



**Collaborating
4 Inclusion**

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Western Australia (WA)

DIEP Forum Summary



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY**



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Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and the community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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<https://collaborating4inclusion.org/diep/>



About this summary

This summary presents the key insights from the **Western Australia (WA) Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning (DIEP) Forums**, delivered as part of the national **Disability Inclusive Emergency Management (DIEM) project**. Led by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the University of Sydney's Collaborating4Inclusion team, the project engaged more than 1,200 people across Australia to strengthen disability-inclusive emergency management.

The DIEP forums were held in partnership with local hosts in Western Australia, using accessible venues and outreach through council hosts, community organisations, disability advocacy groups, and emergency services. Participants included people with disability and carers, disability and community service providers, health and social care organisations, councils, and emergency management personnel.

Purpose of This Summary

This document captures what we heard in Western Australia:

- who took part,
- what is working well now,
- what is getting in the way, and
- the practical ideas participants shared for what can be done next — together.

It reflects the lived experiences and priorities of participants and highlights opportunities to strengthen disability-inclusive emergency management across Western Australia.

How to Use This Summary

This is a high-level overview. It is designed to sit alongside:

- the **individual local DIEP reports** shared with forum hosts
- the **National DIEP Synthesis Report**, which shows the bigger picture and the Eight Priority Actions
- the **DIEM Toolkit, Starter Pack** and **Promising Practice Cards**, which provide the tools, templates and real-life examples to support implementation and measurement.
- the **DIEM eLearning**, which provides a ready gateway to learning and using the DIEM Toolkit and, Starter Pack and practice examples.

This summary does not include recommendations. Instead, it directs readers to the National Synthesis Report for detailed national findings and recommendations.

About the DIEP Forums

Forum Locations

Seven DIEP forums were delivered between August and September 2025.

- **Gingin** DIEP forum on 18 August 2025 [GNG]
- **Shires of Victoria Plains/Wongan-Ballidu** DIEP forum on 19 August 2025 [VPW]
- **Kalgoorlie-Boulder** DIEP forum on 21 August 2025 [KLB]
- **Joondalup/Wanneroo** DIEP forum on 22 August 2025 [WJO]
- **Merredin** DIEP forum on 25 August 2025 [MRD]
- **Shires of Denmark/Plantagenet** DIEP forum on 1 September 2025 [DNP]
- **Kwinana** DIEP forum on 2 September 2025 [KWN]

Outreach and Hosting Arrangements

Forum invitations in Western Australia were extended through local government hosts (Shire of Gingin Council; Shire of Victoria Plains and Shire of Wongan-Ballidu; City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder; City of Joondalup and City of Wanneroo; Shire of Merredin; Shire of Denmark and Shire of Plantagenet; and City of Kwinana) to engage stakeholders across government, community, disability, and emergency-management sectors. The **Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA** (DFES) enabled forum outreach and supported all council hosts before, during and after the forums.

Who Participated

A total of **151 participants** attended across forums.

Stakeholder Representation:

- Local Government worker (27%, n=41);
- State government workers (15%, n=23)
- Emergency Services Personnel (15%, n=22); were the most represented groups (see Figure 1).

Table 1 lists the organisations represented at the forum, with publicly available website links included for reference (as hyperlink).

Lived Experience Representation

- Fifteen percent (n=23) of the attendees self-identified as having lived experience of disability, and
- Twelve percent (n=18) of the attendees self-identified as unpaid carers supporting family or friends with disability or other support needs.

Disability and unpaid carer status were captured at the time of registration through multiselect response options, allowing participants to identify with more than one category.

