

Disaster Preparedness for Medically Vulnerable Communities

Practice Manager Breakfast

Wednesday 8th April 2026

Program background

- Recent disasters highlighted preparedness gaps for medically vulnerable communities
 - Prolonged power outages resulted in many device-dependent individuals at severe risk
 - Surges in emergency presentations and social admissions strained hospital capacity.
 - Heightened risk for First Nations peoples, CALD communities, and people with disability due to barriers in accessing information.
- GCPHN and BSPHN were awarded funding under through the *Community Health and Wellbeing Flexible Funding Grants program*.
- Funding is to improve the preparedness and resilience of medically vulnerable communities across the Gold Coast, Logan and Scenic Rim local government areas.

Program objectives

1

Deliver targeted community workshops that support participants to develop personalised disaster preparedness plans focused on their medical needs.

2

Work with stakeholders to increase program reach, confirm referral pathways, and inform workshop requirements.

3

Provide accessible and inclusive materials that support diverse participation, through the development of an adaptive workshop toolkit.

4

Promote follow-up engagement, evaluation and insights to strengthen future preparedness and sector response.

Intended outcomes



Reduction in preventable hospital presentations and social admissions during disasters through improved self-management and continuity of care for medically vulnerable residents.



Strengthened collaboration between agencies to empower community resilience and coordinated disaster response, with clearer pathways and supports for residents with medical needs.



Participants have increased understanding of their disaster risks and are better prepared to plan for their medical needs during emergencies.



Improved community-level awareness around planning for people reliant on powered medical devices, temperature-sensitive medications, and other essential health supports.

Overview of Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP)

Capability-focused process for tailoring plans to a person’s functional support needs.



Action steps to increase emergency preparedness.

Step	Actions
1	Identify your strengths and support needs in everyday life
2	Know your level of emergency preparedness and learn about your disaster risk
3	Plan for how you will manage your support needs in an emergency
4	Communicate the plan with the people in your support network and address gaps through collaboration

Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) Capability Wheel
 Published with permission (www.collaborating4inclusion.org)

Outlines four steps to increase emergency preparedness.

Target audience



Medically vulnerable individuals



Community support networks



Call to Action



2. What have you seen that has worked/not worked before?

Workshop concept and design principles



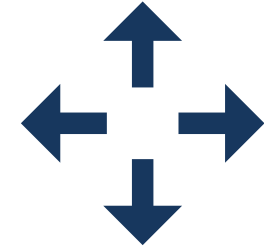
Create an inclusive environment



Leverage from best practice resources and guides



Informed by local knowledge and insights

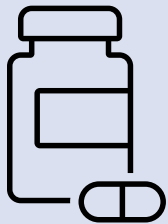


Adaptable based on time and audience

Workshop outline

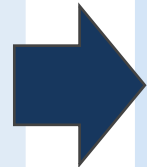
Step 1

Identify your
medical support
needs



Step 2

Know your risk
and what it means
for your medical
needs



Step 3

Plan for how to
manage medical
needs in an
emergency



Step 4

Actions and next
steps on how to
implement and
build on your plan



Stakeholder involvement and support



Partner

Opportunities to collaborate and support delivery of workshops



Share

Upcoming events
Existing support networks
Existing or 'in development' support materials to help inform facilitator resource library



Promote

Workshop details with your community networks

Disaster Preparedness for Medically Vulnerable Patients

