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Australian Disaster
Resilience Conference



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



INSURANCE

Care2Prepare

Improving inclusion of people with disability, older people and their family and friend carers in disaster planning and response

Aligned
to the



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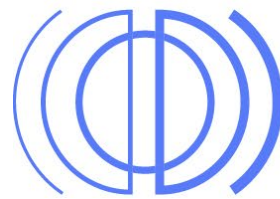
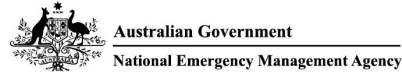
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

22-25 AUGUST 2023

Brisbane Convention and
Exhibition Centre

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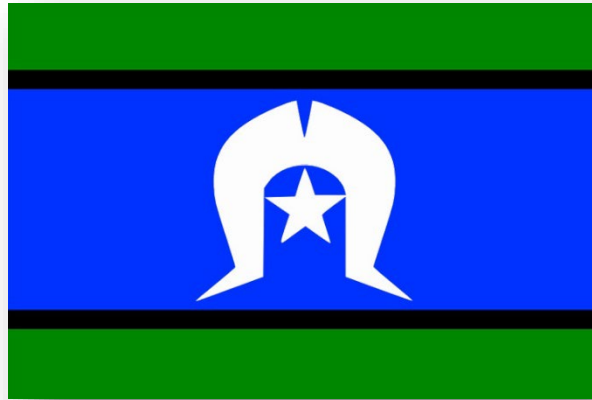
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Courtney Jones

Program Lead – Care2Prepare

www.carersnsw.org.au/care2prepare



I would like to acknowledge the Jagera and Turrbal people as the Traditional Owners of Meanjin (Brisbane) and recognise their deep and ongoing connection to the lands, waters and communities.

I pay my respect to the Elders, past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal people here today.



Image by [Rad Cyrus](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What we know...



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Older people, people with disability and carers

- May require access to essential medication, equipment, treatment and support that can be cut off during disasters
- May experience mobility, cognitive or behavioural challenges that affect timely evacuation or safe access to evacuation and recovery centres
- May experience greater challenges with recovery and re-integration due to socio-economic disadvantage and reliance on formal services
- May require tailored support to plan for, and navigate, evacuation and recovery
- **Are often overlooked in disaster planning and emergency responses**



Carers NSW experience supporting carers in flood affected regions of regional NSW combined with findings from the Carers NSW 2022 National Carer Survey highlight the need for a **tailored service response** and improved disaster preparedness for **carers and the people they care for**.



The experience of carers during disasters



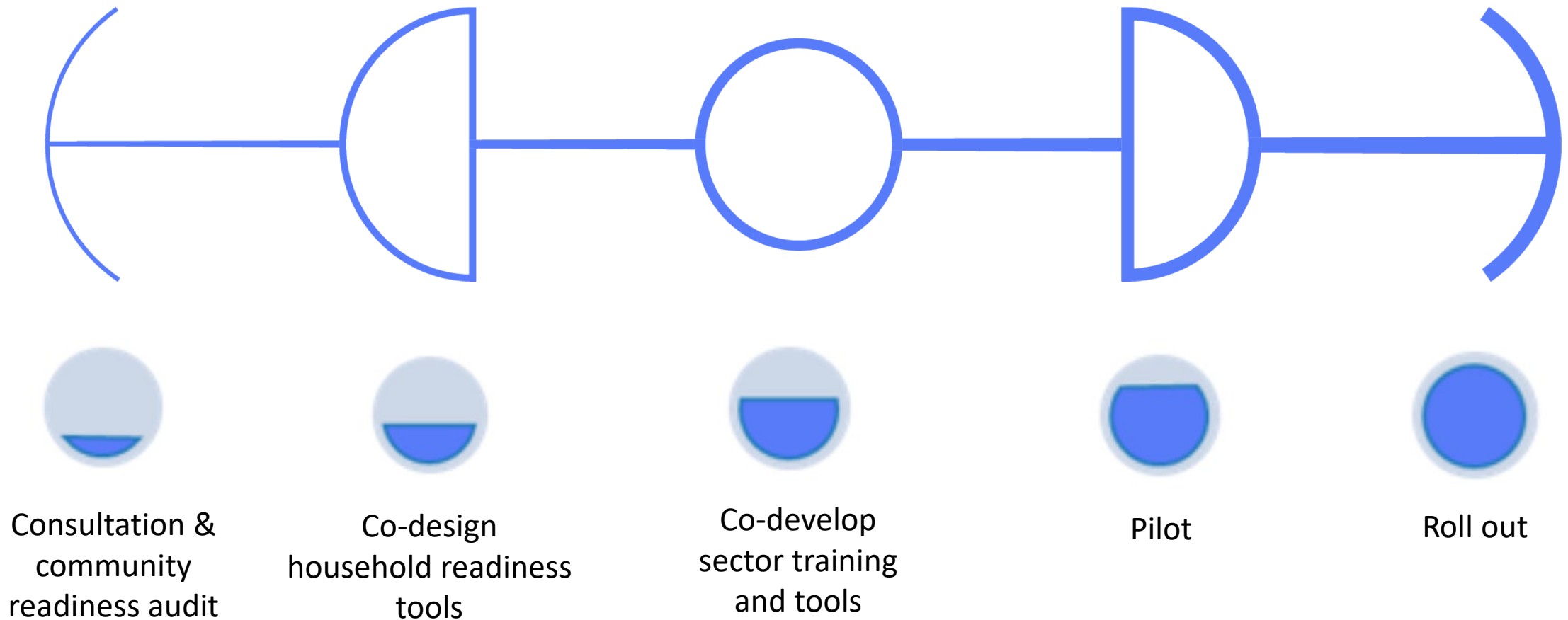
Carer Panel: *Caring in 2020* – Georgie Gardner speaks with carers

