

Therapy Focus aims to ensure that the risks to the health, safety and wellbeing of customers that may arise in an emergency or disaster are considered and mitigated, ensuring continuity of supports to those customers. This may include, for example, strategies such as transitioning to teletherapy instead of face-to-face home visits during an emergency or disaster. This is a requirement for Therapy Focus as an NDIS provider, however, the following information may be useful for all customers.

Customers should develop their own personal emergency and disaster management plans, to ensure their safety, health and wellbeing. Therapy Focus may contribute to these plans where it is directly related to the therapeutic supports provided and is within the clinical scope of practice of your therapist. For example, if you have a Dysphagia and Mealtime Management Plan, your Speech Pathologist may recommend keeping pre-thickened fluids in your personal emergency grab-and-go bag. This will ensure you continue to have access to fluids that meet your mealtime needs.

Community Resources

Therapy Focus is NOT an emergency responder.

The following supports and resources may be helpful to create and manage your personal emergency and disaster management plans.

Local Council

Many shires and local councils have resources and support available to assist in developing emergency and disaster management plans, which are relevant to your local areas. It is best to contact your local council to seek advice on how they can best support you.

ABC Emergency

Search any location in Australia to find local warnings and incidents on their interactive map. Visit abc.net.au/emergency

Emergency WA

A map-based display with the best available emergency information from across WA. Find information about fires, floods, storms, earthquakes, tsunamis, hazardous material incidents and traffic crashes. Visit emergency.wa.gov.au

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

DFES supports the WA community in preparing for disasters and protecting them against the unpredictability of natural hazards and emergency incidents.

Visit dfes.wa.gov.au and dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/bushfire/at-risk-communities

Australian Red Cross

The Australian Red Cross has several resources designed to assist people living with disability to prepare for disaster. Among them are guides for people with chronic illness, people with physical disability and older people. The guides are a companion to the Red Cross RediPlan, which is available in both easy English and Auslan formats.

Visit redcross.org.au/emergencies/resources

Other Supports

NDIS Support Coordinators

Support coordination helps you to make the best use of your supports in your NDIS plan. Support coordination is a capacity building support that helps connect you with NDIS providers, community, mainstream and other government services. Support Coordinators can build your confidence and skills to use and coordinate your supports, should you develop a personal emergency and disaster management plan.

Advocates

Disability advocates and programs play an important role to promote, protect, uphold and defend the human rights and wellbeing of people with disability, their families and carers. Advocates work alongside a person with disability so they can actively participate in the community, receive supports that meet their specific needs and exercise their rights.

You can find an advocate using the Disability Advocacy Finder at askizzy.org.au/disability-advocacy-finder