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# National ICT Australia invites you to the Victoria Research Laboratory Big Picture Seminar Series Wednesday Nov 14, 2007

The talk will be followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the speaker.

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR THIS FREE EVENT  
RSVP to [vr1ss@nicta.com.au](mailto:vr1ss@nicta.com.au) by Friday November 9, 2007

Public Parking is available at an hourly rate at the University Square car park. Enter via Bouverie Street. Local street parking is also available.



**When:** 4-5pm, Wednesday Nov 14, 2007

**Where:** Brown Theatre, Electrical & Electronic Engineering (Building 193), University of Melbourne, Parkville

## Bruce Esplin, Emergency Services Commissioner – Victorian State Government ICT Critical for Emergency Management

**ABSTRACT:** Communities are facing a future in which risk and uncertainty is growing. As society has become more complex, more integrated and more global, the challenges for emergency services has developed exponentially. Community demands and expectations are higher, while tolerance for perceived failure is less. Now more than ever before we are planning for events we hope will never happen, and building a capacity we hope never to use. Terrorism, pandemics and climate change are just three of the major causes of such concern. Of course the 'everyday, or routine emergency events' will continue unabated. To be able to manage and, preferably, anticipate and mitigate these risks, emergency management must be more agile, provided with more powerful data sets and better decision making support tools. Obviously communication - with each other, and perhaps more importantly, with communities - will be a critical factor in both the achievement, and the perception of success or failure. Information and communication technology (ICT) is already providing, and can provide even greater, capability to better equip emergency management to meet those challenges.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Bruce Esplin has an impressive career with more than twenty years in the emergency management sector. He is a highly regarded speaker on public safety leadership, and the future direction of emergency management. Bruce was appointed Victoria's first Emergency Services Commissioner in June 2000. This unique role in Australia is responsible for providing independent advice to government to ensure a co-ordinated approach to emergency management in Victoria. Bruce has played a central role in the whole of government response to many major emergencies in Victoria including bushfires, gas explosions, extreme storms and floods, and critical infrastructure failure. He has also co-ordinated Victoria's emergency response to international crises such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Bali, Madrid and Jakarta embassy bombings, Australia's response to the tsunami in South East Asia, and the London bombings in 2005. More recently Bruce played a key role in reviewing security and planning emergency management arrangements for the 2006 Commonwealth Games, independently undertaking risk assessment for the Games. Bruce has conducted a number of independent, highly sensitive inquiries into government agencies and the appropriateness of the State's emergency management arrangements. Bruce maintains an ongoing, passionate commitment to the emergency management sector, particularly in Victoria where he is known and respected as a leader in its future direction

