

Disaster Risk Management Practices that Leave Nobody Behind

This project will provide the emergency management sector with an operational framework for cross-sector collaborative action on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR). This framework will:

- build capability of the emergency management sector for inclusive community engagement;
- contribute to more effective risk assessment of people with disability in emergencies; and
- guide inclusive emergency management arrangements at the State, Regional, and Local levels.

Issue People with disability continue to be an overlooked resource in all phases of emergency management despite:

- legal recognition of their rights to safety and protection under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD, 2006);
- promotion of person-centred preventative approaches to disaster resilience under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015 – 2030 (UNISDR, 2015); and
- calls for inclusive community engagement to improve disaster risk decision-making under national and state emergency management capability frameworks (Australian Government, 2018; State of NSW, 2020)

This oversight has devastating consequences for over 4 million Australians with disability. Research shows the disproportionate impact for people with disability who are two to four times more likely to die or be injured in disasters than others.

DIDRR approaches seek to identify and address the root causes of vulnerability through participatory and community-based approaches that engage all persons.

Gap Our work demonstrates that people with disability and local community services that support them are ready and willing to be involved in DIDRR. Missing is the communication, coordination, and collaboration mechanisms needed to ensure equitable access and inclusion for people with disability, carers and the services that support them so that nobody is left behind in a disaster.

This project addresses this gap by:

- providing critical data on the support needs of people with disability in emergency situations
- building capability for cross-sector working to develop DIDRR practices
- informing targeted, evidence-based policy on DIDRR to support best practice

The collection and pairing of this breadth of data on people with disability in the context of disasters is a first in Australia and internationally.

Research in Action Figure 1 shows the outcomes and impact of this participatory and action-oriented research.

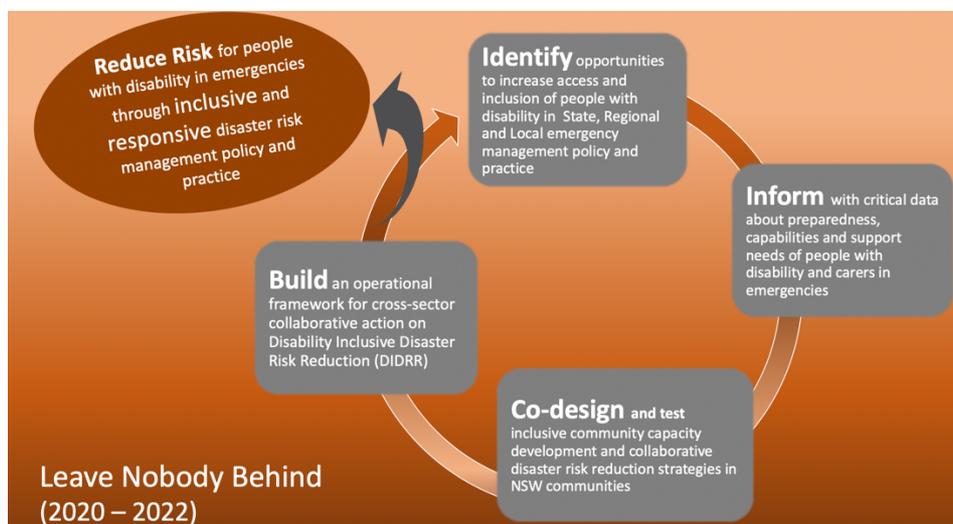


Figure 1. Disaster risk management practices that leave nobody behind: An academic-industry partnership

Project Team

A research team based at The University of Sydney, led by Associate Professor Michelle Villeneuve at the Centre for Disability Research and Policy, has received funding through the **Australian Research Council** and **Resilience NSW** with support from **12 partner organisations** in the disability, community and emergency sectors.

| Disability/Carer | Emergency | Community | Research |
|--|---|---|---|
| Rachel Spencer, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability (CID) | Pamela Sitko, Resilience NSW | Lyn Lormer, Local Community Services Association | Michelle Villeneuve, Centre for Disability Research and Policy |
| Serena Ovens, Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) | Michael Morris, Fire & Rescue NSW | Diana Bernardi, Australian Red Cross | Dale Dominey-Howes, Natural Hazards Research Group |
| Sarah Judd-Lam, Carers NSW | Anthony Bradstreet, NSW Rural Fire Service | | Gwynnyth Llewellyn, Centre for Disability Research and Policy |
| Genevieve Roberts, The Deaf Society (NSW) | David Webber, NSW State Emergency Services | | Emma Calgaro, Natural Hazards Research Group |
| Samantha French, People with Disability Australia (PWDA) | Deb Welsby, NSW Health | | Tonia Crawford, School of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine and Health |
| Susan Laguna, Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA) | | | Jade Chang, Research Manager |
| | | | Ivy Yen, Research Assistant |

Our partnership is guided by a **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** comprised of stakeholders from emergency management, disability, health, social welfare sectors, local and state government. The TAC is key to the development of a scalable operational framework for coordinating community-level DIDRR with potential for broad cross-sector impact.

Disability and Carer organisations will lead by example on how to include people with disability, their family and carers in each community and use their role as advocates to develop DIDRR participation and practice through their networks.

NSW Government Advisory support is provided to this project by the **Community Engagement Sub-committee** and the **Risk and Resilience Sub-committee**. Each report to the State Emergency Management Committee.

Contact

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