

Fire, families and decisions

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Thirty-eight families who experienced the Wangary fire (11 January 2005), on the Lower Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, were interviewed over two months in spring 2006. The data acquired from these in-depth interviews is being analysed with a specific focus on household decision-making: What are the decision-making processes in families under crisis? This research project uses a qualitative methodology to explore family dynamics and the types of decisions made under duress. It delves into decision-making and the assumptions that underpin the 'stay or go' policy with the crisis decision making of families threatened by fire. Acknowledging and understanding how families make decisions in critical times can help shape future education programs and contribute to the modification/application and implementation of the 'stay or go' policy.