)
- 1.25 Billion in insurance claims – leading to industry warnings the region is ‘unprofitable’ against the backdrop of second highest rates on insurance in Australia
- Townsville Community Law received funding from Justice and Communities departments for lawyer and community intake/support roles
- 18 months of work = 1,100 services finalised by 30 June 2020
- Work combined in-house, outreach, social media, recovery hubs, student clinic
- Many systemic issues around community resilience

Lessons from the Flood



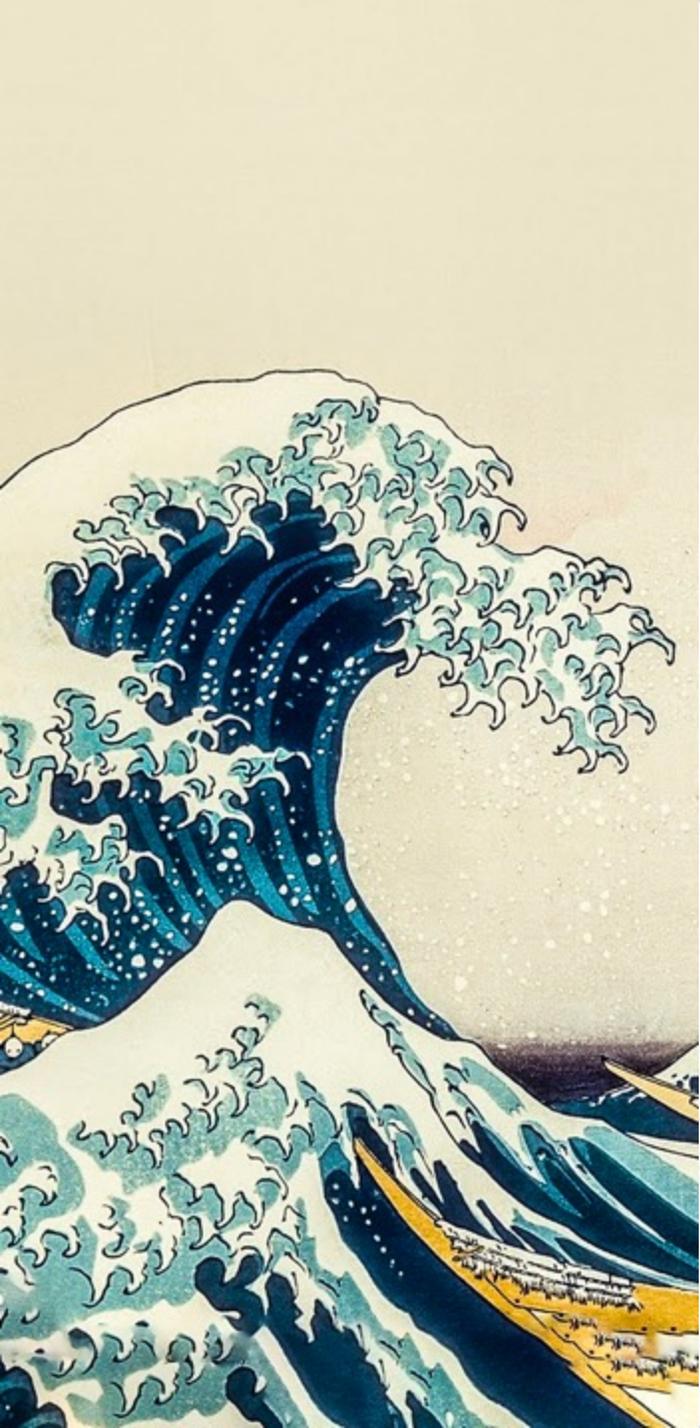


CLC's Australia

Plenary Resolutions (from 2019 CLC Australia Conference)

1. CLC Australia identify CLCs that operate geographically or thematically within the Disaster Life Cycle
2. CLC Australia survey selected members about current disaster legal help arrangements including embedding in the disaster management cycle
3. CLC Australia call for membership of a working group to collate and report on survey data
4. CLC Australia facilitate a national project looking at best practice in disaster legal assistance

The Disaster Readiness for the Legal Assistance Sector (the Project) will address some of these issues

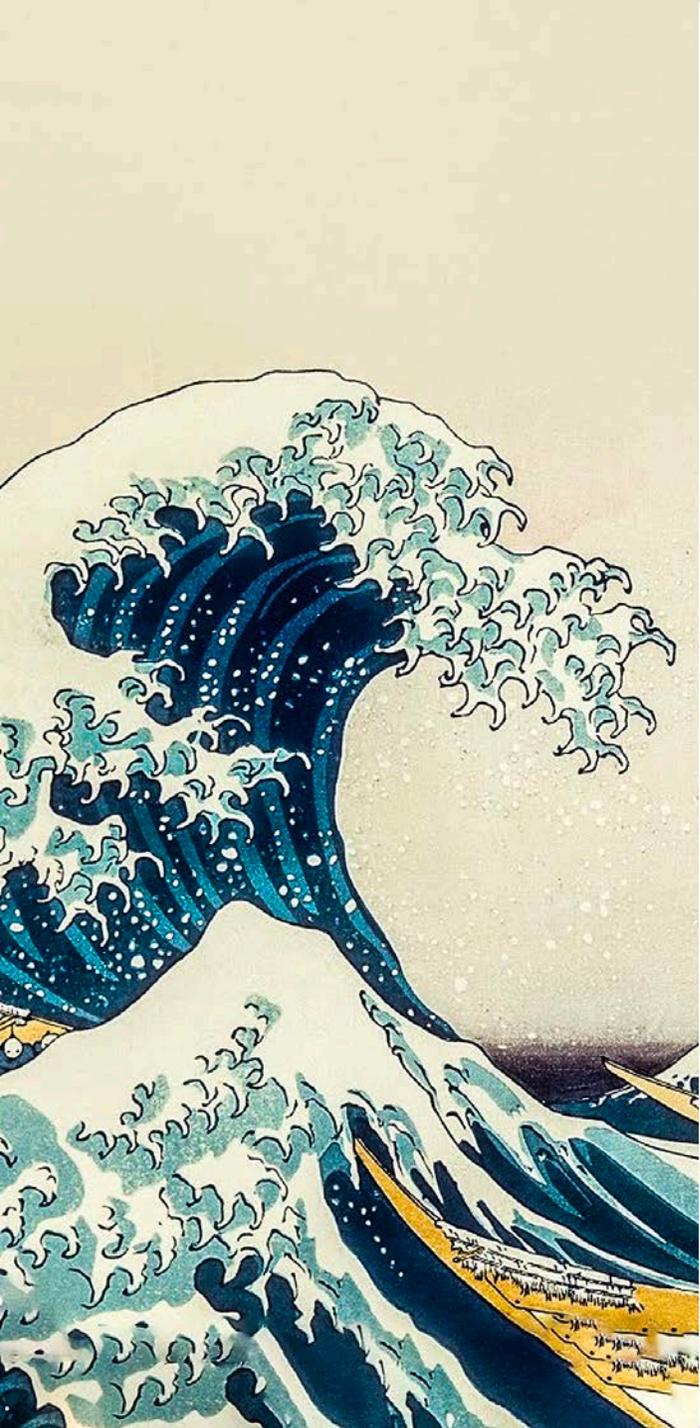


Purpose

Why has the legal assistance sector been **stuck simply responding** each time our clients and communities experience disaster?

Imagine a **framework for disaster legal assistance** that:

- Uses best practice models of collaborative service delivery, regional service planning, and training and competency standards
- Observes known disaster legal needs and critical human rights norms
- Mirrors disaster operations' comprehensive work throughout the disaster cycle of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR)
- Aligns with disaster management and resilience governance and frameworks
- Pays attention to who is more vulnerable to harm
- Builds on our sector's experiences of disaster



Phases

The **project phases** are :

1. **Initiation Phase (July-September 2020)**
 - > Rough Proposals
2. **Definition Phase (September-October 2020)**
 - > Desk Review
3. **Design Phase (November 2020-December 2020)**
 - > Draft Plans
 - > Draft Terms of Reference
4. **Development Phase (December 2020-February 2021)**
 - > Draft Best Practices
 - > Draft Training Plan
5. **Implementation Phase (March-May 2021)**
 - > Face to face implementation in regions
6. **Follow Up and Completion (June-July 2021)**



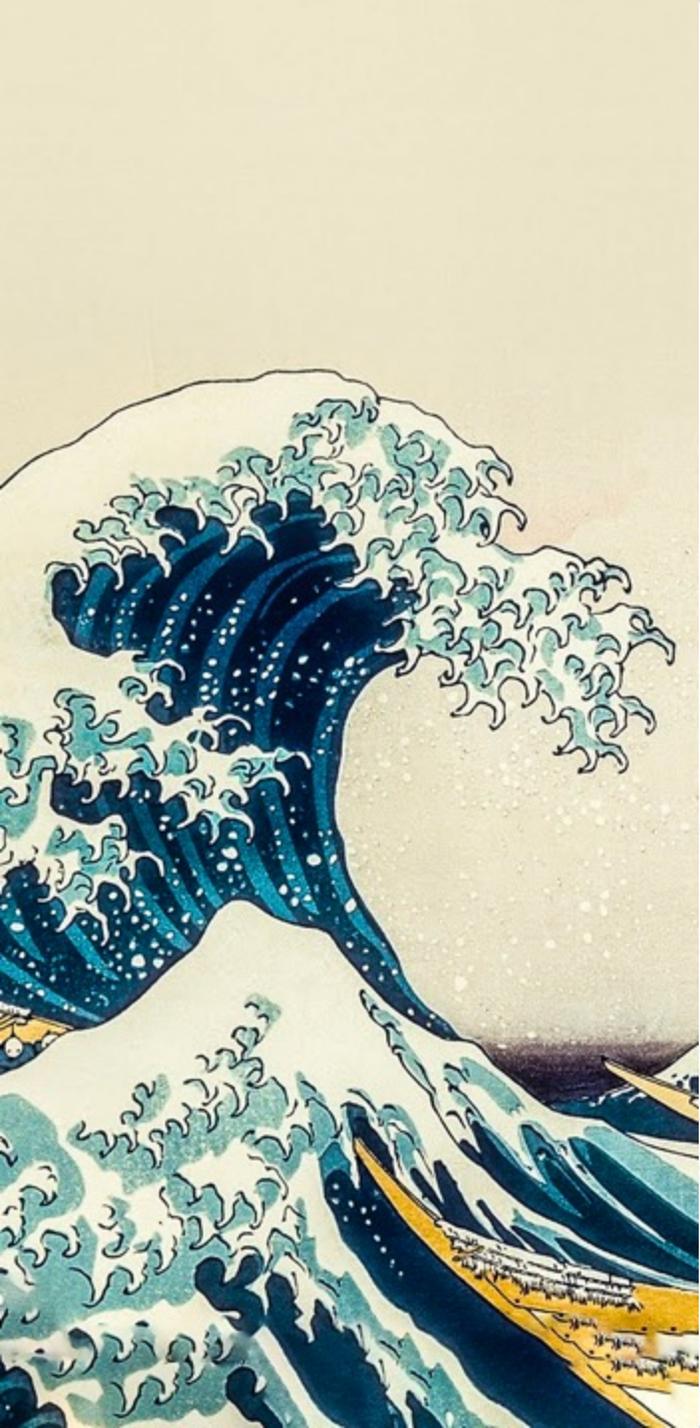
Stakeholders

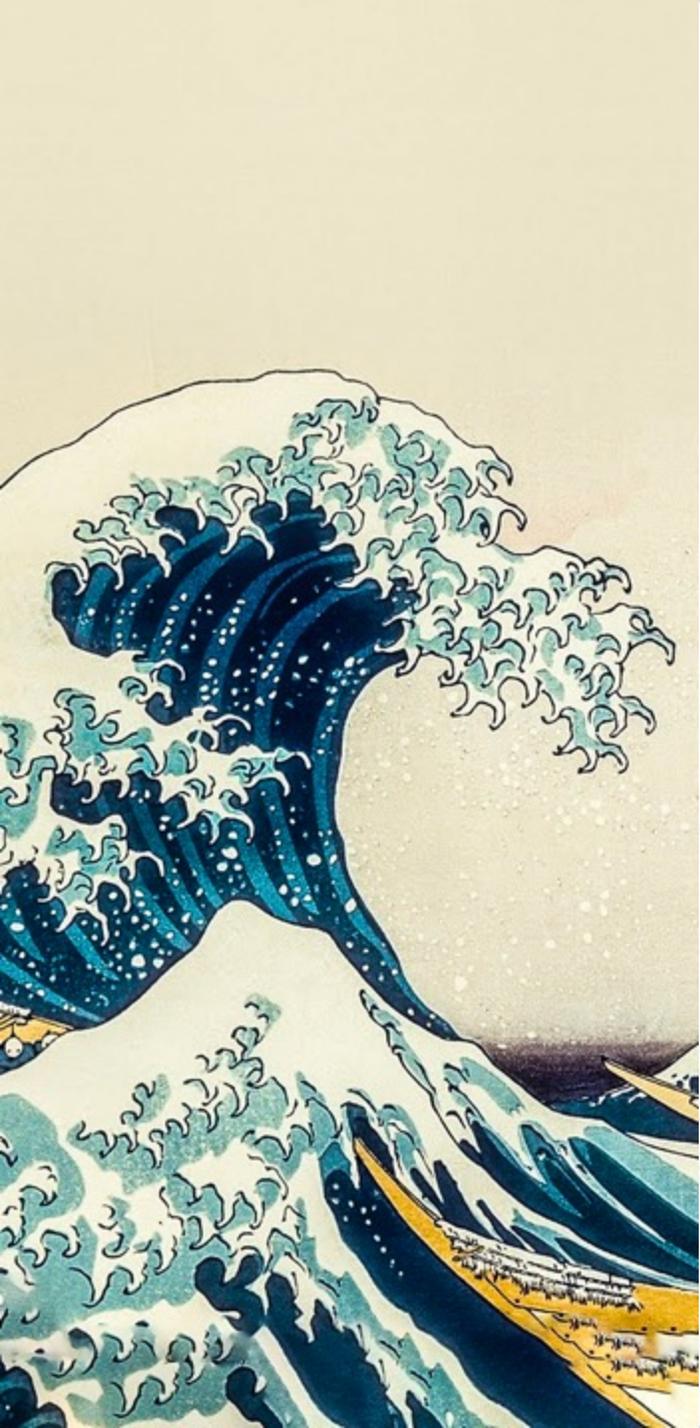
Multi-sectoral and intra-sectoral stakeholders in Queensland:

- The Legal Assistance Sector including Legal Assistance Forums and Legal Assistance Providers
- Disaster Management, Operations, Reconstruction and Resilience Sector
- Systemic Actors and Agencies: e.g. Inspector-General of Emergency Management, NGOs: Queensland Council of Social Service)
- Specific Groups (see principle of self determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Legal Assistance)

Community Legal Centres Australia is interested in the progress of the project.

