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Australian Disaster
Resilience Conference

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From Emergency Management to Shared Responsibility: Partnerships that shift systems for people most at risk

Art from 'Sharing Connection' by Maddi Moser (Taungurung artist), 2024



Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency



Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience





From Emergency Management to Shared Responsibility: Partnerships that Shift Systems for people most at risk



Presented by:

South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) & Australian Red Cross

The People at Increased Risk in Emergencies project received funding from the Australian Government.



Why Are Some People Disproportionately Impacted by Emergencies?

People at increased risk in emergencies often experience:

- Financial, capacity and capability barriers to preparedness, response and recovery
- Challenges accessing (and understanding) information and resources – disability, digital inclusion, language
- Fragmented support systems
- Limited visibility in emergency planning
- Housing is more affordable in areas with greater risk exposure



Bridging the Gap: Overcoming Fragmented Systems and Responses

- Agencies and organisations working in isolation to address different needs, hazards or populations
- Barriers to effective communication, resource sharing and collaboration across sectors
- Limited resources to support integrated initiatives
- Focus on response and recovery rather than preparedness and resilience
- Gaps in service delivery left some people unsupported

How do we move beyond individual initiatives to create sustainable, system-wide change?



A Shared Framework and Way Forward for SA

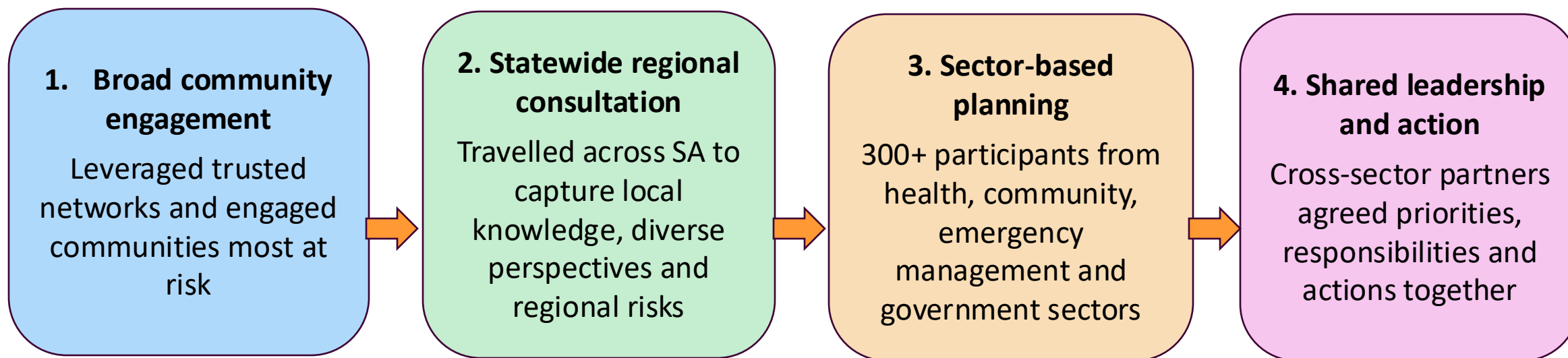
The People at Increased Risk in Emergencies Framework for South Australia (2025-2029) and Implementation Plan were both co-designed with:

- People with lived experience
- State government agencies
- Local government
- Health sector
- Community sector (service providers and peak bodies)
- Emergency management agencies
- Academia and research institutions

Outcome: A shared agenda and clear responsibilities to strengthen resilience for people at increased risk in emergencies



Building Ownership Through Co-Design and Participation



Outcome: Strong shared ownership transformed stakeholders into active partners, driving leadership, resource contribution and cross-sector collaboration.



Lived Experience: From Consultation to Influence

Traditional Approach

- Short-term consultation
- Feedback sought after decisions
- Limited influence on outcomes

PaIRE Approach

- Lived experience recognised as expertise
- Shapes planning, policy and decisions
- Ongoing participation, not one-off engagement

Evidence of Impact

- Equity and Resilience Conference
- Disability and diverse voices informing practice
- More accessible programs and resources

Key Message: When people with lived experience are genuinely involved, decisions are better informed, actions are more relevant and systems become more accountable to the communities they serve



