

INCLUSION IS PREPAREDNESS

WHAKAMANAWA 2026
SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 25 2026

Prudence Walker – Disability Rights Commissioner



Te Kāhui Tika Tangata
Human Rights Commission





Emergency Management and Human Rights

Broad Mandate to promote and protection Human Rights

Build understanding of the Human Rights Dimensions of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- Right to Life
- Freedom from Discrimination
- CRPD Article 11 Humanitarian Risk and Emergency
- UNDRIP Article 4 Self Determination in local affairs



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Emergency Management Act



Emergency Management Act 2026

Public Act 2026 No 53
Date of assent 3 September 2026
Commencement see section 2



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Disproportionately Affected Communities (DAC)

DAC “likely to be significantly more affected and because it is significantly more affected, ... likely to have increased vulnerabilities or specific needs during and after an emergency.

Children in households with a disabled person (child or adult) 4.5 time more likely to be in severe material hardship.

Employment gap for disabled people of 45.5% (35.8% employed vs 81.3% and 17.0% unemployed vs 5.6%)

Lack of access to information, lack of accessible evacuation options, and relocation options

It's all about relationships

Engagement with tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people

Engagement with Emergency Management Agencies

Engagement with tangata whenua

Brokering engagement between disabled people and emergency management agencies

Developing resources to support conversations and change.



Set of resources

- *A Call to Action

- *Evidence Guide

- *Case Study Whirinaki



Framing conversations about active engagement with tangata whenua and disabled people



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Inclusion is preparedness

A call to action

Partner with tangata whenua and
disabled people for an Emergency
Management system we can all rely on

Aimed at Emergency Management Practitioners:

Evidence for the
Effectiveness of
following our
Human Rights and
Te Tiriti based
recommendations

Inclusion is preparedness

Evidence guide

Effectively partner with disabled people,
tāngata whaikaha Māori and iwi for an
Emergency Management system we can
all rely on

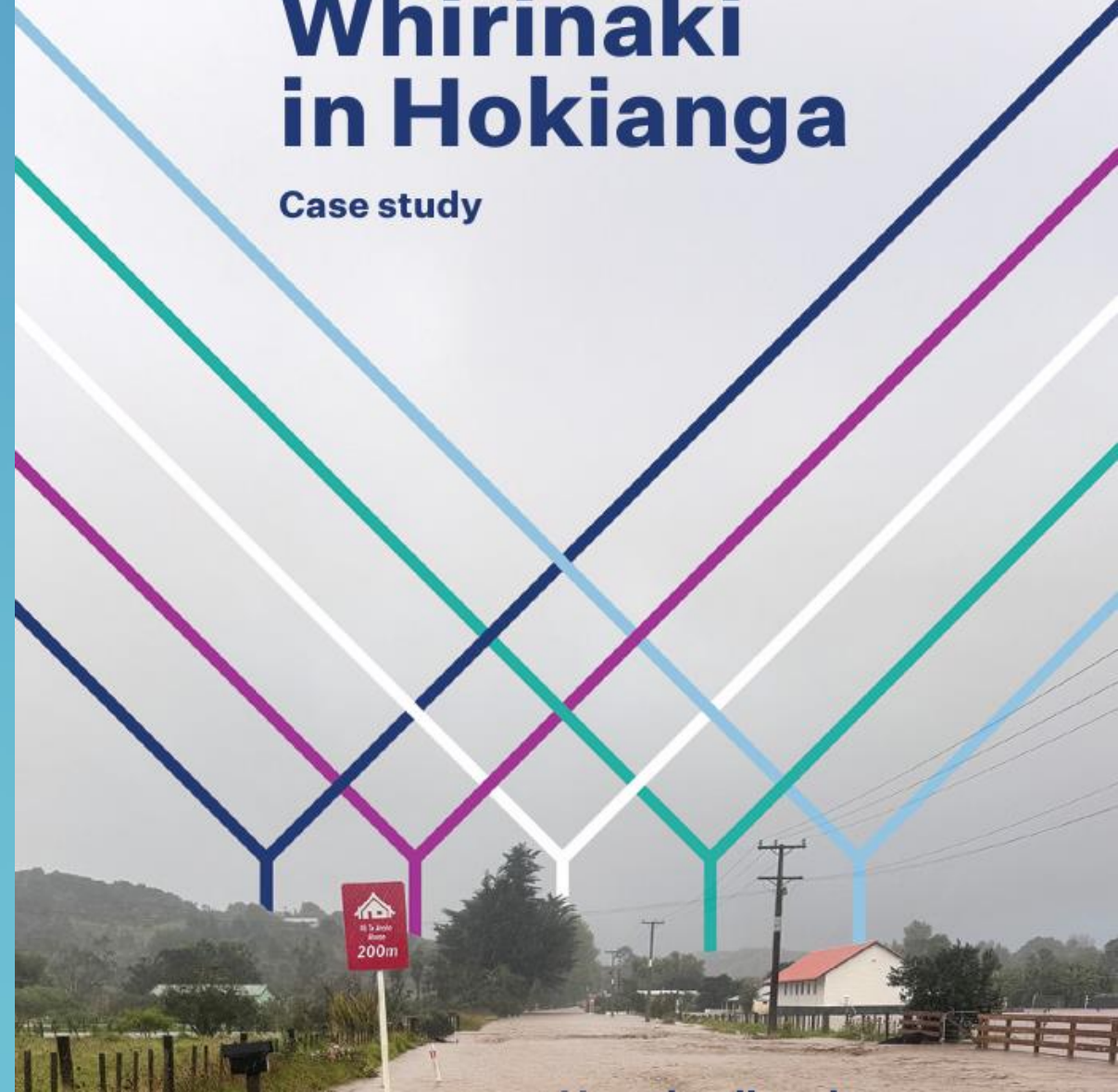
Hapū leading the way for community inclusive Emergency Management