Some **National Bodies** such as the members of the Australian Legal Assistance Forum may have an interest in engaging with the project





Outputs

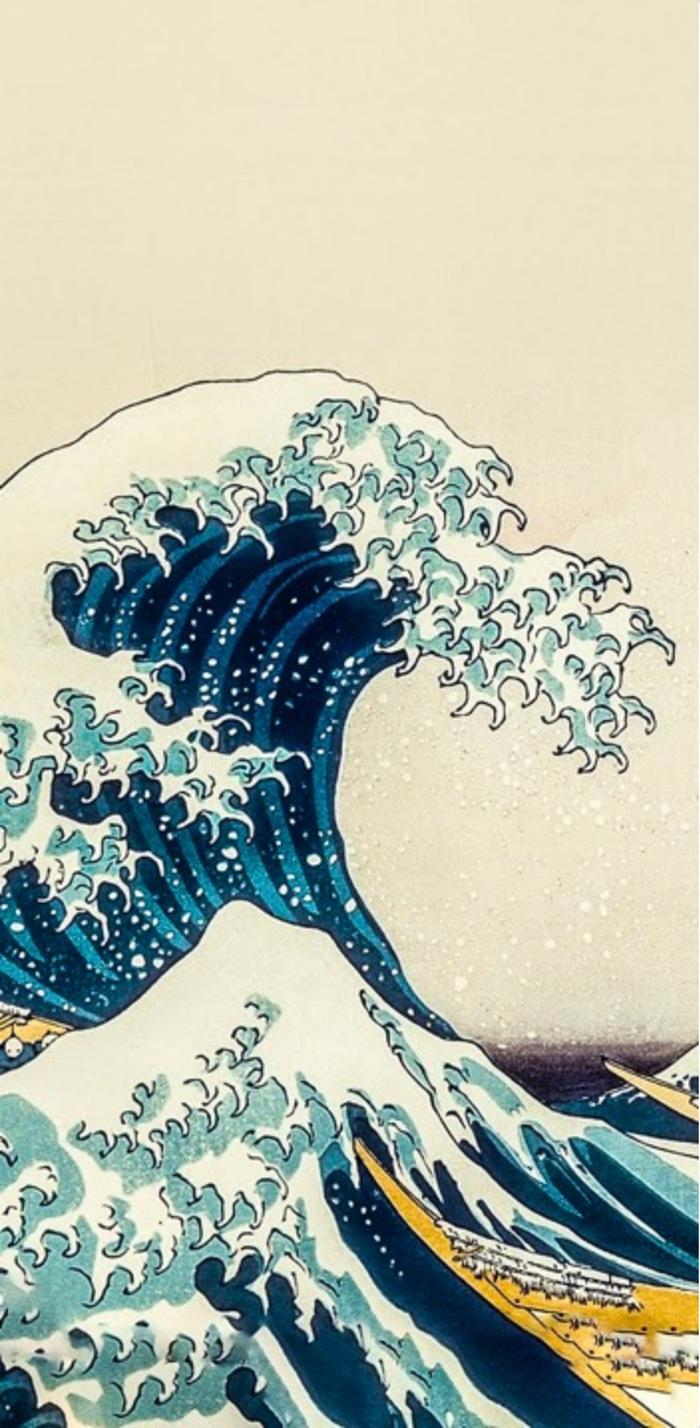
Expected **outputs** from the project by July 2021:

- A disaster legal assistance model for the legal assistance sector that articulates an appropriate role for legal assistance in disaster management and operations (i.e. '**disaster legal assistance**')
- The model will include best practices around collaborative service design and delivery, regional service planning, continuity of operations, and training and competency for the legal assistance sector (i.e. '**disaster legal assistance best practices**')
- Functional Plans for inclusion within State, District and Local Disaster Management Plans (i.e. '**disaster legal assistance plans**')

And thereby improve the disaster readiness of the legal assistance sector



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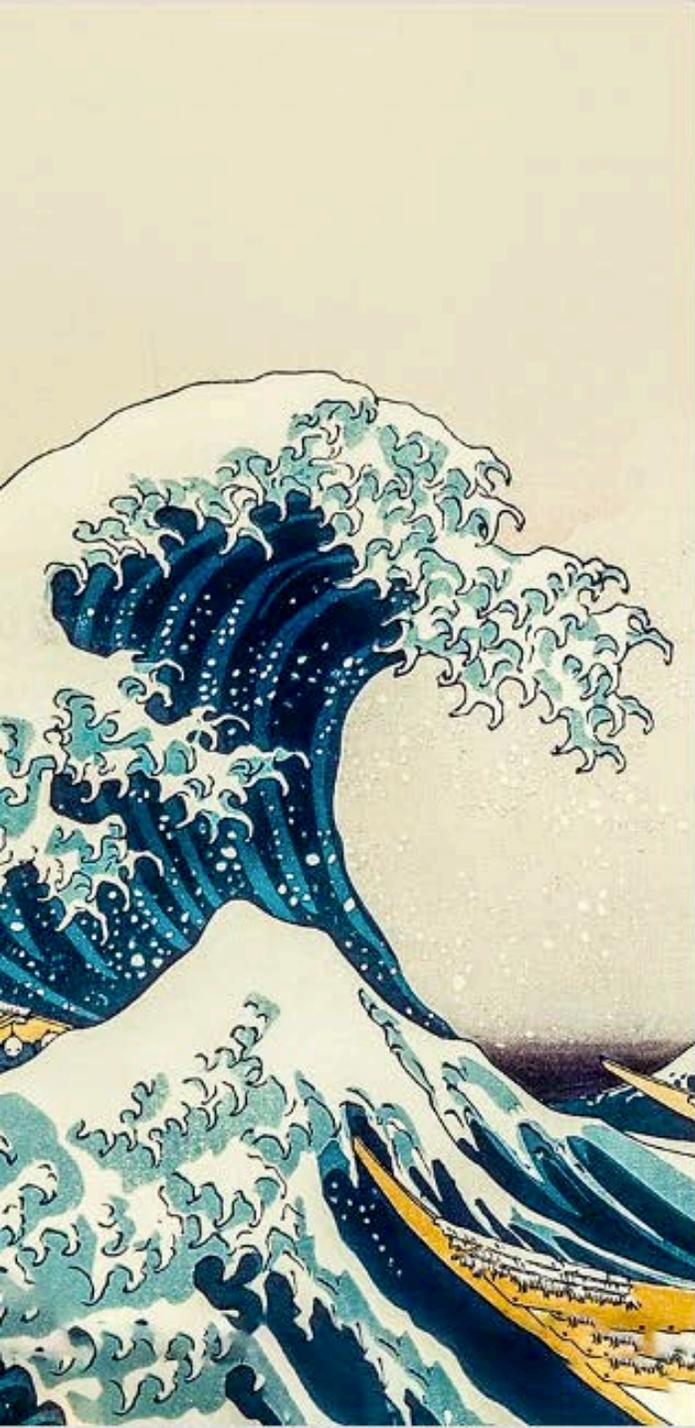


Outcomes

Expected **outcomes** from the project by July 2021:

- Build the capacity of Queensland's legal assistance sector to work within each stage of the disaster life cycle (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery)
- The role of legal assistance is recognised within the disaster management cycle, the disaster management community and in disaster operations
- Alignment of legal assistance and disaster management frameworks, governance and plans within a tiered, collaborative model (i.e. **disaster legal assistance planning**)

And thereby improve outcomes for communities affected by disaster

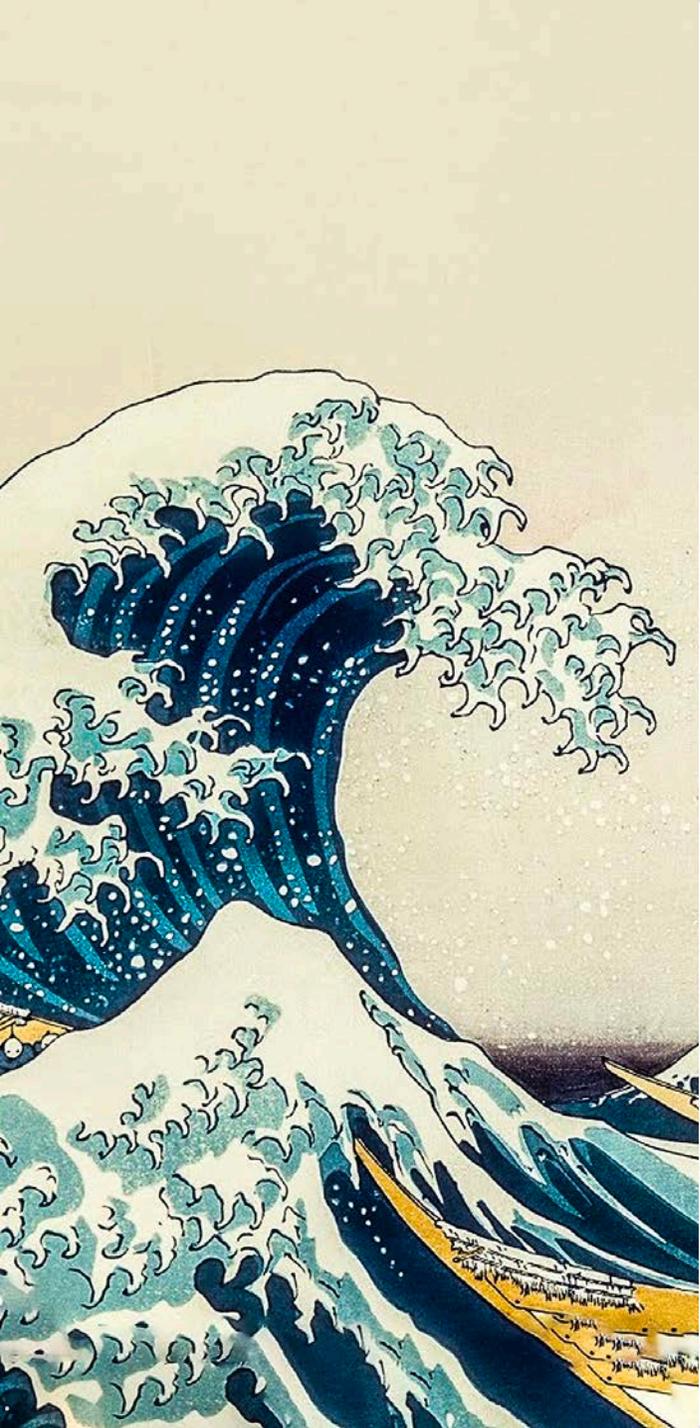


‘Disaster Legal Assistance’

Hokusai, Under the Wave at Kanagawa aka The Great Wave 神奈川沖浪裏



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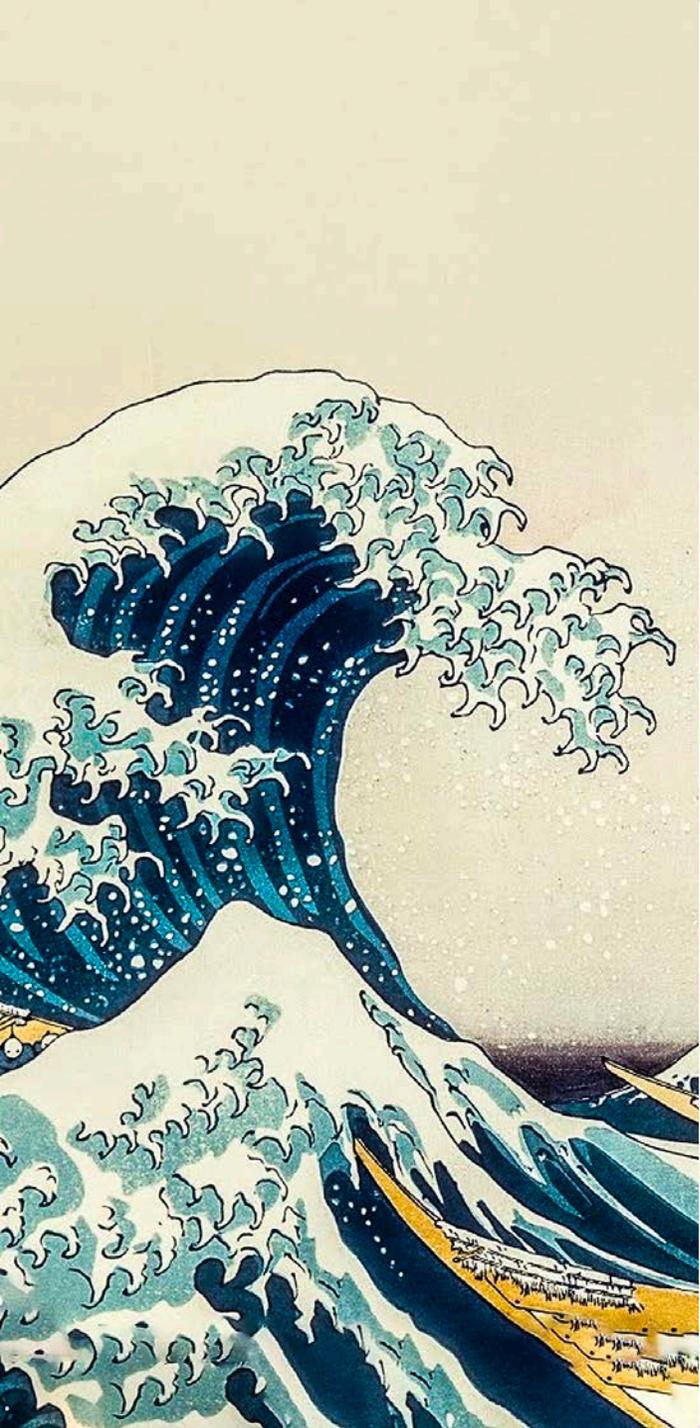
Background Approaches

The project is **informed by a range of approaches:**

- Synthesising global models of best practice and service delivery
- A comprehensive approach across the disaster life cycle (PPRR)
- Our sector's experience is our community's experience
- Global norms on disaster resilience and human rights
- Aligning multi-sectoral laws, governance and plans
- Local capacity building using existing resources
- Understanding community disaster legal needs
- The provision of disaster legal assistance
- Principles of community recovery
- Mechanisms for disaster funding



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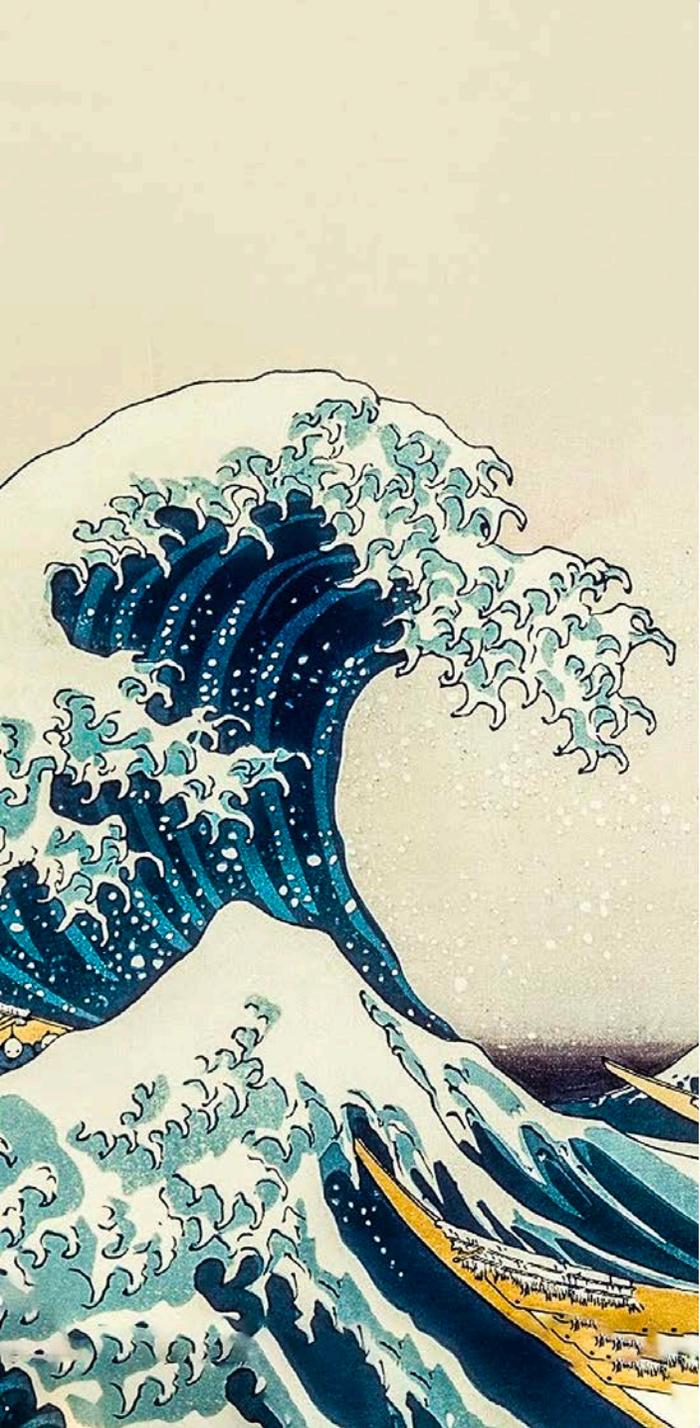


Historical Models

Historical models of disaster legal assistance:

- **Various iterations:** Disaster Legal Aid (US), Disaster Legal Help (Vic), Flood and Cyclone Legal Help (Qld), Disaster Relief Legal Assistance (ABA), Disaster Response Legal Service (NSW)
- **Best practice:** Law Council of Australia (National Pro Bono Resource Centre) Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning for the Legal Profession in Australia (2011)
- **Key elements:** joined-up and collaborative, triggers, protocols, court rules, memoranda of understanding, lines of responsibility, delegations
- **Disaster type:** Flood, Cyclone, Bushfire, Storm, Earthquake, Pandemic, Industry
- **Response phase:** Not embedded, or comprehensive (PPRR)
- **Mostly informal:** Leveraging protocols to build buy in



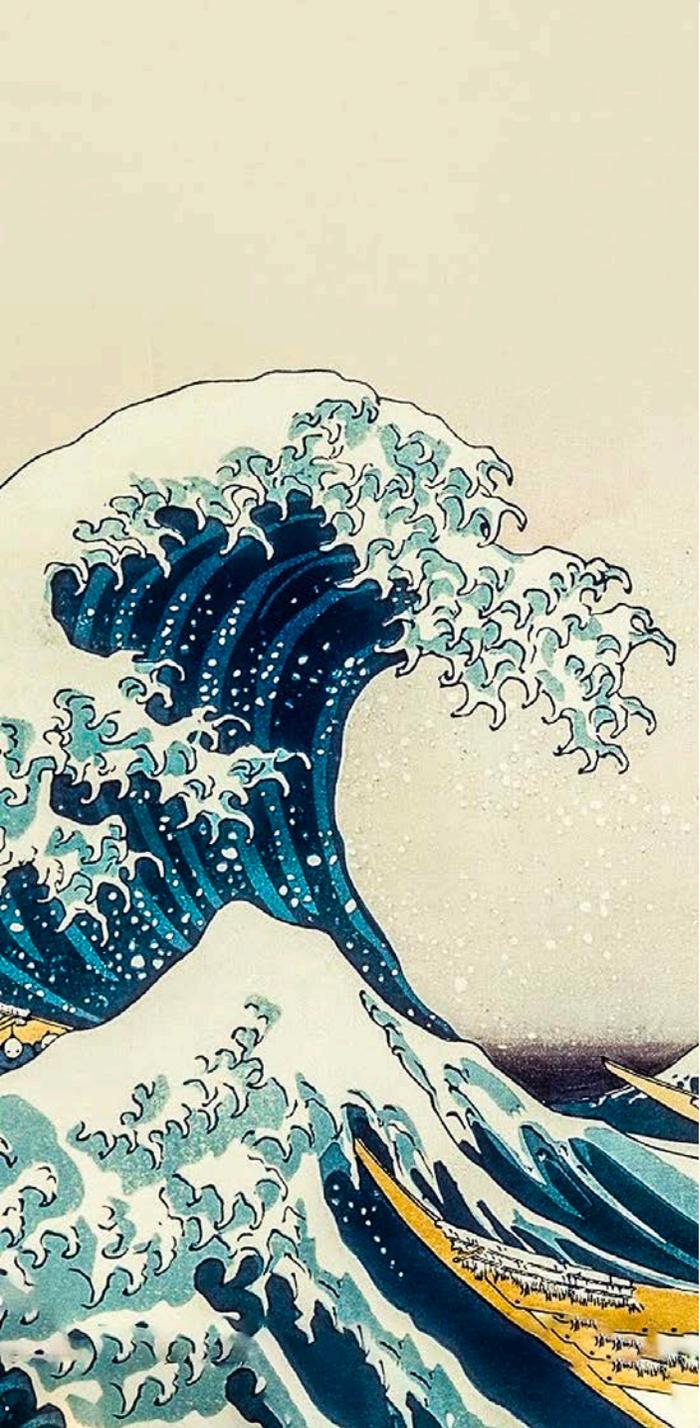


Developing Models

Justice Connect and other legal assistance providers have argued that all jurisdictions need a pre-planned, legal assistance sector disaster response framework that is consistent and complementary across jurisdictions, given the likelihood that disasters will cross state borders.

