

# Research in Brief



## Leading participatory action research to advance DIDRR in Australia



**Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness Actions by People with Disability**

**What is the issue?**  
Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) means making sure that the needs and perspectives of people with disability and the people who support them are included at all stages of emergency management preparation, response, and recovery.

**What did we do?**  
The Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) has built a pool of volunteer peer leaders who connect and support people with disability across Queensland. All peer leaders are people with disability, each with different support needs and the circumstances. Many identify as community leaders and disability advocates.

### Actions by people with disability

Researchers from The University of Sydney partnered with the Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) to develop their role and capacity to lead change toward more inclusive approaches to disaster risk reduction. We drew on QDN's existing peer support networks to develop capability in peer leaders to increase their personal emergency preparedness and raise awareness and preparedness in others. The research aim was to understand the contribution of the P-CEP Peer Leadership Program to enabling peer leaders and the people they support to develop personal emergency plans tailored to their support needs and situation.



**Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness: An enablement framework for service providers**

**What is the issue?**  
Being prepared for disaster can reduce the loss of life, property, and possessions. We all need to be ready and know what to do. Some people with disability need extra resources and support to enable their preparation for more effective disaster response and recovery.

**What did we do?**  
We conducted a scoping study of service providers to learn what service providers from the disability, community, and health sectors had to say about their role, responsibilities, and contributions to emergency planning with the people they support.

Role of Service Provider	Number (%)
Disability Services	1 (25)
Community Services	1 (25)
Health and Health Support Services	1 (25)
Other	1 (25)

### An enablement framework for service providers

Some people with disability need extra support, resources, or advocacy to prepare for emergencies. One way of providing that support is to leverage the roles of service providers who have routine interactions with people with disability and carers. However, community, health and disability organisations are often not adequately prepared for emergencies themselves, nor integrated into emergency planning. In this research, we conducted an international scoping study and Queensland-based interviews to learn what service providers had to say about their role, responsibilities, and contributions to emergency planning with the people they support.



**DIDRR in Action: Taking disability out of the too hard basket**

**What is the issue?**  
Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) means making sure that the needs and perspectives of people with disability and the people who support them are included at all stages of emergency management preparation, response, and recovery.

**What did we do?**  
The project focused on developing DIDRR in Queensland communities through community consultation. Our efforts were focused on:

1. Including people with disability in community emergency management and planning work so that they would have accessible resources that could be used to inform preparation, response, and recovery.
2. Building capability among community and disability support services and disability advocacy organisations to enable personal emergency management and planning.
3. Expanding community engagement practice of emergency personnel to include community and disability support and advocacy services and their networks and capacity to share information, education, and resources accessible to everyone.

### Taking disability out of the too hard basket

DIDRR requires emergency personnel to work together with people with disability and the services that support them to identify and remove barriers that increase disaster risk for people with disability in emergencies. In this research, we conducted interviews with emergency managers and emergency services personnel to understand how they view their role and contributions to DIDRR, what opportunities they envision for future DIDRR development, and what tools and training they need to contribute to DIDRR in the future.

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