



## About the Leave Nobody Behind Project

Leave Nobody Behind is a research project to better assist people living with a disability in disasters. The objectives of this project are to:

1. Inform with critical data on the preparedness, capabilities and support needs of people with disability and carers in emergencies
2. Co-design inclusive person-centred & capability-focused disaster risk reduction strategies in NSW communities
3. Identify opportunities to increase access and inclusion of people with disability in state, regional and local emergency management policy and practice
4. Build an operational framework for cross-sector collaborative action on DIDRR

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### Contact

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## Taking Disability Out of the “Too Hard Basket”

For too long, disability has been kept in the too hard basket because government and emergency services have not had the methods, tools, and guidance on how to include people with disability.

### *International Policy*

Disability became prominent in the disaster policy agenda after the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(UNCRPD\)](#) entered into force in 2008.

- Article 11 of the UNCRPD requires nations to take all necessary measures to protect the safety of persons with disability in situations of risk, including disasters triggered by natural hazard events.
- The UNCRPD also reinforces the right of people with disability to have equal access to programs and services that all citizens enjoy. This includes emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction programs and services.

Built on the foundations of the UNCRPD, the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(SFDRR\) \(2015-2030\)](#) firmly established people with disability and their representative organisations as legitimate stakeholders in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction policies (Stough & Kang, 2015), calling for “*a more people-centred preventative approach to disaster risk*” (p.5).

**People-centred approaches place people and their needs at the centre of responsive disaster management and also position them as the main agents of development and change** (Villeneuve, 2020).

Australia, as a signatory to the UNCRPD and SFDRR has to find ways to ensure everyone is well prepared for disasters triggered by natural hazards. This includes people with disability and their support networks.

### *National Policy*

Australia’s [National Strategy for Disaster Resilience](#) and [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#) invite **shared responsibility** with individuals and communities to help everyone plan for and respond better to disasters. But we haven’t had the tools to include people with disability and the services that support them in emergency preparedness and disaster recovery planning.

Research in Australia, led by the University of Sydney, is helping to address that gap (for more information: <a href="http://www.collaborating4inclusion.org">www.collaborating4inclusion.org</a> ). This research has influenced the development of Australia's <b>new</b> Disability Strategy.
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[Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-31](#) includes, for the first time, targeted action on disability-inclusive emergency management and disaster recovery planning. This is significant because it requires all governments, community organisations, and businesses to include people with disability in their emergency management and disaster response and recovery planning.

**This means that:**

- everyone must find effective ways to **include the voice and perspective of people with disability in planning and decision-making** to increase the health, safety, and well-being of people with disability before, during, and after disasters.
- emergency and recovery planning should **include the services that support people with disability as a local community asset** for emergency planning and recovery. Planning for emergencies must extend to working with disability service providers to help them to understand their disaster risks and make effective plans for their services, staff, and the people they support.

- government and emergency services need to **find ways to work in partnership with people with disability and the services that support them** – because disability-inclusive emergency planning and disaster recovery require collaborative effort!

### *Interdependence of people with disability and the services that support them*

Research has recognised the interdependence of people with disability and their support networks in achieving safety and well-being before, during, and after disaster. This literature acknowledges the important contribution of community, health and disability service providers to:

- enabling preparedness with the people they support and
- leveraging their routine roles and responsibilities to build local community resilience to disaster

These services are optimally positioned to contribute to inclusive emergency planning and risk reduction because:

- they are on the frontline of community-based care and support
- these relationships equip providers with an intimate knowledge of the functional needs of the people they support
- they have a deep understanding of the accessible spaces and places within communities that promote and enable participation
- community-based providers are often seen as the link between people with disabilities and their families and the wider community forming a crucial component of support networks

Research in Australia shows, however, that community and disability organisations are not adequately prepared for disaster themselves nor are they integrated into emergency planning.

The [NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission signed a legislative amendment](#) that took effect in January 2022. It requires all National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Registered service providers to:

- ensure continuity of supports which are critical to the safety, health, and wellbeing of NDIS participants before, during, and after a disaster, and
- work with their clients to undertake risk assessments and include preparedness strategies within their individual support plans.