Carer recognition

Recognition of the many ways in which family members and friends provide support and care is a **key factor** in improving inclusion in disaster planning and response activities for carers and the people they care for.



How we are doing this



Information and support needs



Having a plan and being prepared is the most frequently cited advice from people with lived experience to others who may find themselves at risk of disaster



Emergency responders expressed a strong desire for all community members, particularly our identified group to have adequate, written plans in place for what to do in the event of a flood, severe storm or bushfire



Despite this most carers do not have an emergency/disaster plan and are unsure where to find information that considers their unique challenges in addition to standard advice



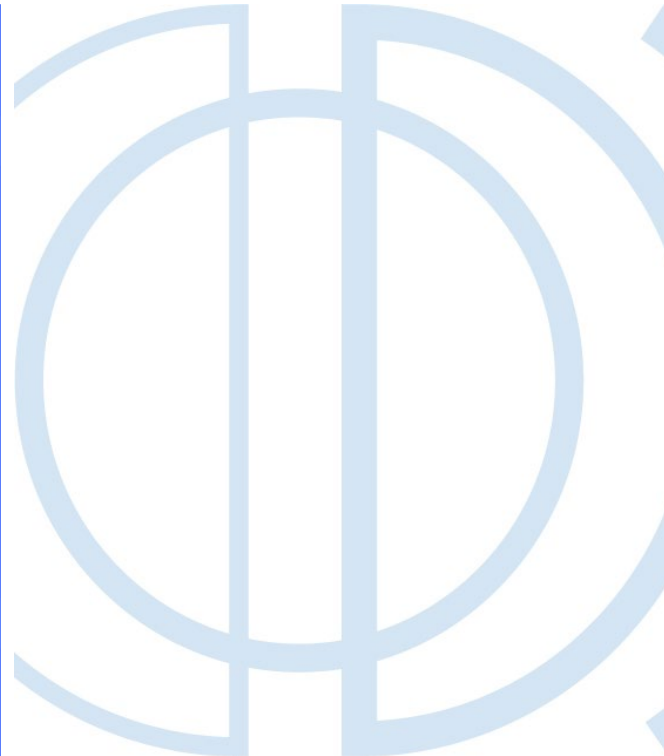
Carers are concerned that evacuation centers are not adequately equipped to meet the essential needs of the people they care for and that they will not know where to go during a disaster



This lack of preparedness increases stress, delays action and increases risk to this group



Carers at the centre



- Carer consultation and reference group, sector collaboration
- Carer-centred approach
- Outcomes focused
- Pilot will be independently evaluated
- Iterative development process – tools and delivery model will continue to be refined for the duration of the pilot phase, incorporating feedback from participants and the reference group.

Where we are headed

Increased inclusion of needs of priority populations in local disaster planning and response frameworks.

Increased community awareness of needs and experiences of, and supports and services available to, these priority populations.

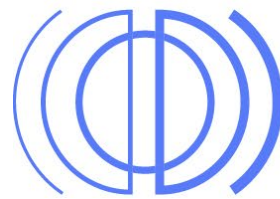
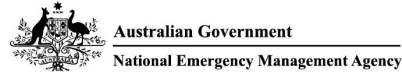
An increase in the number of people receiving and providing care with individualised disaster plans in place.

New, ongoing local connections and collaborations between key community stakeholders, including people giving and receiving care, and local government, business and community groups.



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