

POLICY 11.3 DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Better Together have appropriate preparedness and effective responses to stakeholders before, during and after an emergency or disaster. Better Together focuses on maintaining service delivery to vulnerable service users.

Though disasters maybe infrequent and Better Together services are not critical to health and wellbeing of our service users. The organisation has varying degree of vulnerability of our service users so we acknowledge that our services are important and will endeavour to prepare for, plan and provide continuity levels of support before, during and after disasters/emergencies.

Scope

This policy applies to our committee member, staff members, volunteers and service users of the organisation's programs and activities. Our governance and staff will also be proactively involved with disaster management.

Policy Statement: Our Commitment

Better Together recognises that preparedness for disasters and emergencies is a priority for our organisation and a requirement to ensure the safety of our service user.

Better Together is committed to:

- Ensuring the organisation prepares, plans and mitigates risk for disasters.
- meeting our responsibilities and all regulations and legislation to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all stakeholders.
- Providing a continuity of support to our service users before, during and after all types of emergencies.
- Placing the safety and care of our participants at the forefront of our operational procedures. During a disaster, our team will adhere to this policy framework, and also work within any additional guidelines and instructions provided to our organisation by state and federal government authorities.
- The governing body practicing the implementation of the disaster plans
- Developing emergency plans in consultation with participants and their support network
- Communicating changes to plans to service users
- Timely and appropriate communication with staff, service users and relevant stakeholders about changes and organisational responses during a disaster.

- Prepare participants by informing how the current situation may affect their services.
- Ensuring staff are adequately trained in the implementation of plans and understand their responsibility
- Working towards maintaining continuity of support for each of our participants during a disaster.
- Involving emergency services if critical supports are needed and not able to be provided by the organisation in a safe way.
- Reporting any incidents to regulatory bodies if required. (*see policy 8.9 Incident Management*)