Key attributes include:

- Communication with individuals and affected communities and outreach strategies
- Division of responsibility for the legal response where clear
- Coordination of pro bono resources
- Requirements for regular review and updates
- Strategies for engagement and connection to non-legal service providers and disaster responders to ensure that legal needs are identified and appropriately directed to services
- Flexibility in response



Developing Models

National Legal Aid's Bushfire Submission (May 2020) to Senate Inquiry:

- Submission has a focus on funding
- Fund national disaster legal services on an ongoing basis to maintain a baseline level of funding, experience, resources and readiness would be more efficient than creating a new service for each disaster
- Community-led approach to recovery including local coordinators

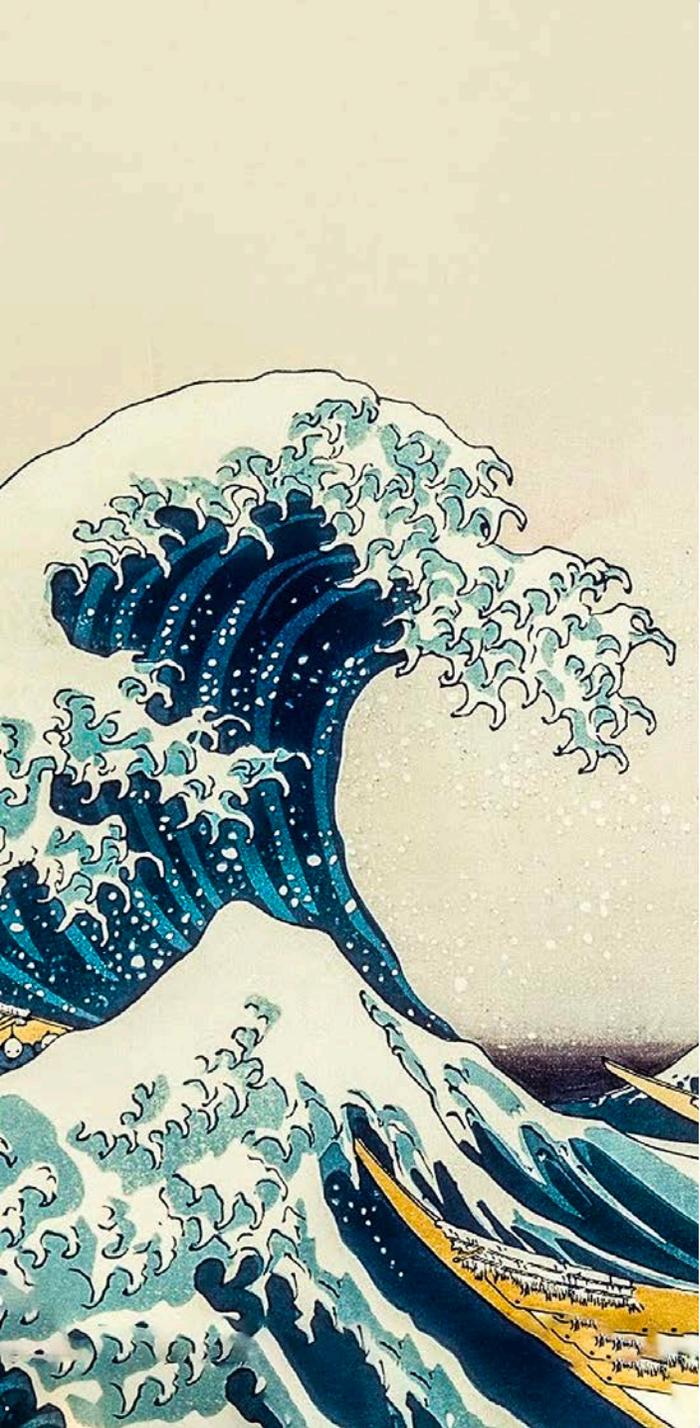
NLA's submissions does not provide a multi-sectoral or intra-sectoral approach, nor does it seek to align with the Disaster Management sector or embed within disaster operations

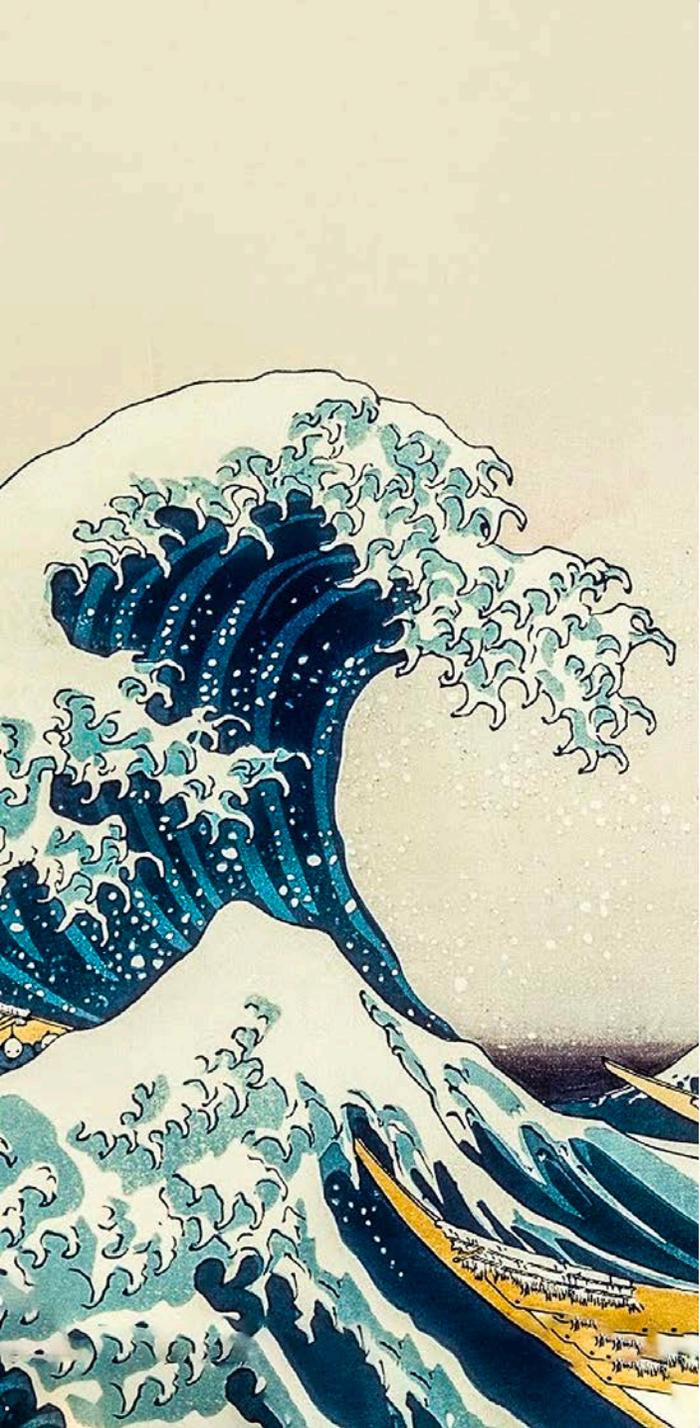
The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements reports this year and will comment on the issue

Disaster Legal Needs

Short review of **disaster legal needs**

- No comprehensive, evidence based disaster legal needs study anywhere in the world
- No studies in any Australian jurisdiction beyond simply cataloguing substantive legal issues
- Legal issues commonly surface throughout each phase of disaster recovery and continue for months or even years
- One-off interventions include legal services organised in response to disasters such as bushfires and floods
- Studies tend to be based around immediate post disaster response, relief and recovery
- Disaster is a 'transition point' but timeliness is critical
- Need for mass dispute Resolution (NZ)





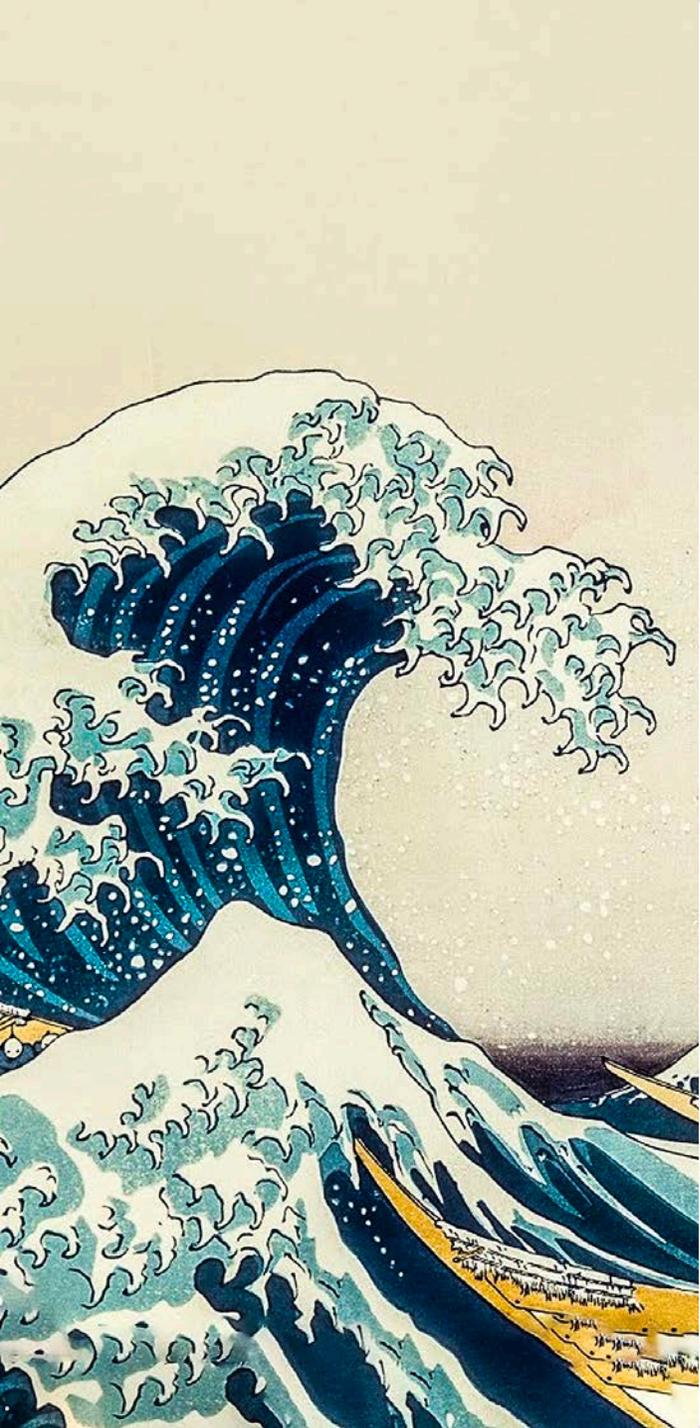
Disaster Legal Needs

Review shows **strong commonalities** around issues:

- Strong commonality around the types of substantive legal issues and the timing in which they arise
- Strong commonality around additional or specific vulnerability of clients and groups and importance of geographic and demographic character
- Disasters reveal and exacerbate the impacts of structural inequality, poverty, social vulnerability
- Obvious issues with communications and information sharing
- Poor understanding of justiciability and rights
- Increased risk of interpersonal violence
- Increased risk of social isolation
- Derogation of human rights



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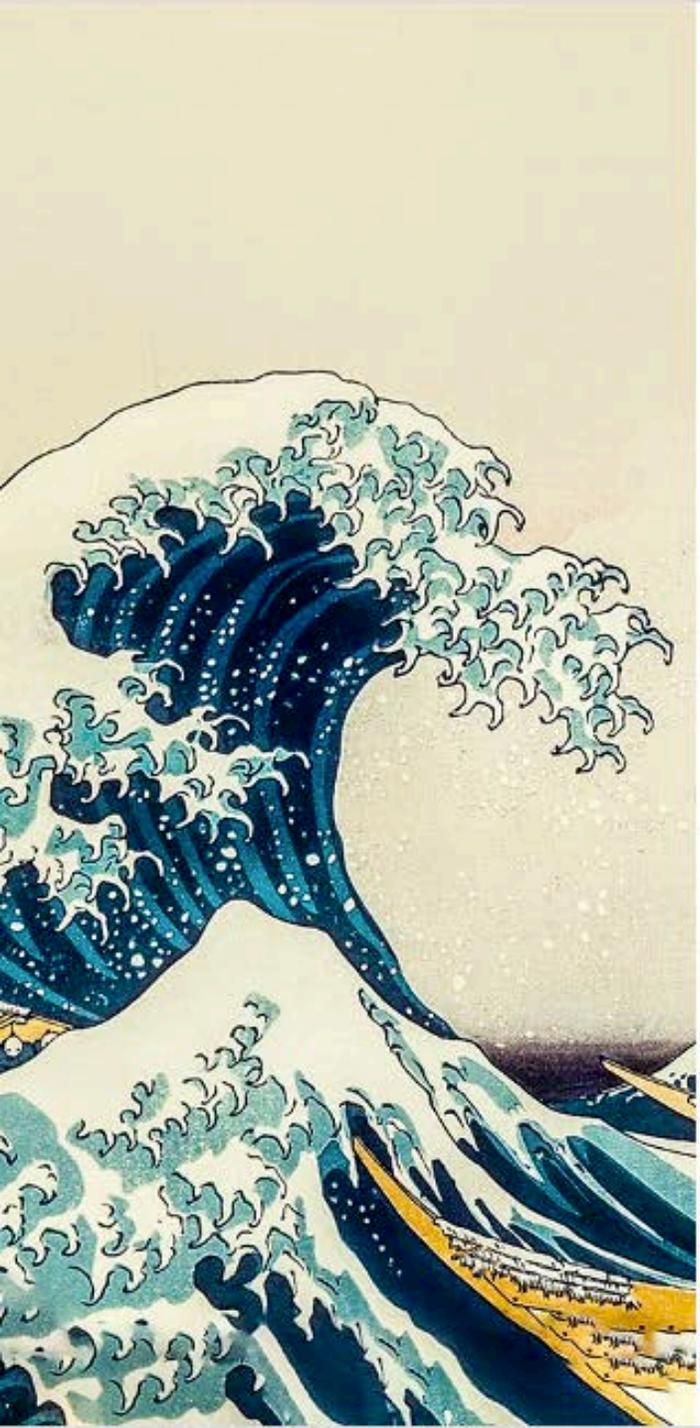
Unique Opportunities

Natural disasters of the scale discussed in this paper have the potential to threaten the very fabric of a society. Yet when they give rise to a large number of civil claims raising similar issues, they also provide a unique opportunity to observe the dialogic interaction between public adjudication and private settlement and to facilitate the efficient yet just resolution of civil disputes by fostering that interaction.

