



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



WEBINAR SERIES

Resilience Matters



Acknowledgement of Country

AIDR acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the various lands on which you all join us from today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this event.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters across Australia.





Housekeeping

- You will remain muted and your camera will not be activated for the duration of today's event.
- Today's event will be recorded and made available after the event.
- Please enter questions for our speakers in the Q&A function, not the chat box.
- Please use the chat box to share any thoughts or reflections during the presentation
- Please be respectful to each other when posting your comments or questions.





Welcome

John Richardson

Executive Director

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency



As you go through today's webinar, ask yourself these questions:

- What's your role, and what's one decision you influence that could shift if you applied today's ideas?
- Where do you see this topic showing up in your work right now—programs, policy, ops, comms, partnerships?
- Are there barriers and opportunities you're facing in applying this—time, authority, confidence, resources, stakeholder buy-in?





Speaker Introduction

Bridget Tehan

Senior Advisor, Humanitarian Diplomacy

Australian Red Cross



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency

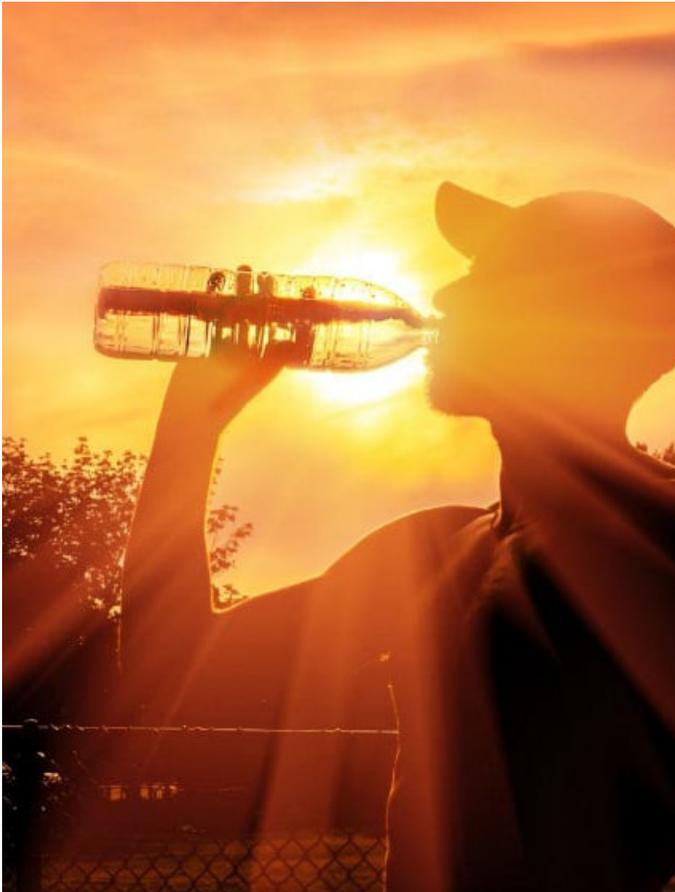
Disasters, inequality, and social vulnerability: Building inclusive resilience

AIDR Resilience Matters
Webinar six
February 2026



Australian Red Cross
acknowledges the
Traditional Owners
of this land, their
ancestors and Elders,
past and present.

Australia's hazard landscape



- Heatwaves, floods, storms & fires intensifying with global warming
- Heatwaves cause more deaths than any other hazard in Australia
- Record breaking extremes and compound events are increasing

- Hazards are natural - disasters are not
- Impacts shaped by planning, design & social factors
- Vulnerability can be reduced

Everyday inequities shape disaster outcomes

- Housing
- Health and disability
- Income and employment
- Language and communication access
- Safety and discrimination