The newly released [NDIS Practice Standards](#) incorporate these legislated requirements. The new Practice Standards now require service providers to effectively develop, test, and review emergency plans, and to plan for the continuity of critical supports during emergencies to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the people they support.

Emergency planning is also a requirement for aged care providers. During an emergency, providers must continue to maintain quality care and services to care recipients. This is a requirement under the [Aged Care Act 1997](#).

Although this requirement has been part of Aged Care legislation since 1977, **this is a new role for ALL service providers who have not traditionally been included in emergency planning policy and practices.**

The needed cross-sector mechanisms that enable the participation of community, health and disability services in emergency management are now being built.

It will take time for service providers to develop their capabilities and confidence in emergency and disaster management planning with the people they support.

Our partnership research supports this aim.

**The Leave Nobody Behind Project has two core capacity development activities to support development of disability inclusive emergency planning.**

1. Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) Education is one part of developing workforce capacity in the community, health, and disability sectors in disability-inclusive emergency and disaster management planning.

PCEP supports requirements outlined in international and national policy. It does this by:

- defining person-centred responsibilities of **people with disability** to reduce their risks
- optimising the capability of community, health and disability **service providers** to contribute to disability-inclusive risk reduction through person-centred planning
- creating opportunities for **government and emergency services** to work in partnership with people with disability and the services that support them to identify and remove barriers that increase disaster risks

P-CEP offers the tools and approaches by which people with disability and the services that support can share responsibility with government and emergency services to increase the health, safety and well-being of people with disability before, during, and after disasters.

**Contact us for more information on our P-CEP Certificate Short Course**

**Register your interest here:**

<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=7HTDRKKKCNDNH4A>

2. Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning (DIEP) Forums. These multi-stakeholder forums are a collaboration between Leave Nobody Behind Team and Local Councils and their Community Interagency Partners in the disability, community, and emergency sectors.

**We will hold workshops in select communities in NSW in 2022.  
NSW Councils can contact us to get involved!**

**Who should attend:**

We are aiming for representation in the sessions of three stakeholder groups. They are:

1. people with disability, carers and their representative organisations;
2. service providers from the community, health and disability sectors that provided funded services and supports to people with disability and other high-risk groups in the community; and
3. emergency managers including emergency service providers, government and non-government organisations involved in emergency planning, response and disaster recovery.

**What will happen at the workshops?**

The workshop is about people-centred approaches to inclusive emergency management. At the workshop participants will learn about:

- People-centred approaches to emergency management
- Factors that increase risk for people with disability in emergencies

- Strategies to reduce risk and increase the resilience of people with disability to disaster
- Local community assets that can be shared before, during and after an emergency to keep people safe.

We encourage councils and their partners to invite people who have lived experience of disability or work in the area of disability, health or emergency management. We want to learn from their knowledge and experiences about how to make emergency management more inclusive of people with disability. The interactive format of the workshop means that people who attend will learn from, with and about each other's roles in emergencies at the workshop.

At the end of the workshop, we will invite participants complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire will ask about satisfaction with the workshop and what key things were learned.

After the workshop, the researchers will write a report that summarises what was discussed. That report will be provided back to any participants who want it. It will also be shared with the Local Council and State Government to help them support disability inclusive emergency planning. The report will include recommendations to help local and state emergency managers to learn about what needs to happen to increase the inclusion of people with disability in emergency planning.

## **We will build an operational framework for DIDRR in NSW from the findings of the Leave Nobody Behind Project.**

### What might this look like?

Here is an example of how research led by The University of Sydney in partnership with the Queenslanders with Disability Network and the Community Services Industry Alliance advanced DIDRR in Queensland. This resource aligns with the emergency management arrangements in Queensland and their Disaster Management and Human Rights Legislation.

#### Queensland DIDRR Framework and Toolkit

[https://collaborating4inclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DIDRR\\_Framework\\_document\\_FINAL.pdf](https://collaborating4inclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DIDRR_Framework_document_FINAL.pdf)

## **Learn More**

Resources on DIDRR and P-CEP built and tested in Australia

<https://collaborating4inclusion.org/disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction/>

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