> Nina Khouri, New Zealand's Christchurch High Court Earthquake List, (2017) 36 C.J.Q., Issue 3, 316



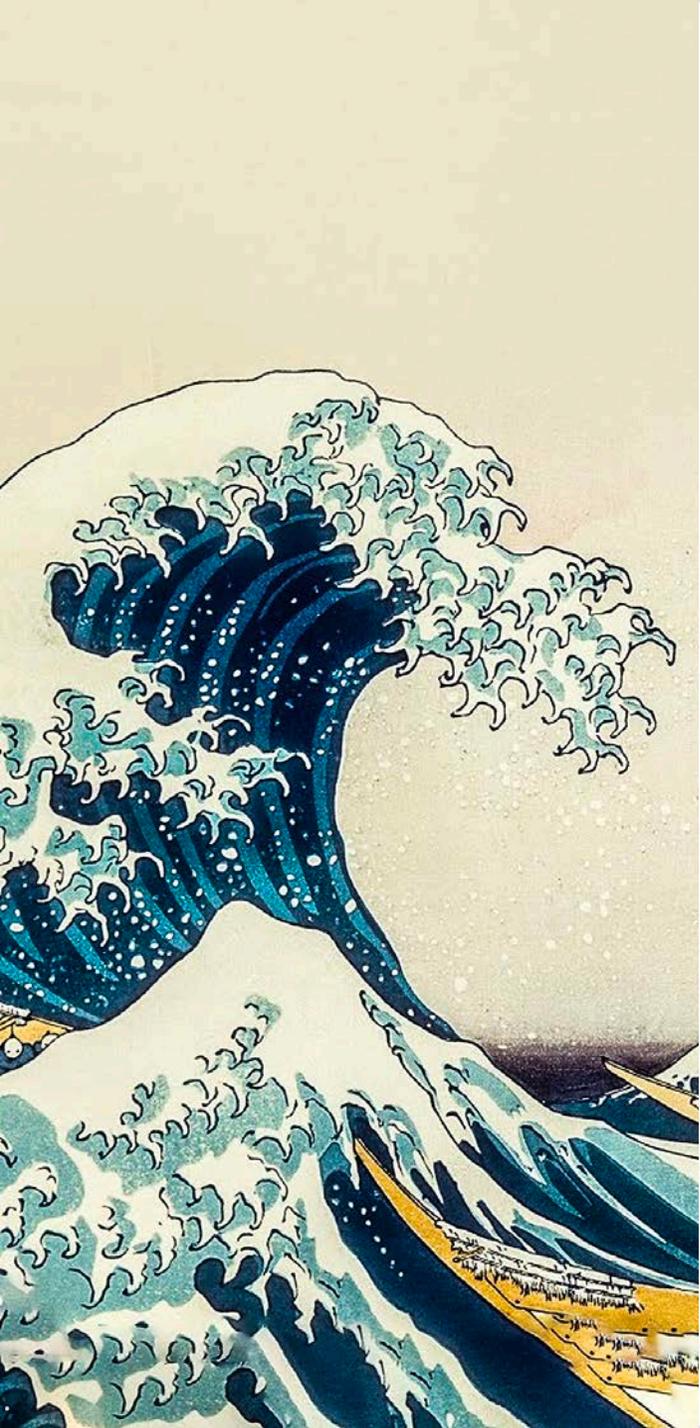
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Alignment with Legal Assistance Frameworks



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Key Alignments

Disaster legal assistance **aligns** with legal assistance strategy:

- The National Strategic Framework on Legal Assistance and the National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement

Importantly, **key alignments** include:

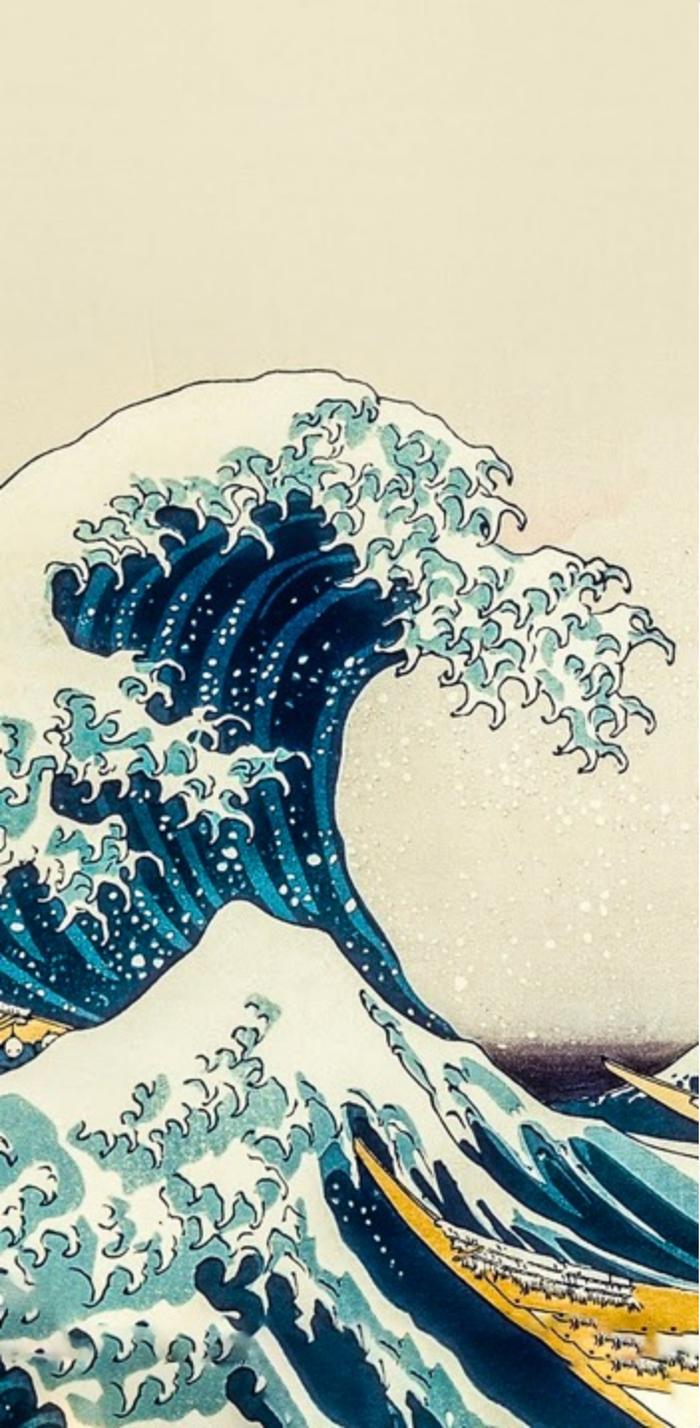
- The project aligns with the National Strategic Framework's principles including context and outcomes
- The project's Intended audience aligns with scope of 'legal assistance sector' as defined
- Disaster legal needs and disaster legal assistance align with national priority client groups and service priorities
- Disaster legal assistance planning aligns with jurisdictional and local collaborative service planning

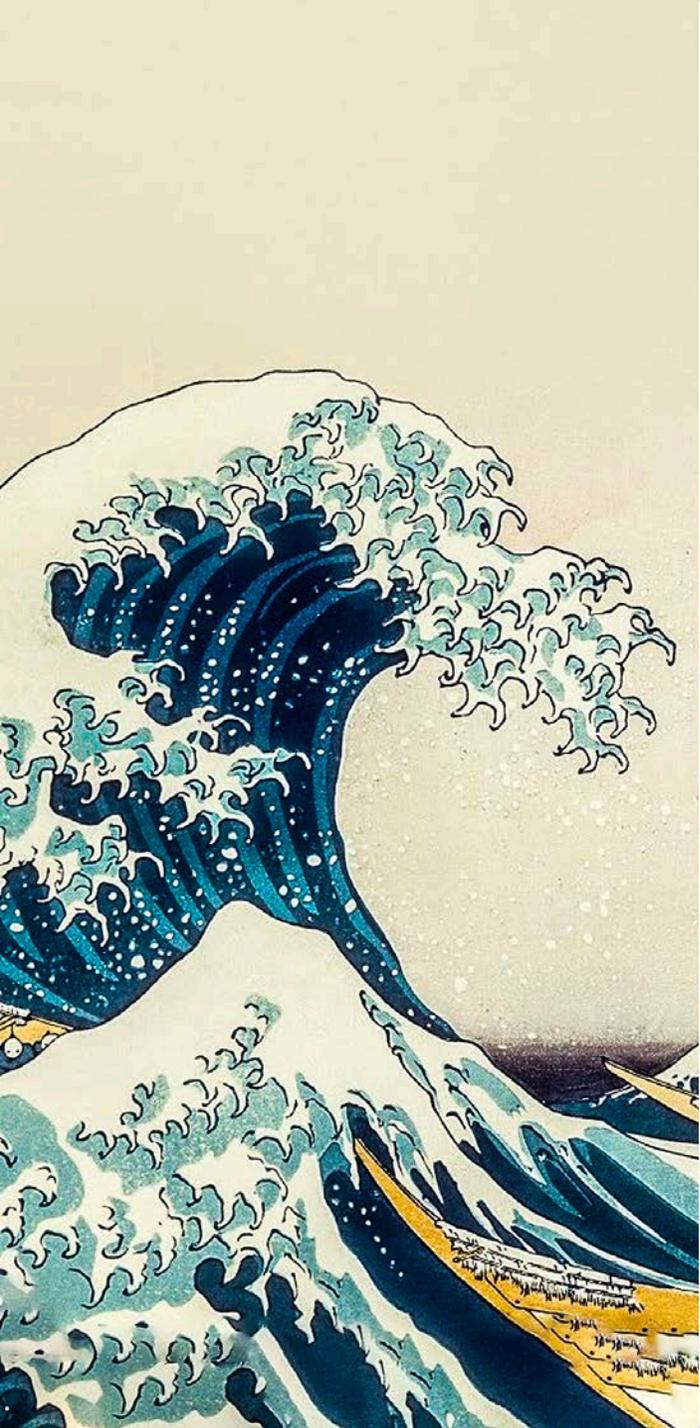
Strategic Outcomes

The **National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement** includes outcomes that reflect the Strategy's 6 principles:

- Focused on, and are accessible to, people facing disadvantage
- Delivered in a client-centric manner
- Collaborate to provide integrated, client-centric services
- Provided at an appropriate time, to address legal needs, including preventative action
- Empower people and communities to understand and assert their legal rights and responsibilities
- Build the capacity to effectively respond to evolving service demand

These principles and outcomes perfectly reflect what we know about disaster legal needs and best practice models of disaster legal assistance

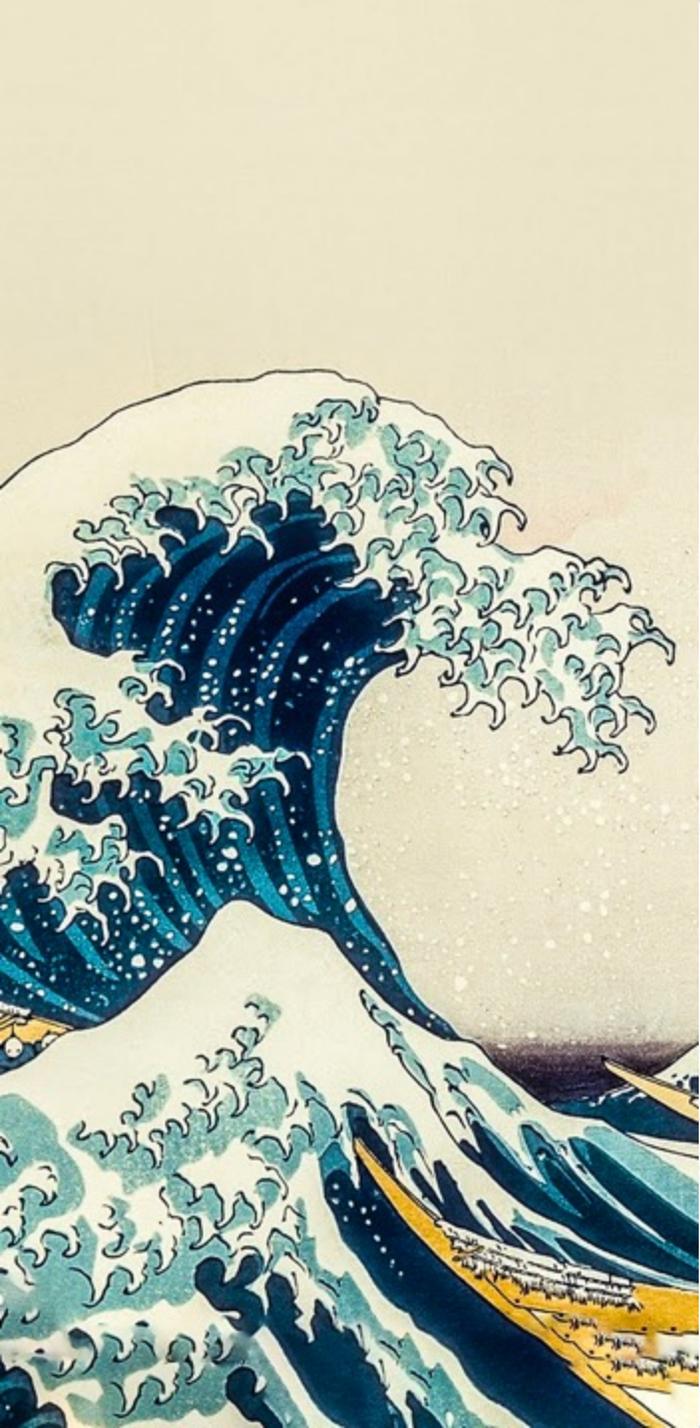




Legal Assistance Sector

The project aligns with **definitions** but also imagines a broader response:

- The National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement defines 'legal assistance sector' at clause 98(j)-(m) as including 'legal assistance sector' (includes 'legal assistance peak bodies' and 'legal assistance provider')
- The project imagines the possible inclusion of pro bono services and Law Schools and their clinics – both are used to leverage increased service delivery capacity in disaster legal assistance
- Gaps include the meaningful inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (Clause 15 of NLAP) and the critical importance of cultural rights (s.28HRA) and the NLAP principles of self-determination (Clause 98(s)) particularly given the rural, regional and remote communities' experience of disaster



A National Imperative

NLAP Agreement anticipates the eventuality of disaster

National and jurisdictional emergencies

A12 The legal assistance sector should endeavour to ensure the continued delivery of legal assistance services during national or jurisdictional emergencies, taking into consideration:

- (a) the safety of individuals who will be responsible for the delivery of legal assistance services;
- (b) the safety of those in receipt of legal assistance services; and
- (c) the appropriateness of continuing to deliver legal assistance services during a national or jurisdictional emergency.

The imperative for **continuity of operations** and other considerations is noteworthy

Priority Groups

National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-2025	Disaster Legal Needs			
	Australia	USA	Japan	NZ
National Priority Client Groups				
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Indigenous persons)				
Children and young people (up to 24 years)				
Older people (aged over 65 years or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50 years)				
People experiencing, or at risk of, family violence				
People experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness				
People in custody and/or prisoners				
People residing in rural or remote areas				
People who are culturally and linguistically diverse				
People with a disability or mental illness				
People with low education levels				
Single parents				



Family & Civil Law Priorities

Family law priorities	Australia	
Matters where the safety or welfare of children are at risk		Jurisdictions included general references to family law needs arising out of disaster
Matters involving allegations of family violence		
Complex issues about the living arrangements, relationships and financial support of children		
Property settlement matters if they are experiencing financial disadvantage or at risk of homelessness		

Commonwealth civil law priorities	Australia	USA	Japan	NZ
Bankruptcy matters				
Consumer law matters				
Employment matters				
Extradition matters	Not Applicable			
Human rights and anti-discrimination matters				
Insurance law matters				
Migration matters				
Social security law matters				

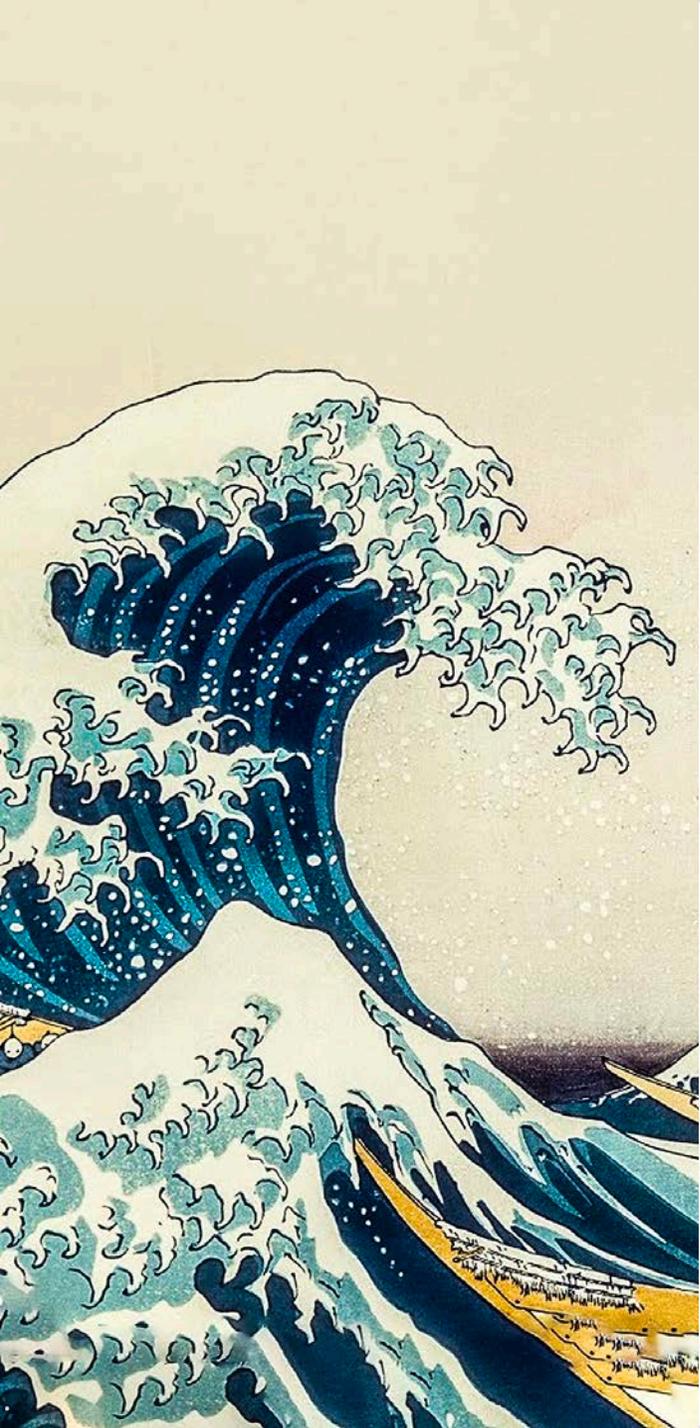


Criminal Law & Other Issues

Commonwealth criminal law priorities	All jurisdictions included general references to criminal law needs arising out of disaster
Matters where the defendant is a child	
Matters where a sentence of imprisonment is likely to apply should the defendant be found guilty	
Assisting persons being detained in custody	

