

Disability inclusive & Disaster-resilient Queensland

Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) Framework and Toolkit

Australians with disability are left out of disaster preparedness activities. This puts them at greater risk in emergencies.

We are collaborating across sectors in Queensland communities to change this!

The Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors partnered with the Centre for Disability Research and Policy at The University of Sydney, the Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN), and the Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA).

Together we are engaging community stakeholders from the disability, community, and emergency services sectors in the collaborative co-design of tools, resources, and supports for doing Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR).

DIDRR means making sure that the needs and voices of people with disability are included in disaster risk management. Disaster risk management has four phases: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. To decrease risk and increase resilience, the needs of people with disability must be considered in all four phases.

This project has two phases:

Phase One

(April – September 2019)

We developed the DIDRR Framework and Toolkit through inclusive community engagement and developed a companion DIDRR Resource Library.

Phase Two

(October 2019 - June 2021)

We will implement, evaluate and showcase DIDRR in action using participatory and action-oriented research.

How we enable inclusion

Inclusion of people with disability is achieved by:

- extending invitations to people with disability and their representatives to participate; and
- providing the means to support their active engagement

What this project will deliver

Outputs of Phase Two will provide actionable guidance on how local disaster managers can work together with community stakeholders, including people with disability and their representatives, to decrease risk and increase resilience of people with disability to disaster. We will:

- showcase Phase Two findings in case studies, videos and infographics; and
- share what we learn so that DIDRR can be developed, implemented and evaluated in other Queensland communities.

Resilience outcomes we aim to achieve

The resilience outcomes of this project are:

- **increased capacity** in the disability, community and emergency services sector to work together with local government and other community stakeholders to increase the resilience of people with disabilities, their family and carers to disaster;
- **development of effective mechanisms** for enabling local community-level DIDRR through cross-sector collaboration that can be sustained and translated to other local government areas and hazard risk contexts; and
- **reduced risk** for people with disabilities in disasters by ensuring they are included in local disaster risk reduction.

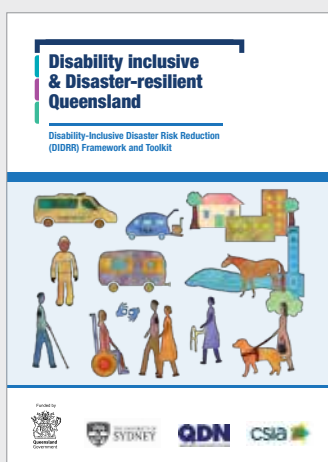
These resilience outcomes align with the community benefits realisation outlined in the Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework (2019). Such benefits recognise the critical importance of (a) ongoing community engagement in DRR, (b) developing capacity and active participation at the community level to achieve DRR, (c) effectively managing emergency situations and increasing adaptive capacity for long-term disaster recovery; and (d) developing the capacity of the social infrastructure of communities to leverage underutilised resilience resources at the local community level.

The role of our advisors

The project is supported through the active participation of an Advisory Committee comprised of state and national level decision-makers from the emergency, disability, health, and community sectors. The role of the advisory is to: (a) develop shared understanding of findings across multiple sectors with decision-making responsibility; (b) support alignment and integration of the DIDRR Framework and Toolkit with policy; and (c) advance DIDRR dissemination through state and national networks.

What is the DIDRR Framework and Toolkit?

The **DIDRR Framework and Toolkit** provides a roadmap for people with disability, community and disability support services, and local disaster management to work together to make sure people with disability are included in disaster risk management. A companion **DIDRR Resource Library** can be used to tailor emergency preparedness to the needs of people with disability before, during, and after a disaster.



These resources were developed in Phase One, from findings of an inclusive community engagement process that took place in four Queensland communities.

Learn more about Phase One here: <https://collaborating4inclusion.org/disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction/>

This set of resources is the first to articulate a practical strategy to address the risk that people with disability face in emergencies through targeted actions that people with disability, community and disability support services, and emergency managers can take to increase the resilience of people with disability to disaster.

Why is it needed?

People with disability rely on different levels and types of support every day. Access to those supports can be compromised during and after a disaster.

Personal preparedness is one of the most effective ways to mitigate the risk posed by emergencies. **Safety for people with disability** in a disaster depends on them having optimised self-reliance and planned reliance on the people who support them.

The problem is that people with disability are rarely consulted regarding their needs in potential emergency situations, or involved in community disaster risk reduction processes, despite having a desire to do so.

Helping people with disability to manage their support needs before, during and after a disaster requires pre-planning and collaboration between groups that don't normally work together.

How can the DIDRR Framework and Toolkit help communities to take these next steps?

The DIDRR Framework clarifies **action-oriented outcomes** – the things that people with disability, community and disability support services and local disaster management can do to decrease risk and increase the resilience of people with disability to disaster.

Importantly – the DIDRR Framework specifies **two ways of working** together to decrease disaster risk.

One way involves having **person-centred planning conversations** – this involves people with disability working together with community service providers to enable pre-planning based on the individual's support needs.

These planning conversations are best initiated by people with disability and their informal support network.

The Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (PCEP) Toolkit helps to break down the task so that people with disability can get started. Access the PCEP Toolkit at: www.collaborating4inclusion.org/prepare-nsw/

The second way involves **planning conversations on a wider scale**. That is, collaborators working across sectors to co-design DIDRR programs and activities at the local community level. These planning conversations focus on making sure that:

- disaster resilience activities, designed for the whole community, are also inclusive of people with disability.
- when the support needs of people with disability do not match the level of support available in an emergency, those discrepancies are identified and addressed through collaboration.

These planning conversations can be initiated by local councils, disaster managers, disabled people's organisations, or community and disability support services.

What will happen in Phase Two?

Phase Two will take place in Brisbane, Ipswich, Rockhampton, and Townsville with some project collaborations taking place in Moreton Bay. Implementation and showcasing of DIDRR in action will occur across three Workstreams. Each project Workstream will focus on the action-oriented outcomes outlined in the DIDRR Framework to showcase how the Framework and Toolkit can be implemented in practice. Each workstream has a number of specific objectives and associated activities to achieve outcomes.

Key Stakeholder:	Workstream:
 <p>People with Disability</p>	1. Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness Peer Support Outcome: People with disability optimise their self-reliance and planned reliance on others in emergency situations using peer support.
 <p>Community and Disability Support Services</p>	2. Community Disability Support Services – Roles, tools and capacity for DIDRR Outcome: Participating community services and disability support providers (including leadership/management) identify knowledge, skills, tools, and networks needed for DIDRR leadership.
 <p>Local Disaster Management</p>	3. Planning conversations to co-design, implement and evaluate community-level DIDRR Outcome: Local Councils and Local Disaster Management Groups engage in accessible, inclusive, and collaborative disaster risk management activities at the local community level.

Where can I learn more?

Project Lead:

A/Prof. Michelle Villeneuve
Centre for Disability Research and Policy,
The University of Sydney
michelle.villeneuve@sydney.edu.au



Follow us:

www.collaborating4inclusion.org

<https://www.facebook.com/disability-naturaldisasterstudy>

Implemented in partnership with:



This project is proudly funded by the Queensland Government through the Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors.