

## **Emergency and Disaster Management Plan Participant Information**

### **What is an emergency or natural disaster?**

It is a significant disruption in usual services (such as hospitals, banks or shops) and infrastructure (such as water, electricity or roads).

It could include (but is not limited to) bushfires, pandemics such as COVID-19, flooding etc.

These situations can happen without warning and place people who are vulnerable, such as people with a disability, at risk of harm. The best time to plan for what to do in an emergency is before it happens.

### **What is an emergency and disaster management plan?**

This is a plan about what you will do in emergency to ensure you stay safe. This plan will be completed as part of your Individual Participant Support Plan document and reviewed every 12 months or at each service agreement renewal.

This includes how you will continue to be cared for if your usual supports (such as help for showering) are disrupted. For example, you may have a trusted person who can help you or you may need to plan to transfer to hospital. How would your pets be cared for? How would you take your medications?

Please refer to the Red Cross website for some further information. <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare/>

There are some useful resources on the Australian Red Cross website including a plan template called *Rediplan*. This helps to prompt some different areas to think about with your family and supports.

<https://www.redcross.org.au/globalassets/cms-assets/documents/emergency-services/rediplan-lite-interactive.pdf>

Please speak to your Support Coordinator if you do not already have a plan in place.

### **Can I still get Bethlehem NDIS Provider Services in an emergency?**

If you are in an emergency, you or your trusted person will need to let us know that your plan is activated.

Depending on the situation and type of emergency, the urgency of the service will be considered and urgent support will be provided in an appropriate way, such as through telehealth, phone or email. If a visit must be face to face, an individualised plan will be made if appropriate and is able to manage the risk to Bethlehem workers.

### **What other resources are available?**

- Download the Vic Emergency App or view online for up to date notifications about warnings in your area: <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>
- If you live alone, you may consider registering for the Vulnerable Persons register through your local council or police station.

For further information or to ask any questions, please contact the NDIS Coordinator on 9595 3230 or [BethlehemNDIS@calvarycare.org.au](mailto:BethlehemNDIS@calvarycare.org.au)