Other Legal Needs and Issues	Australia	USA	Japan	NZ
Domestic and Family Violence	Teal	Red		Light Green
Elder Abuse	Teal	Red	Yellow	
Wills and Estates	Teal	Red	Yellow	
Loss of identification and personal documents	Teal	Red	Yellow	Light Green
Housing Tenancy	Teal	Red	Yellow	
Housing Ownership	Teal	Red	Yellow	
Media				Light Green
Taxation	Grey	Red	Yellow	Light Green
Regulatory	Teal	Red	Yellow	Light Green





National Expectations

The project aligns with National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement expectations around **Collaborative Service Planning** including:

Purpose (Clause B3)

- Collaboration, development and design and coordination

Activities (Clause B5)

- Inform decisions about service delivery and service gaps
- Support strategy and plans
- understanding of existing and emerging legal and other needs
- Streamlining and targeting services
- Coordination and partnerships

Tiered collaborative planning processes (Clauses B9-B23)

- National, Jurisdictional, Local



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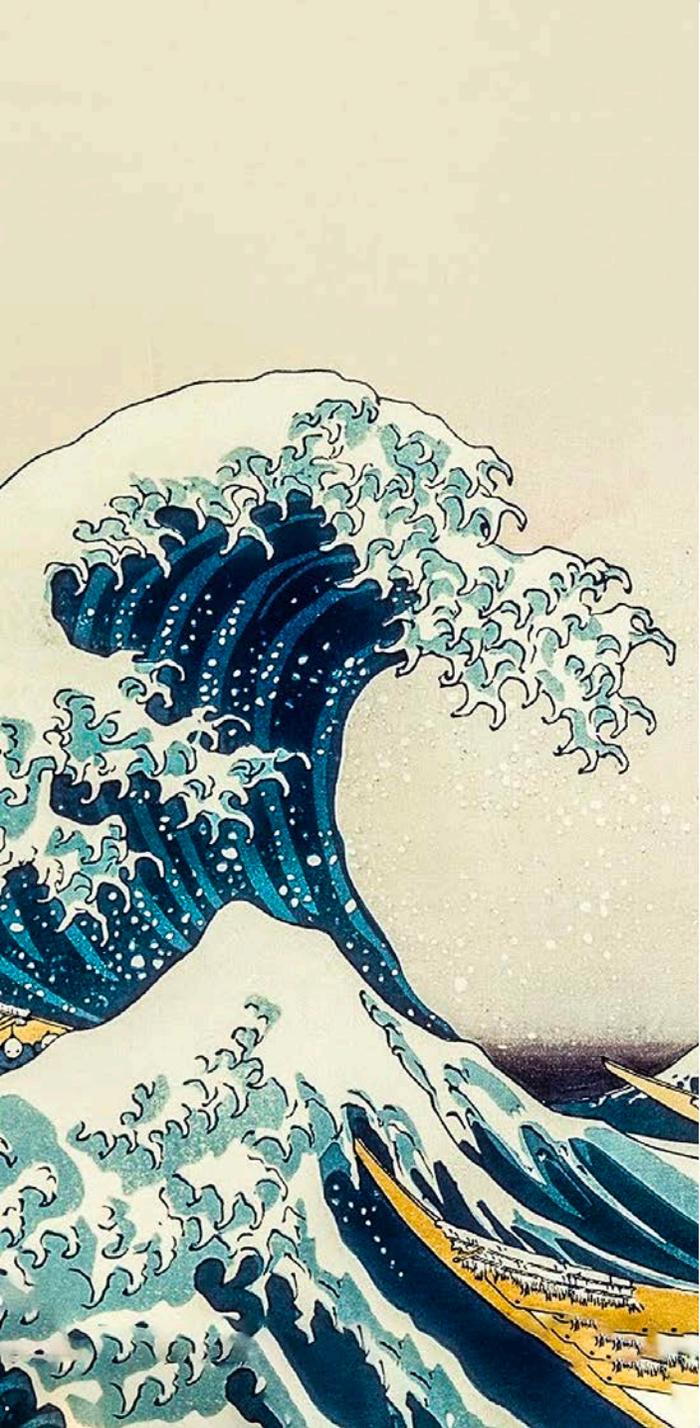
A Case Study:

Great East Japan Earthquake March 2011



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Great East Japan Earthquake



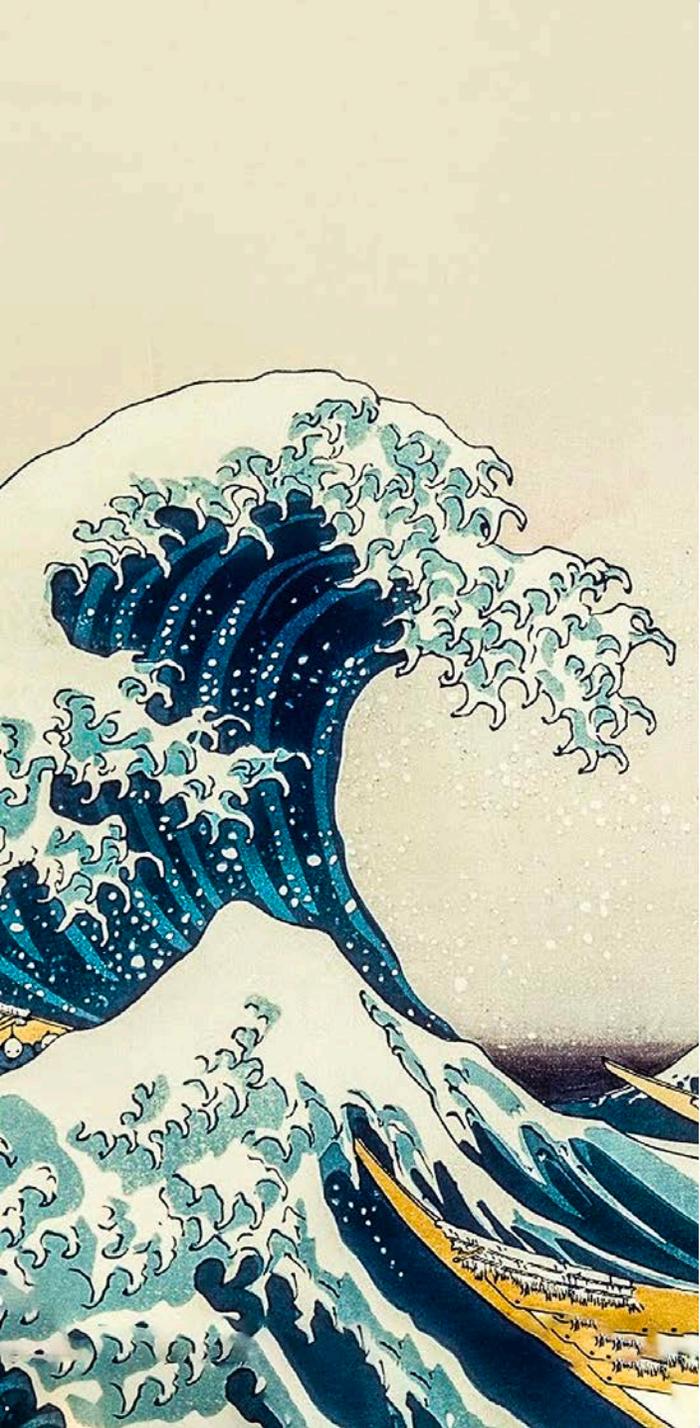
The areas affected by the tsunami following the Great East Japan Earthquake extend along the Pacific Ocean coast from the Tohoku Region to the Kanto Region. In addition, there was earthquake damage—including that caused by the main shock and aftershocks—over a broad range of urban areas. Furthermore, the area to which residents were forced to evacuate due to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is vast. Therefore, depending on the form of the disaster and the form of the impact of the disaster on individuals and corporations, the needs of victims varied



> Tadashi OKAMOTO, Analysis of Free Legal Counselling for the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Outlook for the Field of Disaster Recovery and Revitalization Law



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Great East Japan Earthquake

The 24 Types of Free Legal Counselling Subjects (and 5 Major Areas)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ownership of real property | 13. Taxes |
| 2. Ownership of vehicles, ships, etc. | 14. New loans |
| 3. Assets such as deposits and shares, etc. | 15. Divorce/relatives |
| 4. Real property lease (leased land) | <u>16. Wills/inheritance</u> |
| <u>5. Real property lease (leased houses)</u> | 17. Consumer damage |
| <u>6. Liability for structures</u> | 18. Labor issues |
| 7. Land boundaries | 19. Foreign nationals |
| 8. Debt collection | 20. Risk-bearing, commercial or corporate issues |
| <u>9. Loan or lease of houses, vehicles, ships.</u> | 21. Criminal issues |
| 10. Payment of other loans | 22. Nuclear power plant accident, etc |
| 11. Insurance | 23. Others |
| <u>12. Disaster laws and regulations</u> | 24. Non-disaster issues |

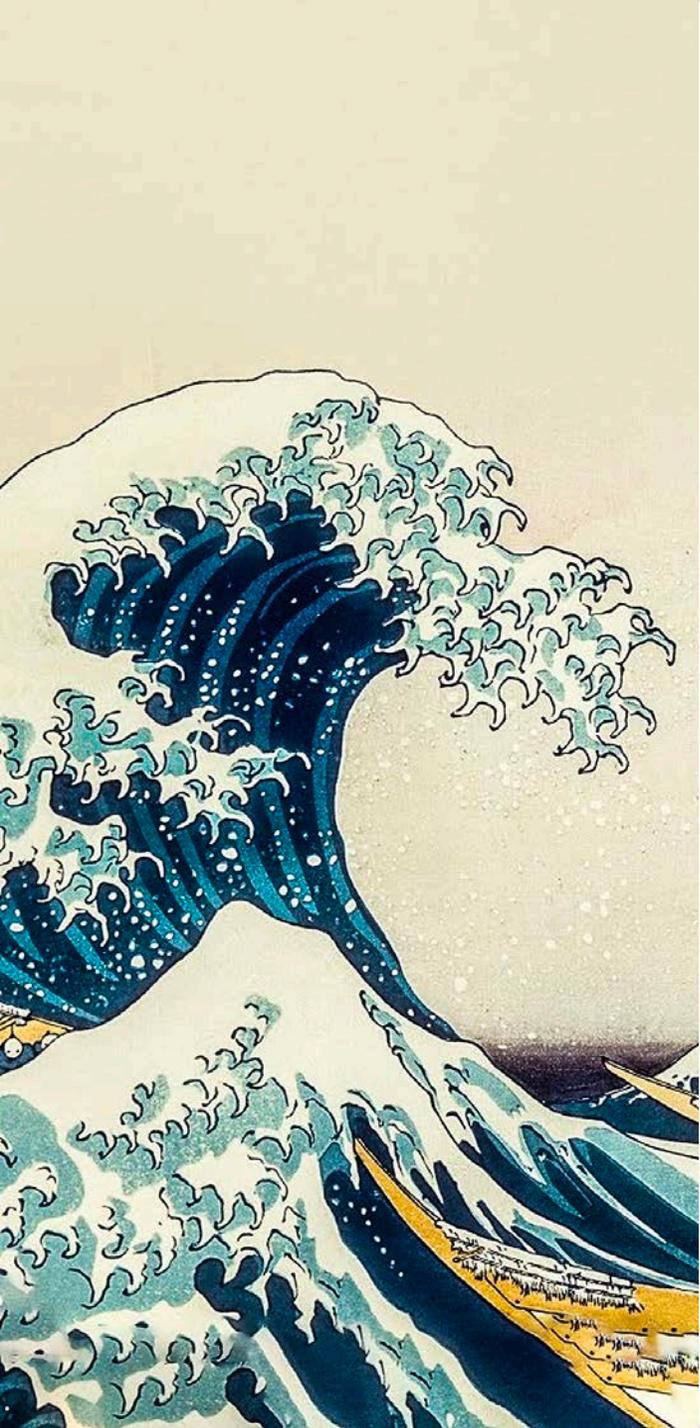
> Tadashi OKAMOTO, Analysis of Free Legal Counselling for the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Outlook for the Field of Disaster Recovery and Revitalization Law

Great East Japan Earthquake

Some key observations

- Disaster prone country (Like Australia)
- Lessons from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (1995) and the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake (2004).
- Issues and knowhow from the times of these respective disasters remained with the lawyers and government administrative officers who had gained experience in policymaking at those times. (Corporate memory)
- Trends differed in each of the 3 Prefectures Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima
- Lead to a new area of law: Disaster Recovery and Revitalization Law which integrates some elements of the comprehensive approach (PPRR)
- Considerable law reform achieved

> Tadashi OKAMOTO, Analysis of Free Legal Counselling for the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Outlook for the Field of Disaster Recovery and Revitalization Law



Great East Japan Earthquake

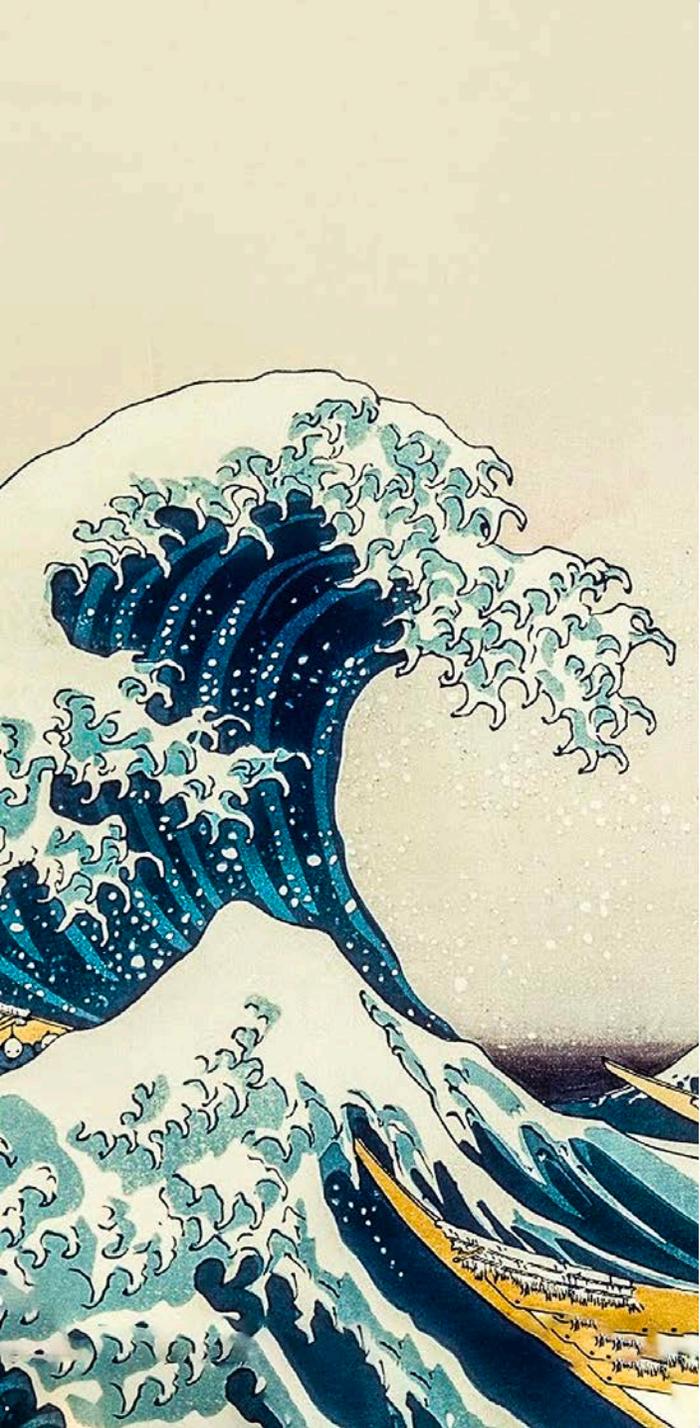
Lawyers began to make numerous proposals and helped shape the necessary policies based on the analysis of the legal needs conducted, not only classifying them by prefecture, but by municipality, chronological order, and according to attributes of disaster victims. **Systemic revision** included:

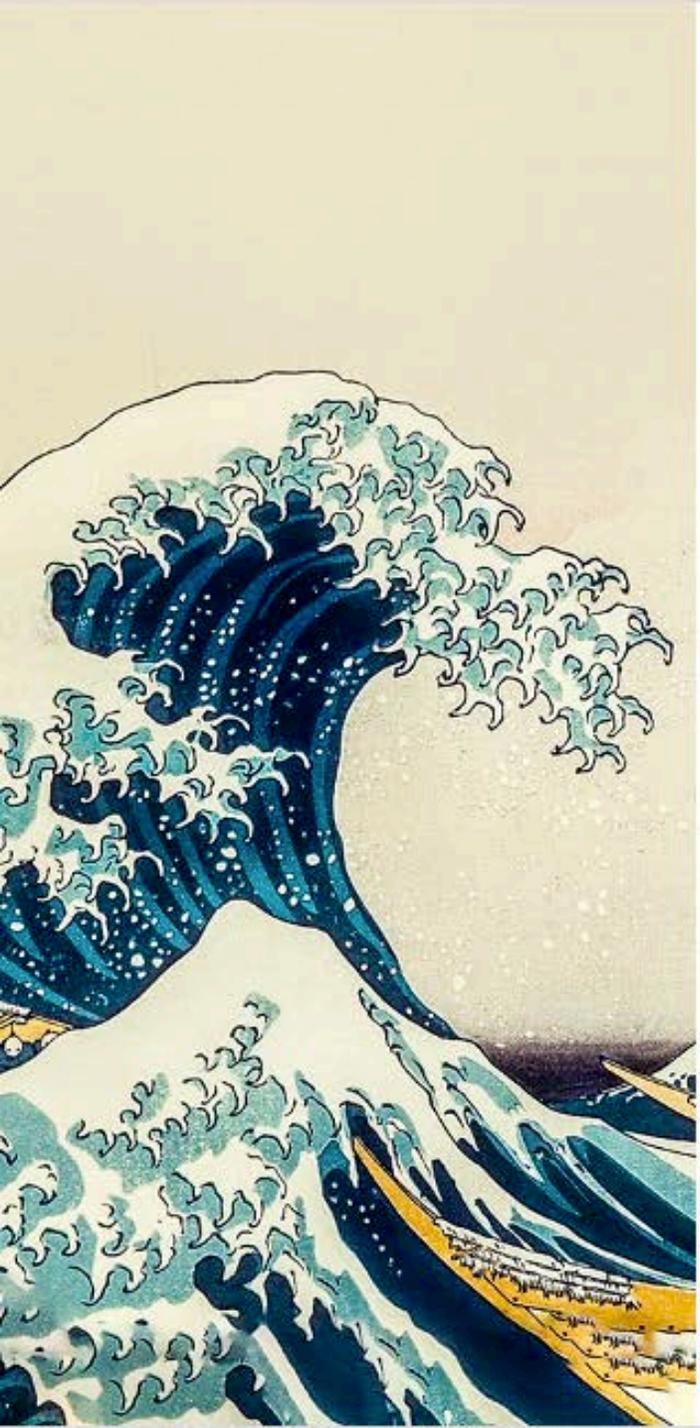
- Establishment of the loan reduction and exemption system for affected individuals and entities
- Extension of deliberation period for relinquishing or approving the right to inheritance
- Affected siblings included as recipients of condolence money and donations
- Prohibition of seizure of condolence money from disaster victims for their liabilities
- Inapplicability of the Act on Temporary Treatment of Rental Land and Building in Affected Cities
- Nuclear Accident Child Victims' Support Law
- Deregulation for facilitating land condemnation for reconstruction

<https://yab.yomiuri.co.jp/adv/chuo/dy/opinion/20180510.html>



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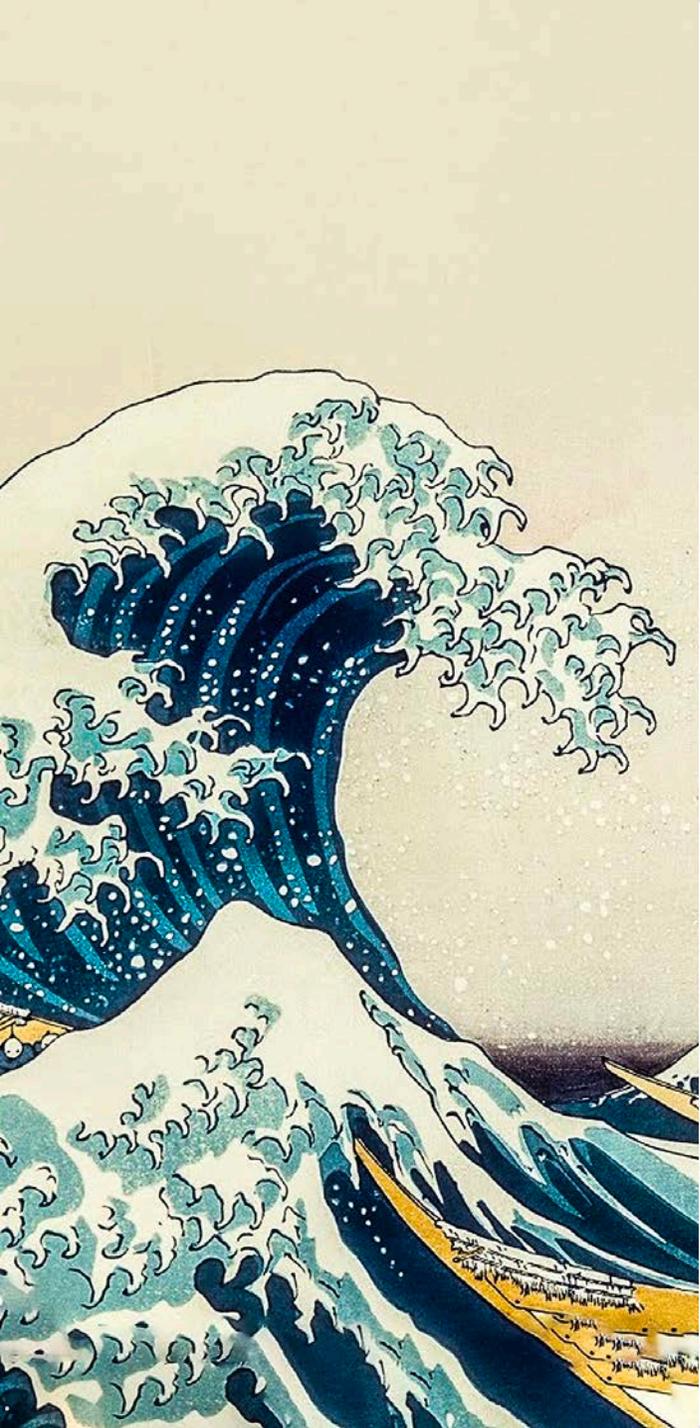




A Comprehensive Approach



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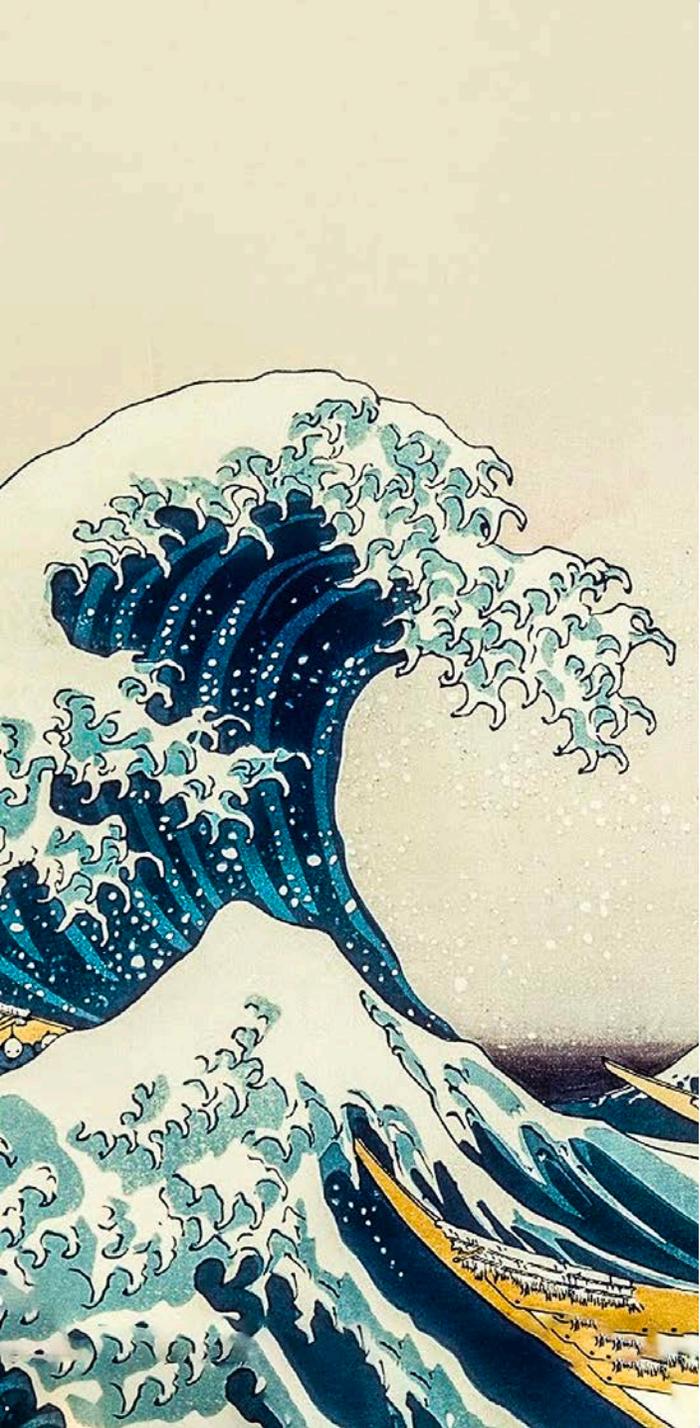
Non-traditional Stakeholders

There are now a number of traditional and non-traditional stakeholders within the emergency management sphere.

While in the past their roles have been conceptualised in quite limited terms, in recent years, both traditional and non-traditional stakeholders have recognised their unique attributes and capacity to contribute to emergency management. Their subsequent roles have expanded in scope.

Not-for-profits have begun contributing beyond traditional disaster relief and welfare provision. Similarly, non-traditional stakeholders have diversified their interests and contributions to disaster management.

Australian Red Cross, *Beyond the Blanket* (2014)



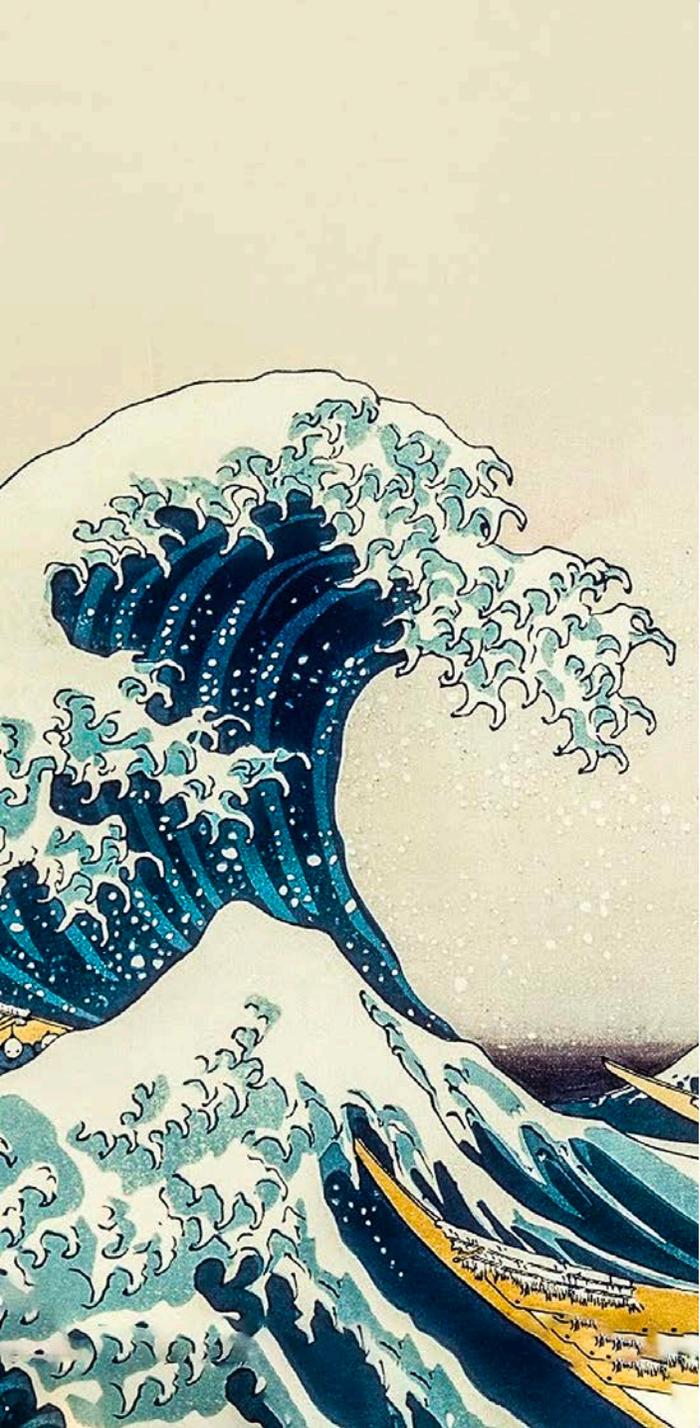
Comprehensive Approach

Disaster legal assistance implies a comprehensive approach across the entire disaster life cycle and one that reflects contemporary disaster management and operations:

- Resilience
- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery



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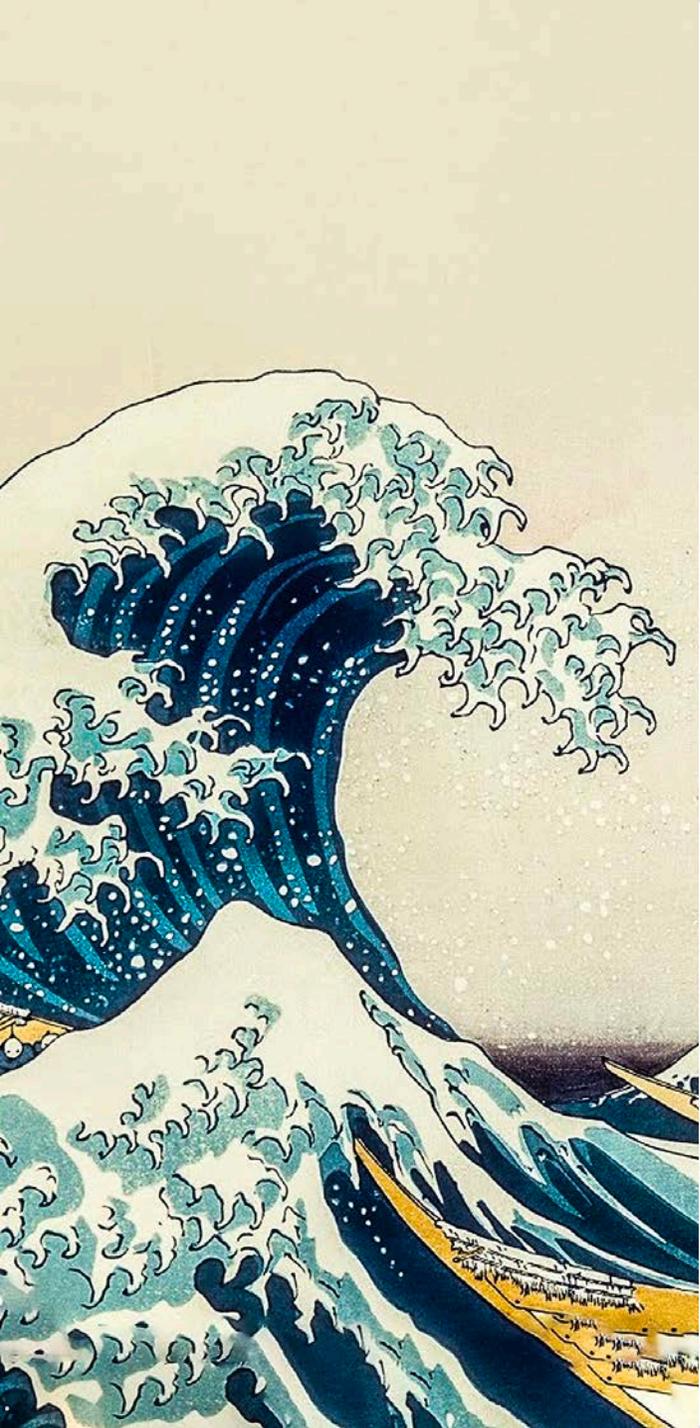
Resilience

Legal assistance sector engagement with respect to individual and community resilience

- Application to the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)
- NDRP projects are designed to mitigate disaster risk and build resilience to natural disasters.