Shared Accountability: The Foundation for Long-Term Success

Policy & Strategy Group

Strategic oversight

Connect strategy to implementation

Drive action across sectors

Working Groups

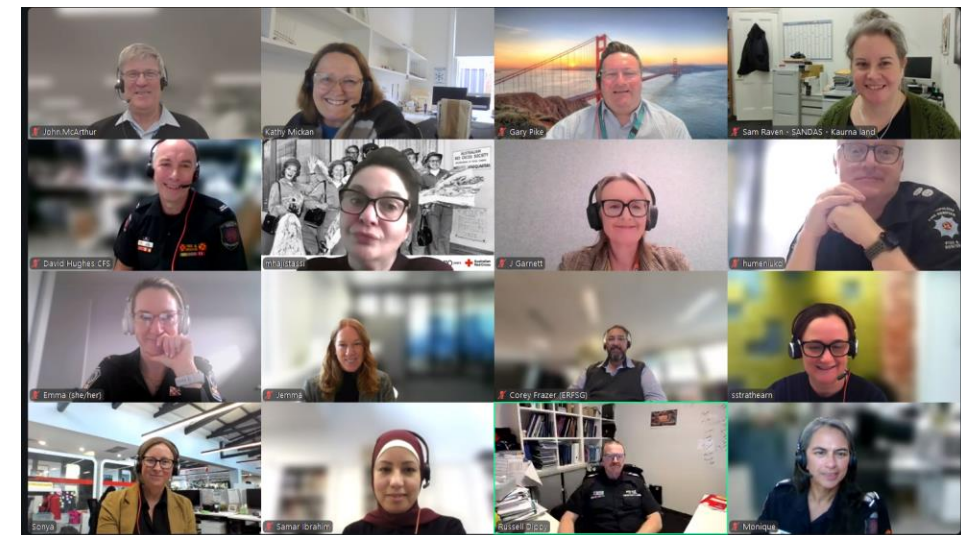
Specialist expertise

Shared decision-making

Cross-sector leadership

Foundation for Success

- ✓ Shared ownership
- ✓ Shared decision-making
- ✓ Shared accountability





Early Signs of System Change: What's Shifted?

- ✓ PaIRE embedded in the State Emergency Management Plan
- ✓ Lived experience influencing decisions
- ✓ Policy and practice reviews underway
- ✓ Improved identification of people at increased risk
- ✓ Stronger cross-sector planning and collaboration

**System change is
no longer a goal –
it's beginning to happen!**





Funding, Partnerships and Sustainable Change

Funding enabled progress and created momentum

- Strengthened and expanded stakeholder engagement
- Built momentum across partnerships

System change takes longer than funding cycles

- Trust, relationships and collaborations require time
- Short funding cycles can limit co-design and shared planning

Future Focus

- Strengthen partner ownership
- Embed successful practices into existing systems
- Sustain change beyond individual funding streams



The Tensions of Systems Change

Partnerships must not become dependent on the coordinator

- Our approach: Clear processes, shared leadership, cross-sector responsibility and ways of working that distributes effort across partners

Maintaining engagement takes time, consideration and investment

- Ensuring flexibility to accommodate competing priorities while maintaining continuity and institutional knowledge during staff turnover

Moving from commitment to action

- Strong goodwill does not automatically translate into implementation
- Shared accountability requires continual reinforcement and relationship-building

Our goal is to build the capability, confidence and ownership needed for partners to lead change themselves



The Next Challenge: Demonstrating Impact & Sustaining Change

Challenge

- Systems change takes time
- Outcomes are often indirect and non-linear

What We Need

- Stronger evidence of impact
- Better ways to capture collaboration & trust
- Continued shared ownership across partners

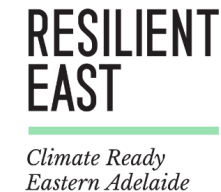
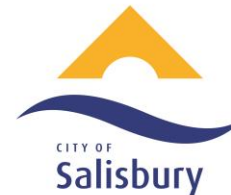
Opportunity

- Build a compelling case for sustained collective action





Some of Our Partners and Collaborators





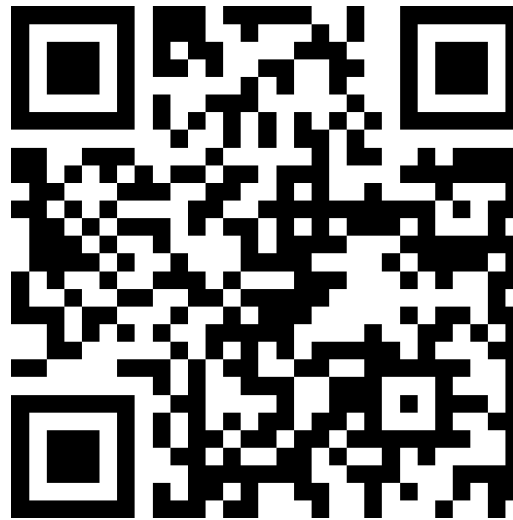
Questions and Thank you



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Sunflower Room

ADRC26 is an exciting and noisy place.

The Sunflower Room is a sensory-friendly space at the conference, offering delegates with hidden disabilities a place to help rest, regulate and reset.

Please see a staff member at the registration desk if you need assistance finding it.





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