

Introduction to disaster resilience education for young people

Speed read

- Children and young people play a critical role in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Disaster resilience education (DRE) equips children and young people with the skills and confidence to take protective actions before, during and after an emergency or disaster.
- DRE is provided in both formal learning settings and informal learning settings.

Key points

Children and young people have unique capabilities to help protect themselves and their communities from the impacts of natural hazards. Providing them with knowledge, skills and opportunities to share their learning and take action enables them to contribute positively to the safety and resilience of people, places and the natural environment.

Child-centred disaster risk reduction is a key concept where children are recognised as active citizens whose perspectives, ideas, knowledge and active participation can contribute meaningfully before, during and after disasters.

The benefits of DRE for children and young people, their families and communities include:

- increased awareness of local hazards and disaster risks
- increased levels of household planning and preparedness
- increased capacity for effective emergency response
- reduced hazard and disaster-related worries and fears
- increased confidence to take action to reduce disaster risk
- enhanced leadership and communication skills.

DRE programs can be successfully developed across multiple learning settings e.g. curriculum-based, play-based, inquiry and project based, STEM and outdoor learning.

Programs can be supported by a variety of stakeholders and learning partners e.g. educators in schools and early learning settings and organisations such as emergency services and non-government organisations.

Three important components of effective DRE implementation are:

1. educator training
2. provision of support networks
3. ability to tap into young people's learning modes.

Quick Guide



Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency



Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience

Take action

- Download or print the *Principles of Disaster Resilience Education for Young People Quick Guide* (AIDR 2021).
- Check out AIDR's [Education for Young People website](#) where you can learn more about DRE, find educator resources, ways to connect and collaborate and see DRE in action.
- See how disaster resilience education fits into the [Australian Curriculum 9.0](#).

More information

- [Disaster Resilience Education for Young People](#) (AIDR 2021)
- [Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [Our World, Our Say Report](#) (2020)
- [Child-centred disaster risk reduction](#) (BNHCRC)
- [Comprehensive School Safety Framework](#) (2022)
- [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)
- [The Alice Springs \(Mparntwe\) Education Declaration](#) (2019)
- [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#) (2018)
- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (2015–2030)