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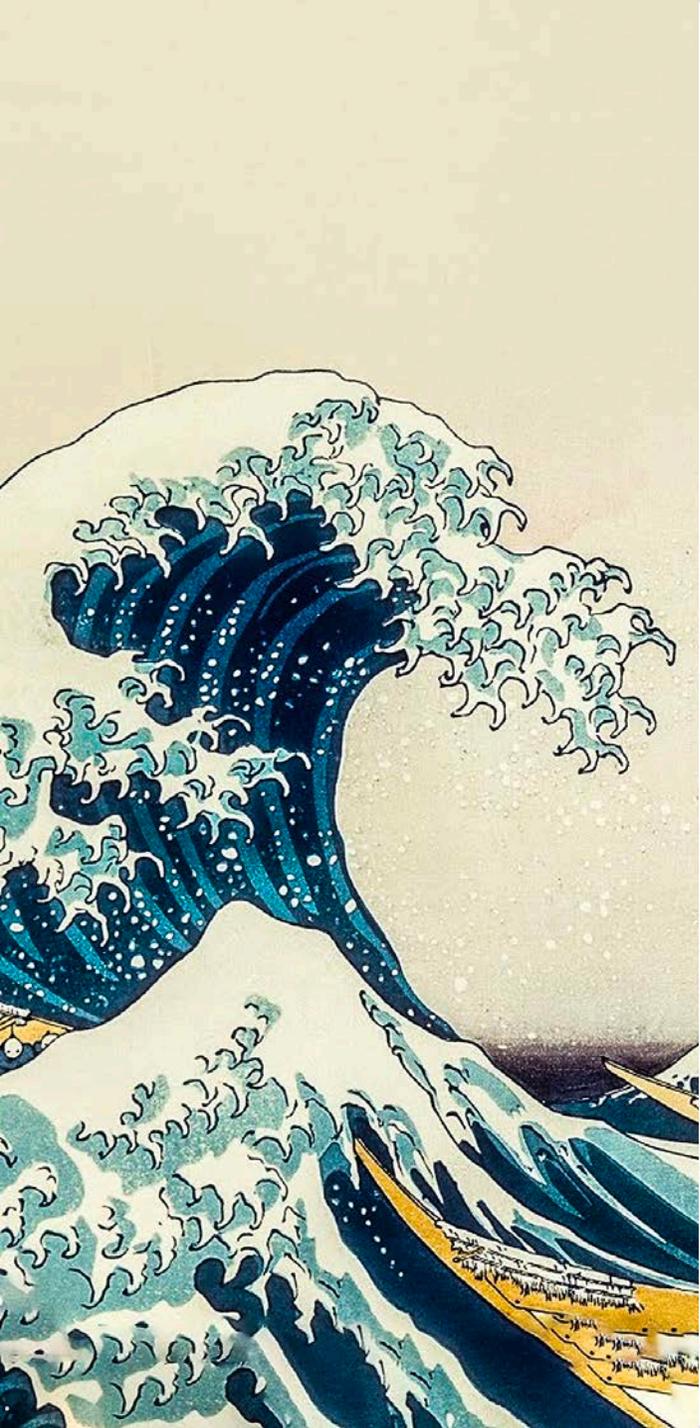
Prevention

- **Mitigation Strategies** Legal assistance sector engagement within the prevention phase should include targeted, relevant mitigation strategies.
- **Community Legal Education** – A fundamental approach to disaster management is that communities which have identified, considered and planned for a potential event will cope better than those who have not. Community awareness and education programs remind people that the threat is real and to identify what they can do to limit the impact of disaster events.

Preparedness

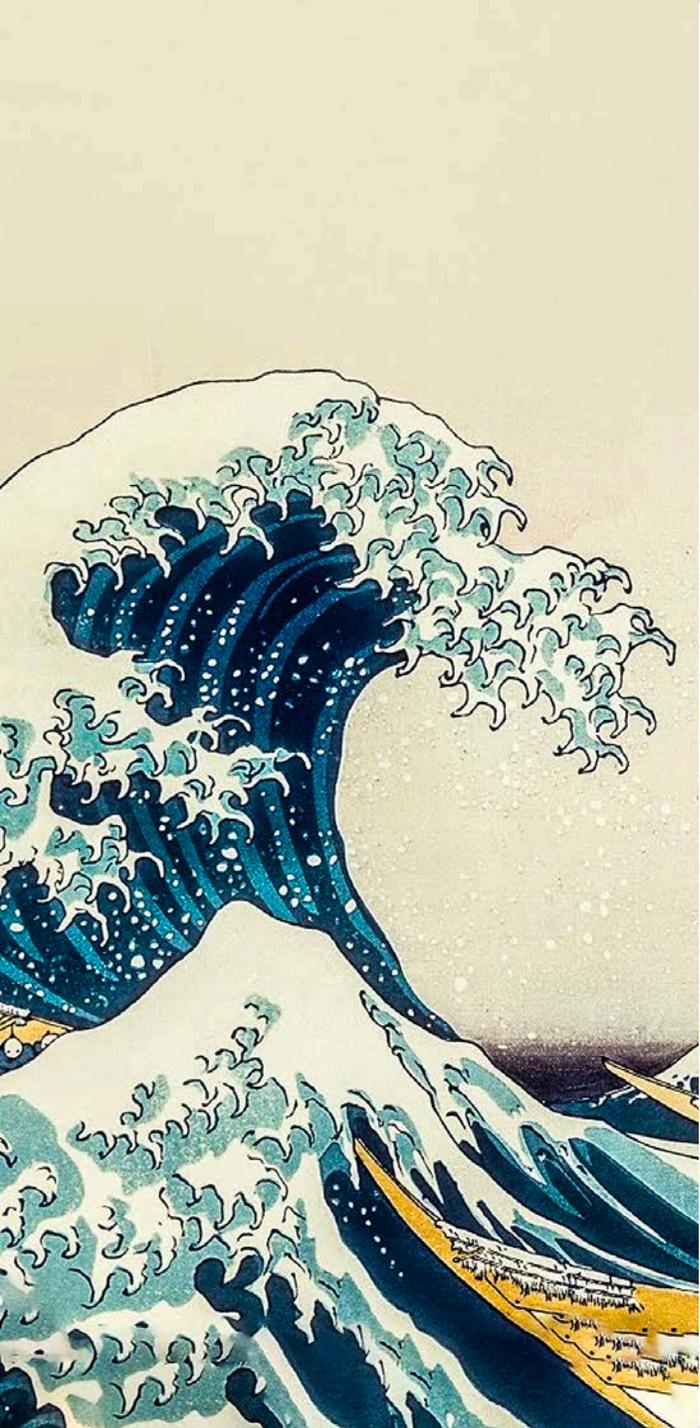


- **Continuity of Operation Planning** Continuity of operation planning should be undertaken to assist in the continuity of legal assistance service delivery, especially disaster legal assistance, during an event and re-establishment of services, post event. These plans should be integrated with disaster management planning at the local, district and state levels.
- **Supporting Other Services** Legal assistance providers should be prepared to assist in the provision of disaster legal assistance outside their ordinary area of service, community of interest or area of law
- **Induction and Training** Legal assistance providers will provide appropriate induction and training for their staff and volunteers, to ensure they are skilled and prepared for the function their agency / organisation provides throughout the disaster life cycle.



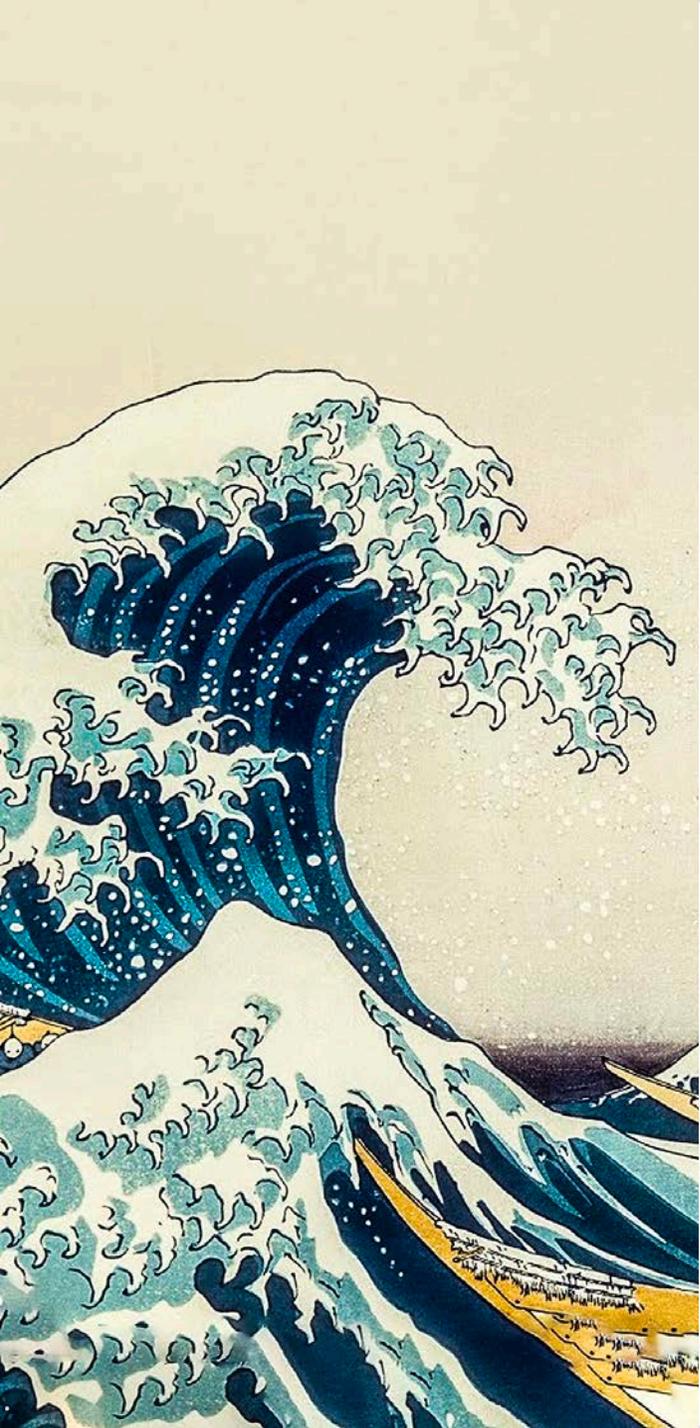
Response

- **Engagement with Response Groups** Legal assistance providers should engage in a tiered, collaborative way with relevant Disaster Coordination Centres (DCCs) and Disaster Management Groups (DMGs) at State, District and Local levels
- **Observe levels of activation** Legal assistance providers should observe the relevant levels of activation
- **Deployment of Personnel** Legal assistance providers need to engage with Human and Social Recovery to assist with immediate legal needs of persons displaced or severely affected by an event. This can include deployment of personnel and volunteers. Legal Assistance providers should explore the offer of assistance pathway for broader reach (8.3.4)



Recovery

- **Engagement with Recovery Groups** Legal assistance providers should engage in a tiered, collaborative way with relevant Disaster Recovery Centres (DRCs) and Disaster Recovery Groups (DRGs) at State, District and Local levels
- **Deployment of Personnel** Legal assistance providers need to engage with Human and Social Recovery to assist with immediate legal needs of persons displaced or severely affected by an event. This can include deployment of personnel and volunteers. Legal Assistance providers should explore the offer of assistance pathway for broader reach (8.3.4)
- **Principles for Recovery** Use principles for community recovery and service provision to inform service delivery – this includes legal services (Gurtner et al, 2011)

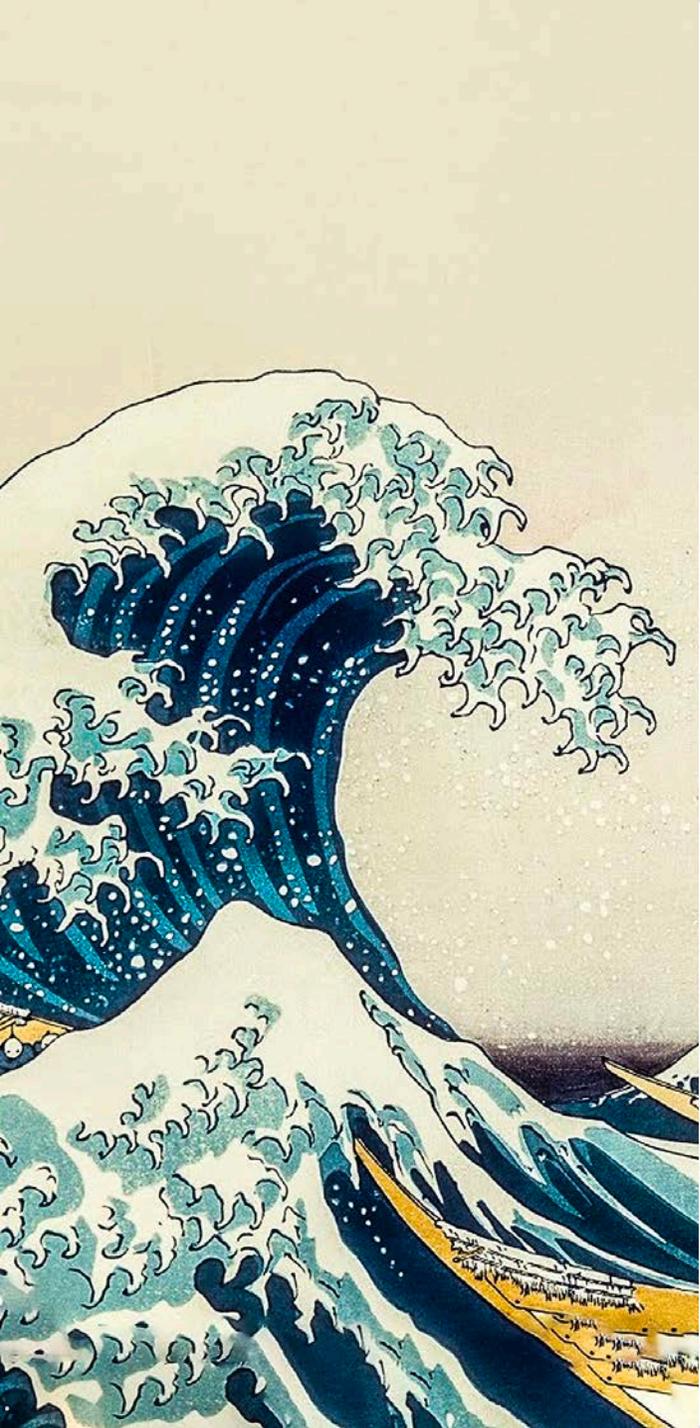


Information Sharing

Emilia-Romagna Earthquake (Northern Italy) in 2012

In this context, community-based groups, especially those supported by social media, play an important role in sharing recovery-related information to other residents, clarifying legal acts and regulations and providing informational support to the affected population.

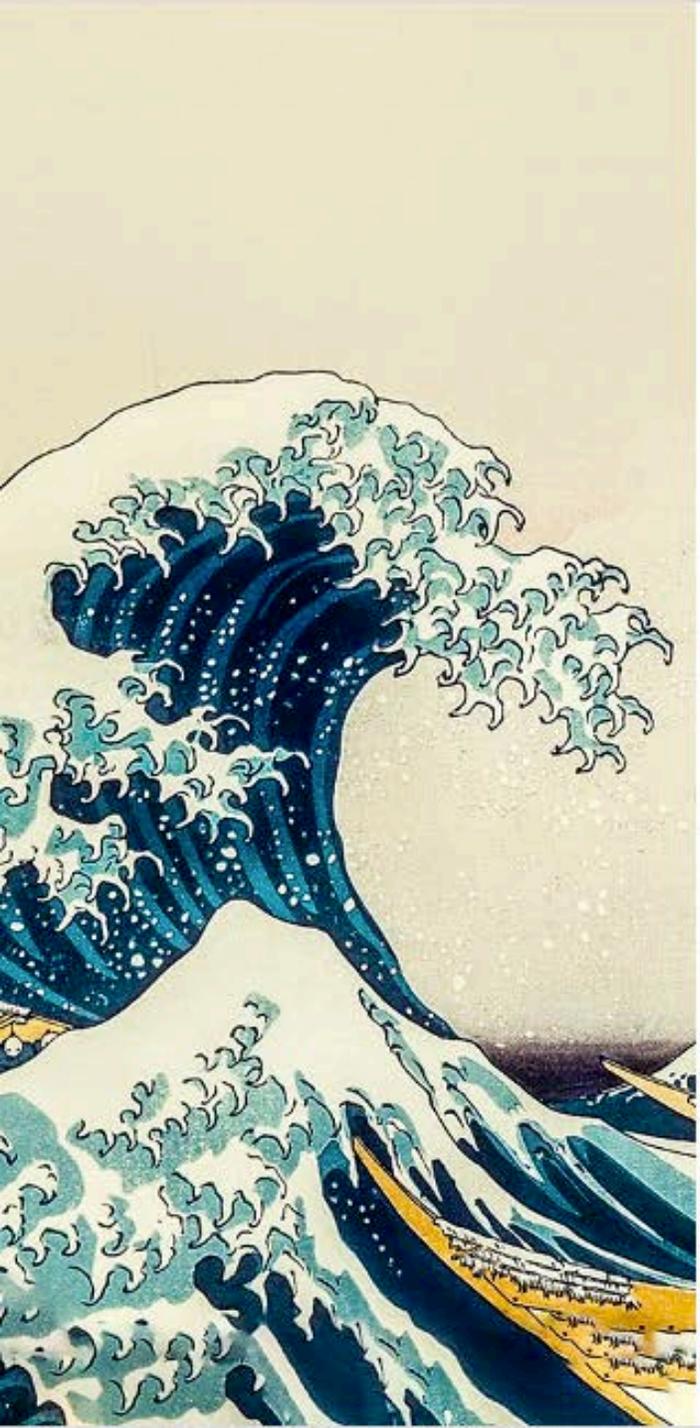
> Tagliacozzo and Magni (2016), Communicating with communities (CwC) during postdisaster reconstruction: an initial analysis



Training

- Preparedness includes the legal assistance sector and their communities of interest, taking special account of vulnerability
- Build the issue of disaster readiness into:
 - Continuity of operations plans
 - Induction
 - CPD and training
 - governance and
 - Accreditation