Disasters hit harder when life is already hard



Before, during and after



Before

Knowledge and awareness
Information and advice
Preparedness
Warnings



During

Household plans
Evacuation
Relief



After

Support systems
Navigation
Grief, loss and trauma

What shapes disaster recovery

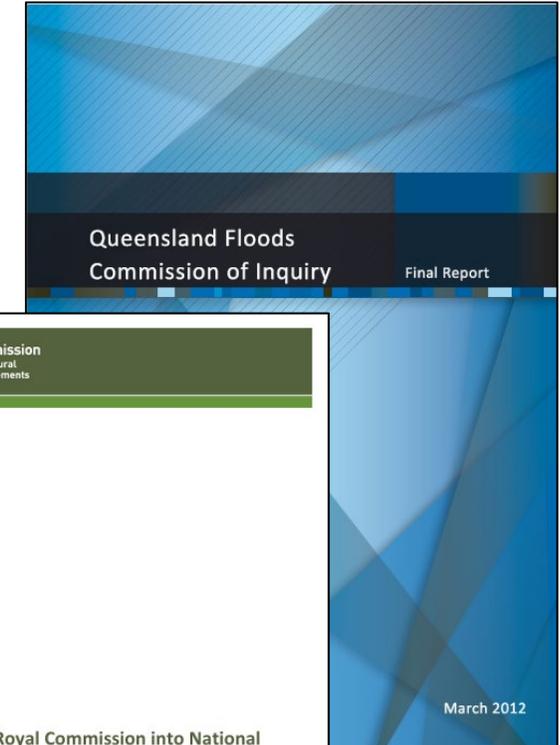
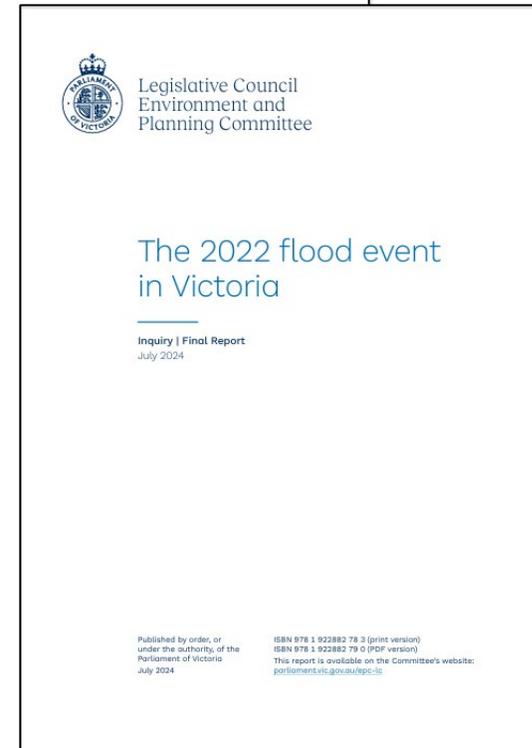
What people bring
into a disaster

The experience of
the disaster itself

Experiences in
early and long-term
recovery

Why equity matters

- Equity = risk reduction
- Reduces harm before, during & after
- Strengthens whole of community resilience



Inclusive systems work better for everyone

Access

- Removing physical, social, cultural, and communication barriers to ensure everyone can participate in services and opportunities

Equity

- Ensuring fairness and justice by acknowledging that individuals start from different places and providing tailored, necessary adjustments, rather than treating everyone the same

Inclusion

- Creating environments where all people feel welcomed, respected, supported, and valued

Diversity

- The range of unique individual characteristics, including race, gender, age, religion, disability, and sexual orientation

Co-designed systems are more trusted, more accessible, and work better during emergencies

- Early involvement
- Lived experience leadership
- Strengths-based
- Recognise intersectionality
- Shared decision-making
- Multiple participation pathways
- Resourced participation
- Continuous learning



Practical action

Strengthen communications

- Co design warnings with multicultural & disability communities
- Use trusted messengers and multiple channels

Improve accessibility & preparedness

- Audit evacuation centres and shelters
- Support P-CEP planning for high-risk households

Build community partnerships

- Work with disability, multicultural & First Nations organisations
- Support community led preparedness and outreach

Embed resilience in everyday systems

- Integrate inclusive design into planning & infrastructure
- Use services to identify emerging needs early

Equity saves lives - and strengthens whole communities



- Plan for those most at risk
- Build trusted community partnerships
- Embed inclusion into everyday systems
- Lead co-design and strengths-based resilience

Thank you

Contact: btehan@redcross.org.au



Q&A

Moderated by:

Dr Mayeda Rashid

Manager Capability Development and Engagement

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency



Event concludes

Thank you for attending today's webinar.

Next event:

Special extended Possibility Lab
Collective trauma events: What do we need
to consider and plan for?

Tuesday 24 February 2026,
12.00pm-2.30pm AEDT



Register now.





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