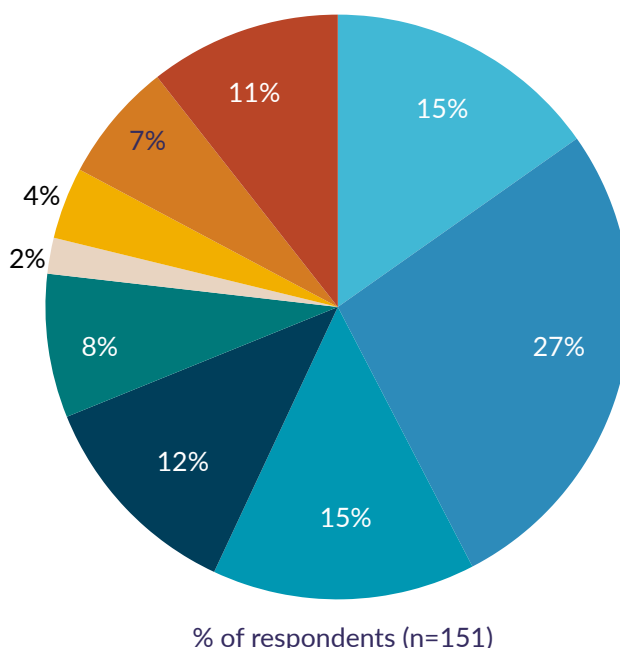


Figure 1: Stakeholder roles represented among forum participants in Western Australia.

Note: Stakeholder roles were self-identified by participants at the time of registration and may reflect only one aspect of their professional involvement. Many participants hold multiple roles across sectors.

Table 1: Participating Organisations in Western Australia forums

Government sector

[City of Joondalup](#)

[City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Council](#)

[City of Kwinana](#)

[City of Wanneroo](#)

[Department of Communities](#)

[Gingin District Community Resource Centre](#)

[RESPECT](#)

[Shire of Coolgardie Council](#)

[Shire of Denmark](#)

[Shire of Dundas Council](#)

[Shire of Gingin Council](#)

[Shire of Merredin Council](#)

[Shire of Plantagenet](#)

[Shire of Victoria Plains](#)

[Shire of Wongan-Ballidu](#)

[WA Local Government Association \(WALGA\)](#)

Aged Care Organisations

[Bethanie](#)

[Silverchain](#)

[Uniting WA](#)

Healthcare Organisations

[Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre](#)

[WA Country and Health Services](#)

Community organisations

[Carers WA](#)

[Churches of Christ Sports and Recreation Centre](#)

[Climate Justice Union](#)

[Community Vision](#)

[Denmark Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Denmark Community Foundation](#)

[Denmark Community Resource Centre](#)

[Koorunga Country Women's Association](#)

[Lancelin Community Resource Centre](#)

[Life Without Barriers](#)

[Mia Mia Housing Cooperative](#)

[Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club](#)

Emergency sector

[Denmark Bushfire Ready \(Equip project\)](#)

[Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA](#)

[Disaster Relief Australia](#)

[Merredin SES](#)

[Mt Barker State Emergency Service](#)

[St John Ambulance WA](#)

[State Emergency Service \(SES\)](#)

[WA Police Force](#)

Table 1: Participating Organisations in Western Australia forums (continued)

Disability support organisations

[Aphasia WA](#)

[Community Living Association](#)

[Goldfields Individual and Family Support Association](#)

[Integrity Lifestyle Supports](#)

[Kindred Instinct Support Services](#)

[Rebound WA](#)

[Thrive West](#)

[Tullybrook](#)

Others

[APM Employment Services](#)

[DADAA](#)

[Lancelin Primary School](#)

[Lose the Awkward](#)

[Telstra](#)

[Your Care Niche](#)

Disability advocacy/representative organisations

[Advocare](#)

Note: Several organisations provide services spanning multiple sectors. For consistency, each organisation was allocated to the sector most closely aligned with its primary function in this region. When this could not be determined, the organisation was classified as a community organisation. Entries with incomplete organisational details or without a verifiable website address were removed from the final list. **Organisations presented in bold indicate multiple participations across different forums.**

What We Learned

Where things are working now

- **Practising together builds confidence.** Aged-care and disability providers are running short, inclusive evacuation drills and using them to refine plans with clients. Some services have mutual-aid arrangements that improve continuity and support.
- **Practical kits and personal plans are taking hold.** Go-bags, medication kits and simple personal evacuation plans are used in several areas, helping people act earlier and with less stress.
- **Community hubs are natural convenors.** Community Resource Centres (CRCs), CWA branches, Men's Sheds and other local groups are trusted entry points for information and support — especially in regional and remote areas.
- **Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) is increasingly visible.** Councils and providers are sharing person-centred planning tools and prompting preparedness as part of routine onboarding or community engagement.
- **Mini-exercises make inclusion real.** Short, inclusive drills with lived-experience input help teams identify barriers early and make centres and services more predictable.

Together, these strengths highlight a **strong community foundation:** practical experience, trusted local networks, and a willingness to collaborate in low-burden ways.

