**Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning Workshop Video Transcript**

<on screen and audio> Tweed Shire Council logo

<text on screen and audio> Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning Workshop

Bundjalung Country, Tweed Heads, 28 June, 2023

<text on screen and audio> A research project led by University of Sydney

The university of Sydney logo

<text on screen and audio> Hosted by Tweed Shire Council

Facilitated by Chief Investigator

Associate Professor Michell Villeneuve

<Music>

<Audio by Associate Professor Michelle Villeneuve - Centre for Disability Research & Policy, University of Sydney>

Audio: This study really is about asking the hard question what do we do to keep people with disability at the center of the emergency planning process So they're active participants in the preparedness process, but at the same time, how do we support their rights to protection and safety when there are gaps that put them at risk?

We need to do that on an individual level, but we also need to do it on a whole of community level.

<Audio by: Councillor Meredith Dennis - Deputy Mayor, Tweed Shire Council >

Tweed Shire has a huge population of people that live disability and also we have a very large population and so we really need to look after those people. And I think today we were getting everybody together looking at policy, planning for the future and planning for the next disaster.

it's a very scary time for an able body person and certainly for a person with a disability, it would be terrifying.

<Audio by: Pat Miller - Chair, Tweed Equal Access Advisory Committee>

This workshop is particularly useful in terms of pulling together an entire gamut of people from both emergency services.

The disability sector and people who support the disability sector to look at how disaster response can be most effective.

<Audio by: Suzanne Hudson – Tweed Access Advisory Committee member/Blind Citizens Australia, Tweed Branch>

I think workshops been great. It's been very informative so far.

The fact that we can communicate with each other is wonderful.

As someone with a disability, I always say God bless me with a big mouth and I not how to use it. A lot of people are embarrassed about their disability. They are isolated. They don't get their stories out there. They don't get heard. They're the people that I'm concerned about.

<Audio by: Kyle Sculley - Tweed Equal Access Advisory Committee member>

It was a lot seeing Murwillumbah and like, the surrounding communities and what they had to go through, and then COVID.

It's just a lot of stuff has come at us over the past couple of years, It's just really nice to chat with everybody and learn about them and their life experience

<Audio by: Giselle Benitez Hetherington – Community Officer Inclusion, Tweed Shire Council>

The latest ABS census data tells us that there are over 17,000 people with disability in the Tweed. Many of those disabilities are not apparent and quite invisible.

About 7200 people need assistance in their daily lives.

So today's workshop outcomes will help us learn how to deliver information in a better way.

<Audio by Saira-Jane Booler – early Childhood Facilitator >

So when I came today, I actually thought that might not be relevant to my space, but I actually saw so many opportunities for me to go back into my space, which is the early childhood approach, and to start educating children, because I think it's at that level that we need to start when we're thinking about like disasters and helping one another and empathy and awareness.

<Audio by Inspector Jack Frost - Murwillumbah Unit Commander, NSW State Emergency Service>

People need to be aware that emergency services won't be there instantaneously. There's not a fire truck for every house, there's not a flood boat for every person.

So they really do have to know the risk in the particular area that they're living in and have a plan to counter that risk.

<Audio by Judi S – Local Area Coordinator, Social Futures>

But I'll be checking back today is that we really, really do need to make sure that people are correctly connected with their informal community supports because mainstream supports and services don't have the resources to assist everyone for a major emergency. It may just be, you know, saying, get out on the street or dropping in if they know there's a flood coming or fire or, shortage of groceries, the people in your community can actually provide the support that you need. They just need to know you need it.

<Audio by: Kyle Sculley - Tweed Equal Access Advisory Committee member>

Hopefully helping as many people as we can with all the info that comes out of today.

<Audio by: Associate Professor Michelle Villeneuve>

Go to collaborating for inclusion dot org is your first stop because we make all the tools that we co-create with communities available to everyone there. So please look for it there.

<On screen> collaborating4inclusion.org

Watch a video, look at an infographic, read a case study. Whatever media is your sort of favourite option, including a few podcasts and other media on there, go have a look.

Go to your local government site, go to their dashboards, their emergency management page, their community engagement page, and look for the links there.

<On screen> emergency.tweed.nsw.gov.au

<Audio by: Councillor Meredith Dennis>

Everybody seems to have forgotten. People move into the area and can't believe there's been a flood. And those of us there remember what it was like and how quickly it can happen. So, it's all about being prepared.

<Audio by: Associate Professor Michelle Villeneuve>

I hope the people that come here today will really not only understand, but really feel that by being involved in this research, their voice will be heard at the local community level by their local government at the state level, by our state emergency management planners and our funder, the New South Wales Government.

But also at a national level. This is actually part of an Australian Research Council funded project that's happening in partnership across Australia with numerous emergency management agencies and the Commonwealth Government is listening to the results of this project.

<on screen and audio> The Tweed workshop is one of many taking place in local government areas across NSW and other jurisdictions.

Findings will inform the development of a Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Framework for Collaborative Action.

That Framework will provide methods, tools, and guidance for disability inclusive emergency planning and practices that leave nobody behind.

<On screen> Tweed Shire Council logo

<On screen and audio> This workshop event was hosted by Tweed Shire Council in partnership with University of Sydney and supported with funding from the Australian Research Council, NSW government, and the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation NSW Government.