

Clearing a path

to full inclusion of people with disability in emergency management policy and practice in Australia.

6

Six issues
increase disaster risk

2

Overlooked, excluded

People with disability have not been included in disaster preparedness.



4

Underprepared support services

Community, disability and advocacy organisations are not integrated into emergency planning.



6

Unclear responsibilities

There is no nationally consistent guidance on who takes responsibility for the extra support needs of people with disability in emergencies.



1

Disproportionate Risk

People with disability are disproportionately impacted during disaster events.



3

Higher demands, fewer choices

People with disability have fewer choices and opportunities to access and use risk information and preparedness resources.



5

Extra supports and equal access to the same supports

Emergency services lack information about the support needs of people with disability.



“People with disability are two to four times more likely to die in a disaster than the general population.”

5 Five recommendations for action

1



Inclusion and representation

Build nationally consistent standards for including disability representation into all emergency management arrangements (policies, practices and activities) at all levels of government.

2



Collaborative and inclusive research

Prioritise collaborative and inclusive disability research that will assist government and emergency personnel to understand and respond to the extra support needs of people with disability in emergencies.

3



Person-centred information, services, and supports

Provide person-centred resources, support, and advocacy where needed for people with disability to self-assess their risks and tailor personal emergency preparedness to their support needs and situation.

4



Service provider capability

Develop a nationally consistent approach to capacity development for community and disability service providers and disability advocates in person-centred emergency preparedness and service continuity planning.

5



Shared and defined responsibilities

Provide explicit policy guidance on who takes responsibility for the extra support needs of people with disability in emergency situations, including how that support should be organised and delivered before, during and after disaster, and how the responsibilities of different stakeholders will be guided and outcomes measured.