What's getting in the way

- **Inclusion is uneven and often assumed.** Preparedness conversations frequently focus on general community needs, with accessibility not always made explicit. Inclusive practice often depends on individual champions rather than consistent expectations.
- **Provider plans aren't always visible.** Smaller or regional providers may have internal plans, but these are not consistently shared or aligned with others, making coordination harder during an activation.
- **Partner contacts go stale.** Without routine refresh or a shared mechanism, directories and contact lists quickly become outdated.
- **Privacy uncertainty slows collaboration.** Partners are unsure what information can be shared, and under what conditions, making it harder to plan for support needs in advance.
- **Key access gaps persist.** Accessible transport (including bariatric options), pet inclusive support, predictable centre features and reliable power for assistive technology are limited — especially outside major centres.
- **Distance and capacity matter.** Long travel times, thin local workforces and resource scarcity create practical barriers to coordination across large regions.

These challenges reinforce the need for clearer pathways, predictable accessibility, and stronger cross sector connections — all consistent with the Eight Priority Actions in the National Synthesis.

What Participants Asked For

Participants across Western Australia identified a set of practical steps that would make emergency planning and response more inclusive. These requests align closely with the **Eight Priority Actions** in the National Synthesis and focus on clearer pathways, predictable supports, and stronger connections between organisations and community.

- **A clear Access Support Liaison pathway** so disability-related requests can be routed quickly through simple, role-based contacts during activations.
- **Opt-in ways for organisations to share capability**, using a light partner directory that shows who operates locally, what support they can offer, and a single contact point for coordination.
- **More street level P-CEP activity** in trusted community venues such as CRCs, libraries and neighbourhood hubs, so people can build and keep their own plans and identify what supports they need.
- **Function based planning tools** that help outline common support needs (communication, mobility, equipment/power, personal support) without creating personal registers.
- **Predictable, accessible emergency venues**, including pre-checked centres or local “havens” with quiet spaces, charging points, accessible toilets, clear signage and pet inclusive arrangements.
- **Light mutual aid arrangements** across providers for transport, accommodation or equipment, refreshed each season with a short “what we changed” note.
- **Simple centre readiness checks** focused on the top accessibility fixes so teams can make practical improvements before activation.
- **Accessible, multi channel communication**, including plain language, Easy Read, Auslan and low-tech channels such as radio and community noticeboards.
- **Clear activation scripts for accessible transport and alternatives**, including a two call approach (primary and backup contacts) to reduce delays during response.

Together, these participant-driven actions reflect Western Australia’s strong foundations — trusted community hubs, practical experience, and a willingness to collaborate — and show a clear appetite for **more predictable accessibility, clearer pathways, and stronger cross-sector coordination** across the state.

Illustrative Quotes

Running the evacuation drills together showed us exactly what each resident needed — and who could help on the day

— Aged care director,
WJO forum

Transport and accommodation need simple MOUs. We can't improvise those at midnight.

— Provider,
MRD/KLB forum

The CRC is where people actually go. If the contacts are current there, we can route help quickly.

— Community Resource
Centre lead; GNG/VPW
forums

We want P CEP clinics at street level — small sessions through local champions, not new programs.

— Community connector,
KWN/DNP forums

Centres fail in predictable ways — access routes, charging, quiet spaces, pets. Fix those first and you solve half the problem.

— Centre logistics lead,
KLB/DNP forum

Moving Forward Together

The insights shared by participants across Western Australia show both the strengths already in place and the practical steps communities want to see next. The message was clear: inclusion cannot wait for the next event — it needs early, calm-time action that is practical, shared and easy to sustain.

To support this, we invite you to explore the national resources developed alongside these forums:

- the **local DIEP reports**, which capture detailed discussion and locally specific insights
- the **National DIEP Synthesis Report**, which brings together the bigger picture and the Eight Priority Actions
- the **DIEM Toolkit, Starter Pack and Promising Practice Cards**, which offer ready-to-use steps, templates and real examples to help you start, adapt and measure inclusive practice
- the **DIEM eLearning**, which guides you through using these tools in your own context

This summary does not include recommendations, but it highlights where communities are asking for change. The national resources provide the tools to act — start small, start locally, and strengthen disability inclusion in ways that fit your community and your role.

