

COVID-19 PLANNING RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY TO MAKE A PLAN FOR THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND SITUATION DURING COVID-19

Internationally, it has been acknowledged that people with disability have been left behind in disaster preparedness and consequently, experience greater disadvantage and challenges. People with disability are disproportionately affected before, during, and after disaster triggered by natural hazard emergencies.^[1]

It is broadly acknowledged that people with disability face additional risks, barriers and impacts in emergency planning and response. This relates not only to their health and disability needs, but is also impacted by individual and contextual factors such as age, gender, socio-economic status, family environment, where someone lives, whether they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and whether they are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on a broad range of service and system gaps that have existed for people with disability over many decades. COVID-19 has also driven a rapid and collaborative policy and system response to put in place a number of key policy, strategies and initiatives to ensure people with disability could continue to access essential day to day disability supports, food and nutrition, housing, health care and other essential services.

People with disability, including people with intellectual disability need access to information, tools and resources that are focused on individual disability functional-based supports. This ensures people with disability can have person-centred planning conversations to make a plan and communicate this with their support network before, during and after a disaster or emergency. This aligns and reinforces the capability approach and enables people with disability to be empowered.

This planning guide helps people with disability to get the facts about Coronavirus (COVID-19) and make a plan for how they will manage the impact of this situation. People with disability need a plan that is tailored to their unique support needs.

This planning guide was developed by researchers at The University of Sydney who lead research on disability inclusive disaster risk reduction. It was developed in partnership with the Queenslanders with Disability Network with funding from the Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors. We work in partnership with people with disability to make sure they are included in all decisions about emergency management and disaster risk. This resource was co-designed with people with disability and their representatives.

We collaborated with the Australian Government Department of Health to make this guide nationally relevant – so that all Australians with disability can make a COVID-19 plan that is tailored to their capabilities and support needs. The Australian Government Department of Health supported the translation of this planning guide into an Easy Read format.

These resources are available at <https://qdn.org.au/home/covid-19/make-a-plan> and <https://collaborating4inclusion.org/covid-19-person-centred-emergency-preparedness>.

For any questions, please contact Michelle Moss at mmoss@qdn.org.au.

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1. Stough, L., & Kelman, I. (2017). People with disabilities and disasters. In H. Rodriguez, J. Trainor, & W. Donner (Eds.), Handbook of Disaster Research 2nd ed., pp. 225-242. Cham, Switzerland: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-63254-4_12