



DESIREE BEEKHARRY, DPM, TQC™
UTILISATION PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE
BUSHFIRE AND NATURAL HAZARDS CRC, AUSTRALIA



Dr Desiree Beekharry is the Utilisation Program Manager for the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC. The CRC's mission is to ensure the Australian communities' resilience to natural hazards. Dr Desiree Beekharry's remit is to ensure that the high level research which are conducted in consultation with the emergency services sector are fit-for-purpose and are adopted by the various emergency services agencies. Dr Beekharry currently manages a research workforce across Australia and New Zealand of over 60 projects. She comes from a long event, project and program management career in several countries including UK, USA, France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland. Her 2 professional passions are Project Management and Disaster Management - especially Risk in Disaster Management. Dr Beekharry is also a tutor and supervisor for the Master of Project Management Program at the University of South Australia and Torrens University. She is a qualified and experienced ESOL and French teacher, Conflict Negotiations trainer and facilitator.

Mauritian born, Dr Desiree Beekharry's first 'contact' with a natural hazard was living through a Category 5 cyclone. That experience at the age of 8 has left a lasting picture in her mind of the forlorn look in people's eyes as they surveyed the aftermath of such a disaster. She has wanted to contribute to disaster resilience since. Dr Beekharry's experience in disaster management comes from working with the UN as an Emergency Travel and Conferences Coordinator; for the South Australian Fire & Emergency Services Commission where she performed Risk Assessments, Risk Mitigation and Treatments activities on various zones for Flood, Earthquake, Heatwave, Bushfire (Wildfire), Extreme storm, escape of Hazardous Materials, Animal & Plant Disease, Urban Fire and Storm surge. Desiree was also member of the CARE team at American Airlines.

Qualifications:

BA in Tourism Management, Master of Project Management & Doctor of Project Management.

Professional memberships: PMI, APM & AIPM

Her Master's thesis is titled: **Risk in Emergency Management: *Decision making in low-probability, high consequence risks when faced with uncertainties.***

Her doctoral thesis is titled: **Applying Agile Project Management Methodology to Natural Disaster Projects.**

She is a charter member of the TIEMS Qualification Certification (TQC™).

Desiree lives in Adelaide, SA, Australia with husband Marc, son Ricky, dog Cookie and cat Chairman Mao. Her regular activities are: Squash, badminton, running, Tai Chi, Taiko, cooking, carpentry.