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Whirinaki in Hokianga

Case study



Questions and discussion

1. How do you think your service could contribute ? E.g.

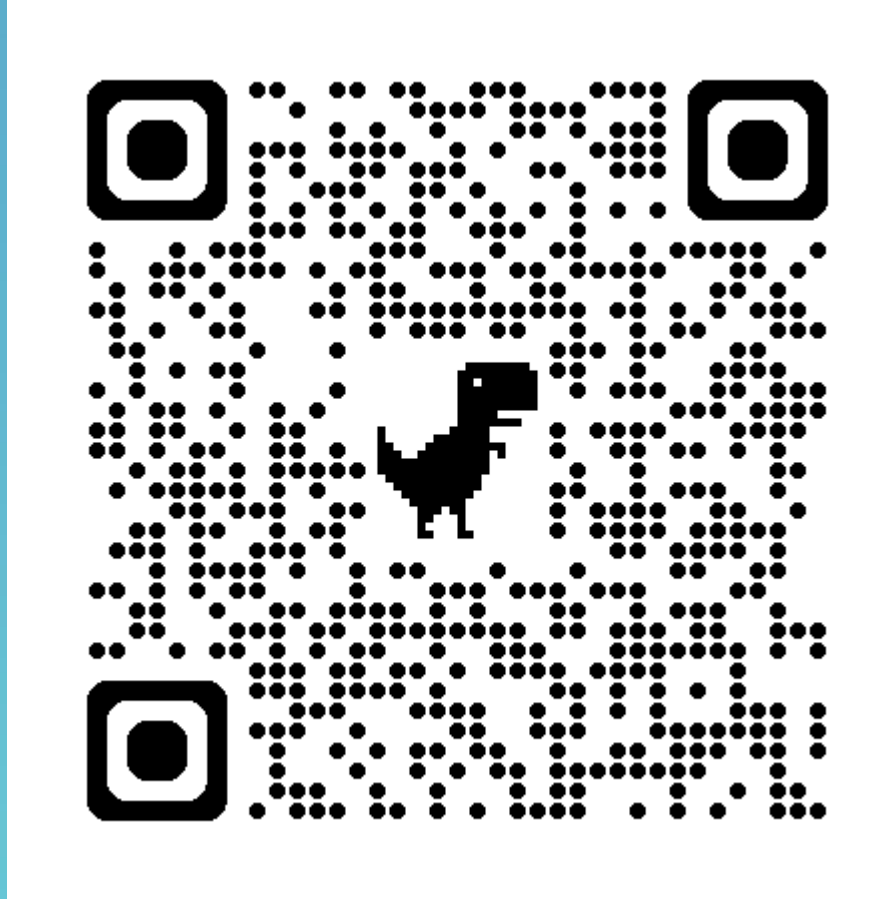
- to addressing the barriers that disabled people face, or
- advocating for the active involvement of tangata whenua and disabled people ?
- sharing the resources?

2. What if any barriers are there to how you could help/help more?

(write down for me to gather up)



For more info



<https://tikatangata.org.nz/our-work/inclusive-emergency-management>



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