The Way Forward



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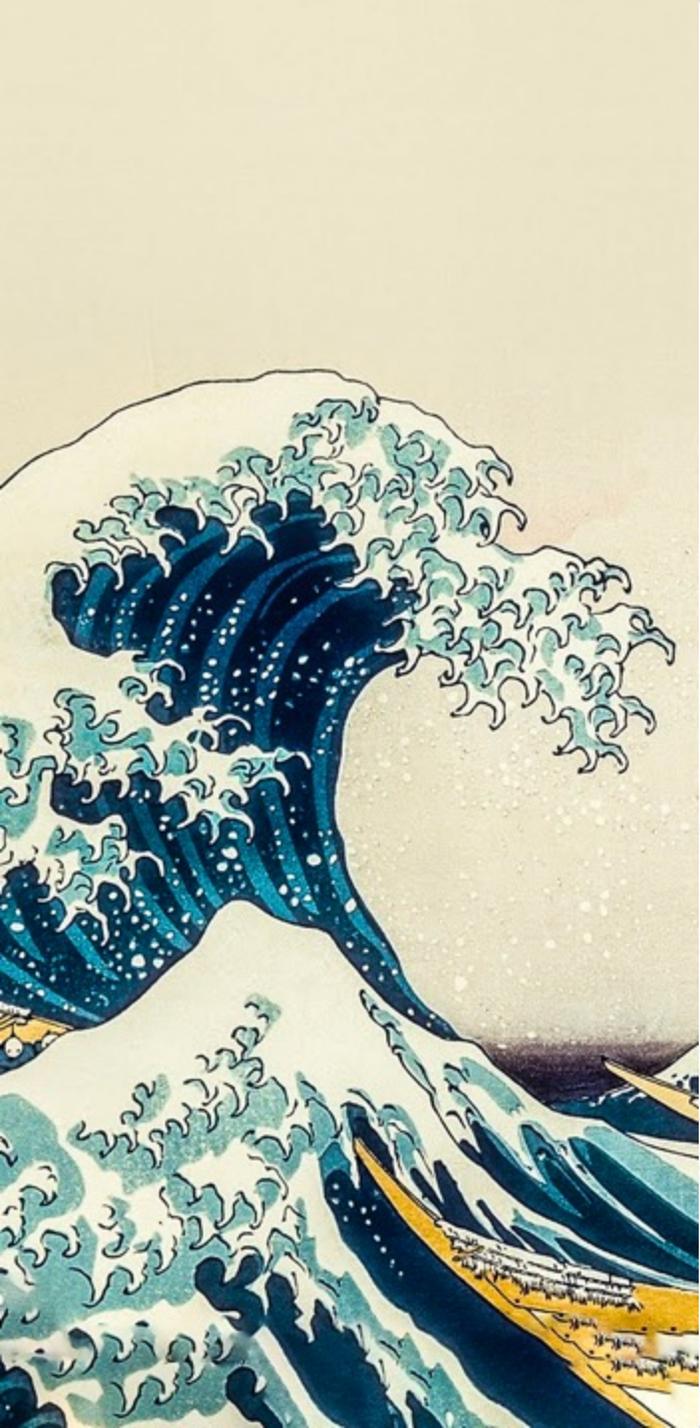
Our Context

... government are usually aware of their role in emergency management, but in a big disaster, that context is often unclear. NFP's and CSOs have a lot to offer in this instance. They have well established links in communities, with the majority of their client base being the same vulnerable people that government are trying to target.

> Australian Red Cross, Beyond the Blanket (2014)

Community Legal Centres Australia is in a position to ensure that the alignments between these clients bases is recognised through nationalised funding. This has occurred in recent times:

- Covid-19 funding
- Bushfire Legal Help



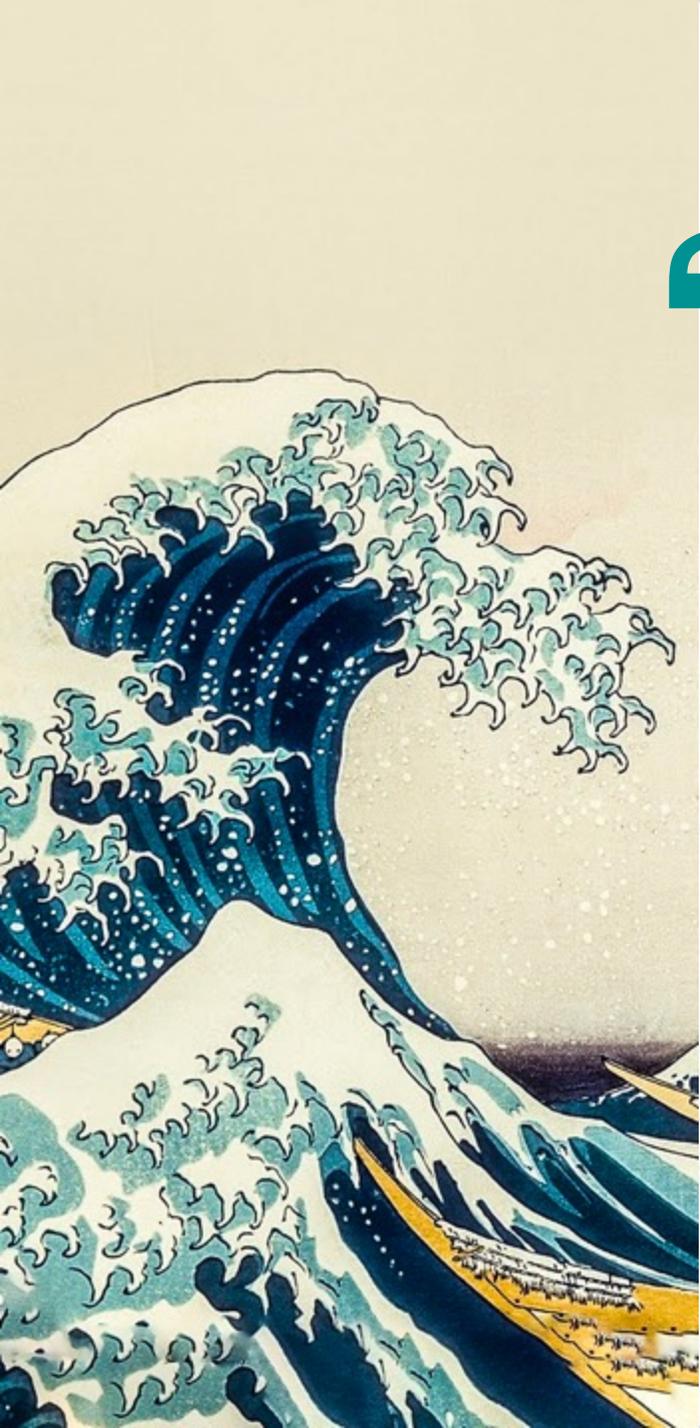
Part of the Conversation



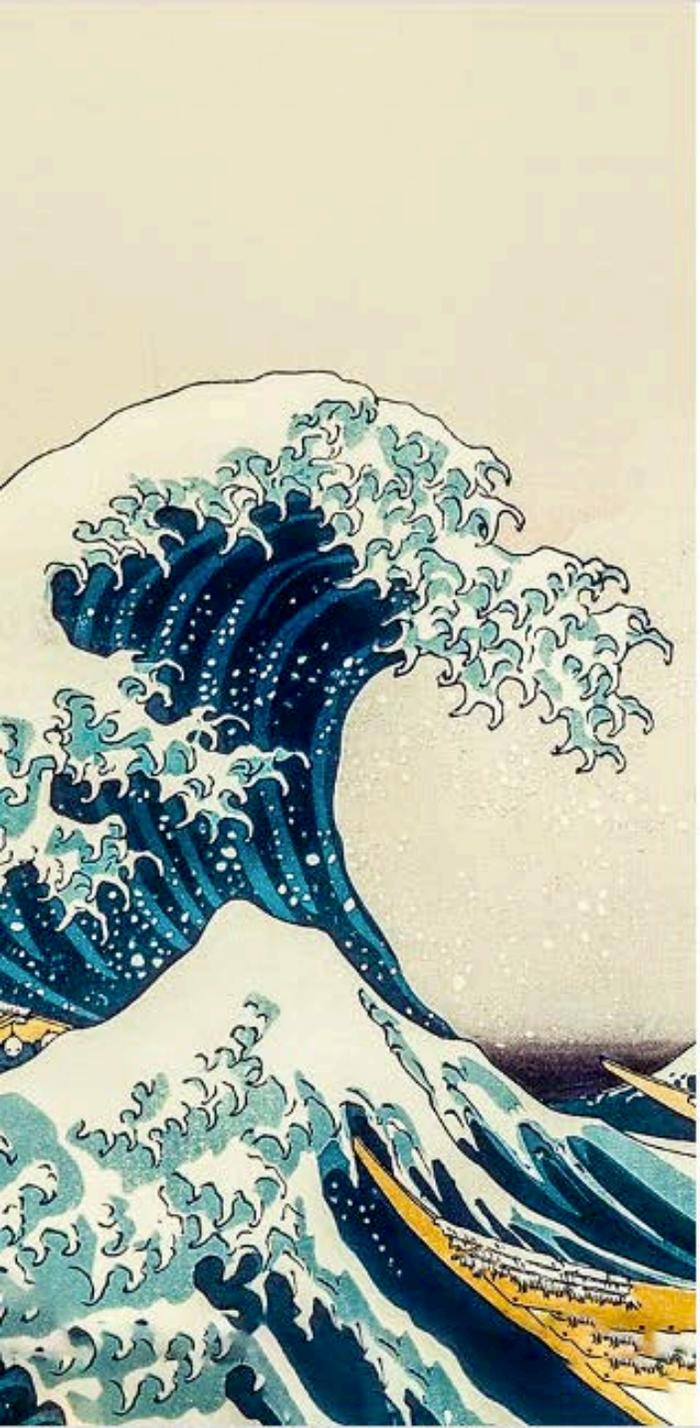
... not-for-profits and community sector organisations (CSOs) need to be part of the committees and conversations that take place around emergency management. They have a wealth of community knowledge and experience that they can bring to the table. However, they also need to actively and collectively advocate being part of the conversation.

> Australian Red Cross, **Beyond the Blanket** (2014)

Community Legal Centres Australia is in a position to actively and collectively advocate being part of the conversation

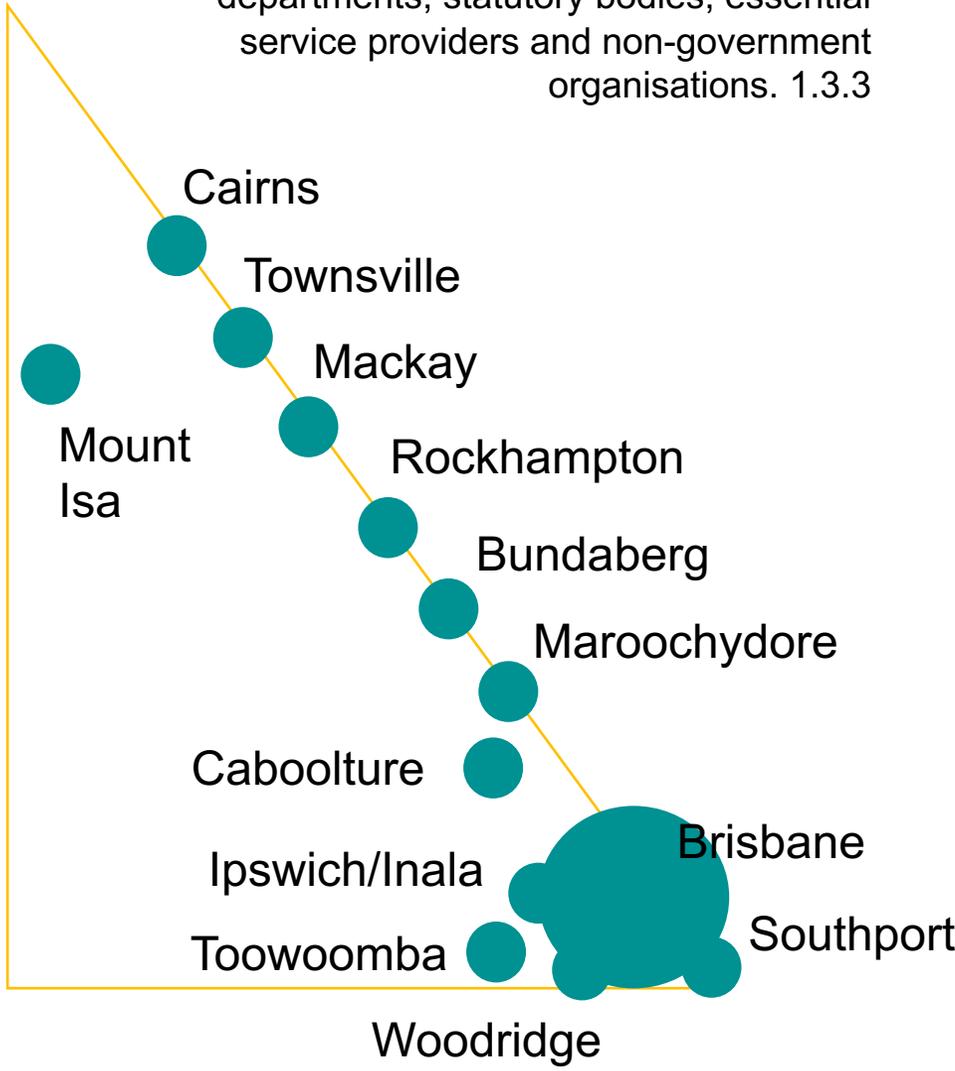


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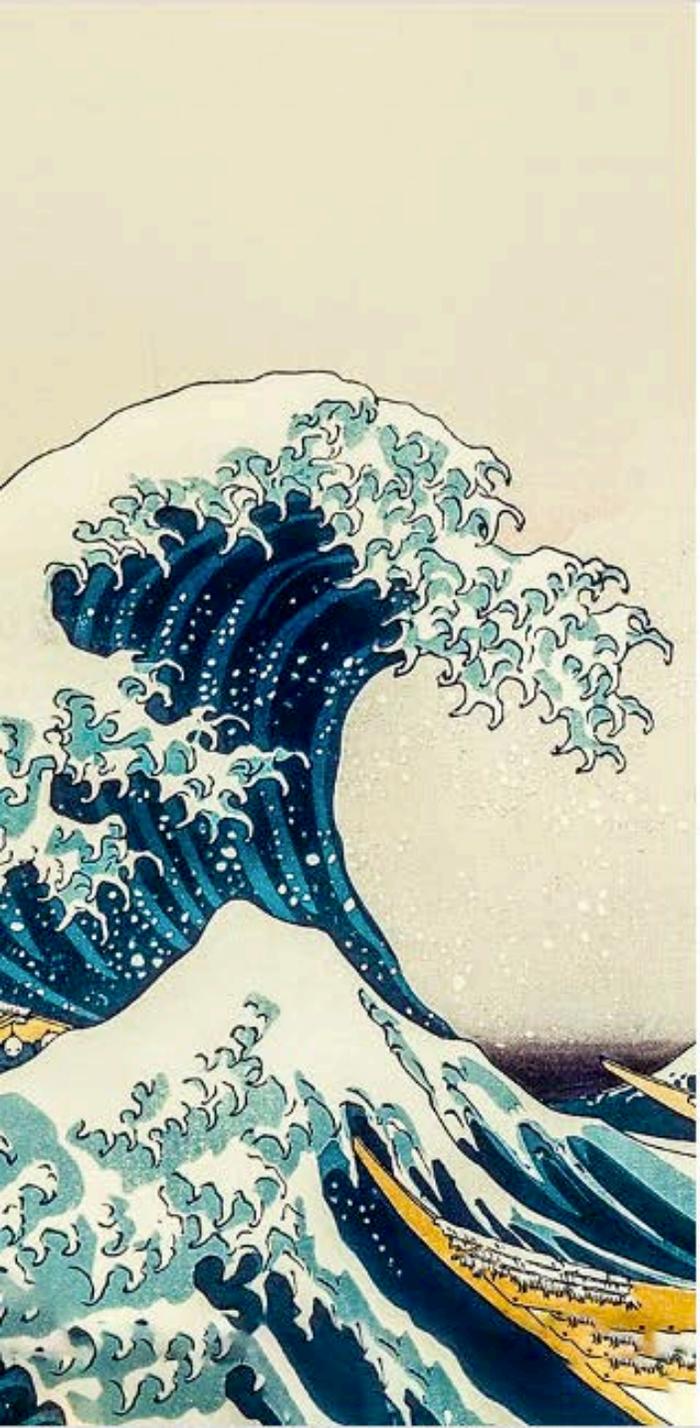
Regional Alignment

LDMGs are supported by district and state level groups, as well as relevant state departments, statutory bodies, essential service providers and non-government organisations. 1.3.3



Regional LAF	Disaster District
Cairns	> Far North,
Townsville	> Townsville
Mackay	> Mackay,
Mount Isa	> Mount Isa
Rockhampton	> Rockhampton
Bundaberg	> Bundaberg
Maroochydhore	> Sunshine Coast
Caboolture	> Sunshine Coast
Ipswich	> Ipswich
Toowoomba	> Toowoomba
Southport	> Gold Coast
Brisbane	> Brisbane

* Additional districts will be mapped as part of the Desk Review – See Queensland Disaster Management Plan App B



Thank you and stay safe!



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