

Emergency Preparedness Survey of Australians with Disability, Informal Carers^a and General Population

^a Informal carers are persons who provide assistance, or supervision, to people with disability or older people on an ongoing, unpaid basis.



Key Messages

- People with disability (PWD) and carers are at a higher risk of experiencing adverse consequences during disasters compared to the general population.
- Given that one in six Australians lives with a disability and the escalating frequency and severity of disasters in Australia, it is imperative to urgently raise awareness of person-centred emergency preparedness resources and support to use them to make a tailored emergency plan.
- This survey study provides specific insights into the preparedness level, capabilities, and support needs of people with disability, carers, and the wider population. These findings can inform targeted and evidence-based actions towards DIDRR.

Self-administered online survey across Australia in March 2022

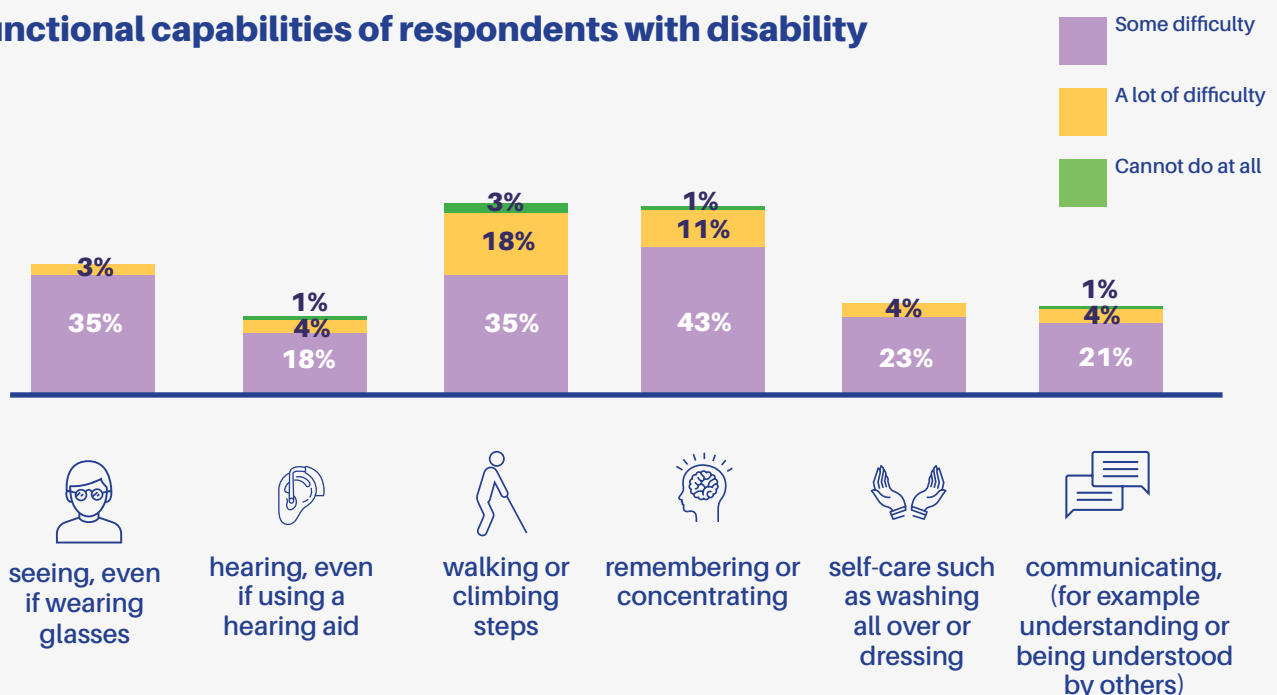


Quota sampling based on gender ratio and population distribution across states and territories.

Number of survey respondents:

227 PWD
200 Informal Carers
211 General Population

Functional capabilities of respondents with disability



Assistance usually provided by carer respondents



74%
Transport



72%
Household chores



61%
Property maintenance



59%
Cognitive or emotional tasks



58%
Reading or writing tasks



53%
Health care tasks



46%
Communicating with people



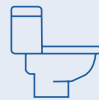
37%
Mobility tasks



32%
Communicating with family or friends



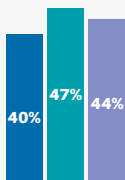
22%
Self-care tasks



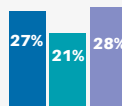
18%
Toileting

The most concerning hazard events

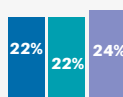
■ PWD
■ Informal Carers
■ General Population



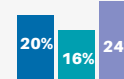
Pandemic



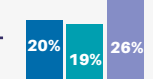
Severe storm or cyclone



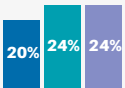
Bushfire



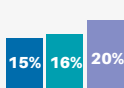
Flood



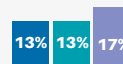
Drought



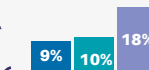
Heatwave



House fire



Earthquake



Storm tides, king tides or tsunamis

Emergency planning



30% PWD

38% Informal Carers

33% General Population

reported having an emergency plan^b.

b. An emergency plan is a "documented scheme of assigned responsibilities, actions and procedures, required in the event of an emergency".

Household preparedness

3 most common preparedness actions:



maintaining at least a quarter tank of petrol in vehicle at all times

44% PWD

54% Informal Carers

43% General Population



safely storing important documents

44% PWD

50% Informal Carers

38% General Population



preparing home/property to reduce damage caused by natural disaster

37% PWD

45% Informal Carers

42% General Population

Motives for emergency planning



By making an emergency plan, I am improving my chances of surviving during an emergency

16% PWD

21% Informal Carers

57% General Population



I am confident that I can actually do something to help myself

13% PWD

20% Informal Carers

65% General Population

3 least common preparedness actions:



participating in an evacuation drill in the past 12 months

8% PWD

11% Informal Carers

8% General Population



making arrangements for short-notice/emergency replacement care

5% PWD

19% Informal Carers

9% General Population



making a backup plan for support workers/personal assistants and essential suppliers/agencies

5% PWD

16% Informal Carers

4% General Population

Reasons for not planning for emergencies



I have just never thought about preparing for an emergency at all

34% PWD

24% Informal Carers

43% General Population



I am not sure how to prepare for an emergency

21% PWD

13% Informal Carers

30% General Population



Actions can be taken by people with disability now:

- Use the Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness Workbook to match emergency preparedness to your support needs.
- Discuss your emergency plan with people in your support network so you know how you will act together in an emergency.



Actions can be taken by carers and Care Organisations now:

- Plan for unexpected situations that may separate carers from the people they care for.
- Carer Organisations can enable access to personal emergency preparedness tools, information, and support to make emergency preparedness matched to carer support needs.



Actions can be taken by all of us now:

- Recognize preparedness as a personal responsibility for our own safety and the safety of those we care for.
- Get to know family members, neighbours, and their needs before an emergency.



Actions can be taken by governments now:

Collaborate with Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and Carer Organisations to:

- Ensure accessibility, readability, and actionability of risk information and preparedness resources, including for people with disability and carers from CALD¹ backgrounds.
- Disseminate emergency risk and preparedness information through DPO and Carer networks.
- Develop public campaigns that raise awareness of personal emergency preparedness tools and supports available to help people to prepare.

CALD = Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

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