

Older Adults in Disaster and Emergency Management: What are the Priority Research Areas in Australia?

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

disaster and emergency management

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Australia - Australia

Why was it conducted at all?

In Australia, the proportion of people aged over 65 years is increasing and the frequency and severity of natural hazard events are also increasing. Older adults are often identified as a vulnerable group in natural hazard events, but there has been relatively little research that focuses specifically on older adults and their capacities and needs.

What was the objective?

to identify research priorities related to older adults and natural hazards in Australia

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 5 research areas

How long did the research prioritization take?

October 2018 - February 2019

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: literature review: to place the Australian perspective within the wider context of international research on natural hazard and older adults. Step 2: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to identify up to ten research priorities related to ageing and natural hazards, 649 topics suggested. Step 3: data processing: thematic analysis: refining to 19 research topics. Step 4: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate each topic and to select the top 5

Which stakeholders took part?

Government agencies that work in the areas of aged care, community services, advocacy groups for older adults and emergency services in all states and territories in Australia. Delphi round 1: 112 participants, Delphi round 2: 58 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Relevant stakeholders were identified selectively via online searches and/or telephone correspondence; stakeholders contacted were also invited to send the research invitation to other relevant stakeholders.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.