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Australian Disaster
Resilience Conference



Australian Government
National Emergency Management Agency



Having a seat at the table: Disability & Disasters

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Aligned
to the



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CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

22-25 AUGUST 2023

Brisbane Convention and
Exhibition Centre

Fact:

People with disabilities are overrepresented in fire statistics, accounting for 46.7% of fire fatalities from 2003-2017

Problem:

Are people with disabilities at high risk because of their disability itself?

Factors



One-way distribution of fire-related material is inaccessible for people with disabilities.



Firefighters may not know how to approach or interact with people with disabilities.



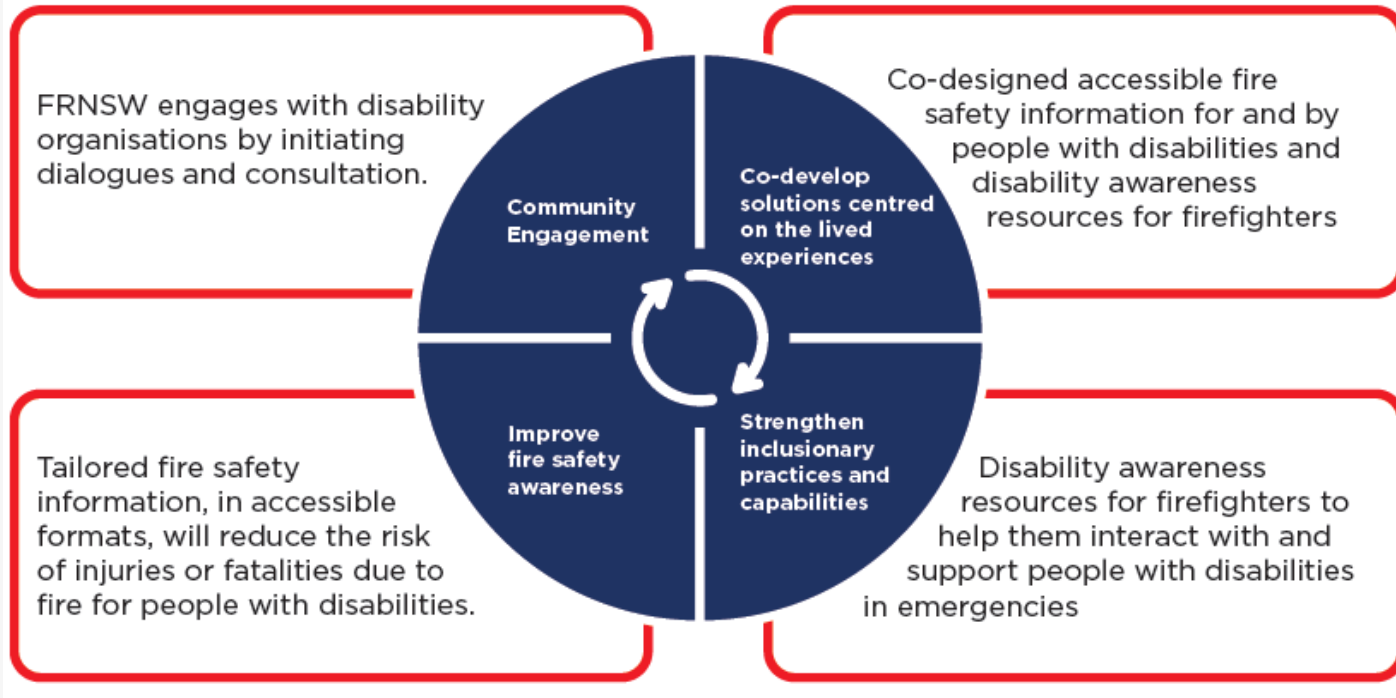
Disconnects between people with disabilities and firefighters.

Shared Responsibilities

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Preamble 7 (p. 10) calls for a people-centred prevention approach to disaster risk:

7. There has to be a broader and **a more people-centred preventive approach** to disaster risk. Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, **persons with disabilities**, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. There is a need for the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, as well as academia and scientific and research institutions, to work more closely together and to create opportunities for collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices

What if we can reimagine drawing on the lived experiences of people with disabilities to change how emergency services approach disability and resilience in emergencies?



Solution: Introductory Disability Awareness Training

- Led for and by people with disabilities as experts with lived experiences
- Used as part of the FRNSW Station Leadership and Development Program
- Misconceptions, perceptions of firefighters and how to best support them in emergencies

Future Plans

Fire Proofing Vulnerable Communities project:

- Centres people with lived experience of disability to lead, voice, and participate in all fire safety conversations
- Increase their resilience to future fire risks and fatalities



For more information|
about this project

Questions?



Thank you!

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Fire and Rescue NSW: [Projects and research - Fire and Rescue NSW](#)

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations: [Projects | Australian Federation of Disability Organisations \(afdo.org.au\)](#)