

Delegate access guide

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

AFAC acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and learn, and Māori, as the Tāngata Whenua and Treaty of Waitangi partners in Aotearoa New Zealand. We pay our respects to their ancestors and Elders – both past and present.

Welcome

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) looks forward to welcoming delegates, presenters, and exhibitors to the 2026 Australian Disaster Resilience Conference (ADRC26).

This purpose of this guide is to provide accessibility and inclusion information to help all delegates enjoy their time at the 2026 Australian Disaster Resilience Conference (ADRC26).

Before you arrive

We encourage delegates to plan their conference experience to maximise comfort, access, and participation.

Before attending ADRC26, you may wish to:

- Review the conference program and venue maps to familiarise yourself with available facilities, and distances between locations
- Allow extra time between sessions, particularly if you use mobility aids, fatigue easily, or prefer quieter routes through the venue
- Consider your individual access needs in relation to crowds, noise, lighting, and sensory environments

Delegates are welcome to indicate their accessibility or inclusion requirements during the conference registration process. Requests made early will assist organisers to plan appropriate support where possible.

If you would like to discuss your access needs confidentially before the conference, please contact AIDR via enquiries@aidr.org.au or via the [Contact Us](#) form on the AIDR website.

ADRC26 delegate pass inclusions

- ADRC26, WAFA26 and IFE26 are smaller conferences that run alongside AFAC26

- The conference you register for will determine which conference streams are included in your conference registration. An ADRC26 Conference Pass provides access to the two conference streams organised by AIDR and does not include other conference streams
- All registered delegates are welcome to attend the Exhibition Hall and Plenary Sessions and access shared venue facilities

General conference information

- The conference environment includes varying noise levels, bright lighting, and high-sensory activity. Delegates are welcome to move in and out of sessions, use sensory supports, and take breaks as needed
- All delegates are welcome to attend Plenary sessions and visit the Exhibition Hall. Plenary sessions are likely to attract large audiences
- Several thousand people will attend the conference venue during conference week

Navigating the conference

- The venue is large, and travelling between session rooms and the Exhibition Hall may take extra time
- Allow extra time between sessions, wear comfortable shoes, and plan rest breaks
- Expect crowds and plan for this by allowing time to navigate the venue
- Refreshment and lunch will be available at the Catering Stations in the Exhibition Hall
- Delegates who indicated their dietary requirements during registration will have a special icon on their delegate pass. Please go to the clearly signed dietary requirements catering stations
- Bring your own water bottle to refill in the Exhibition Hall or throughout the venue
- Use your program booklet or conference app to plan your conference experience

Plenary sessions

- All delegates are welcome to attend Plenary sessions
- The keynote sessions in the Plenary are likely to attract large audiences
- Open captioning will be displayed on screens during all sessions and in the Plenary

- There will be Auslan interpreters in keynote sessions. Requests for Auslan interpreting will be considered where possible, subject to availability
- Arrive a few minutes early for each session so you can choose where you want to sit
- Delegates are welcome to move, stand, leave and re-enter sessions as needed
- Seating arrangements can accommodate mobility aids and companions if requested
- Delegates with access requirements are asked to seek guidance from the venue staff about the best door to use to access suitable seating

Conference stream rooms

- The conference you register for will determine which conference streams are included in your conference registration
- There will be open captioning during all sessions
- Speak to a staff member if you have specific seating and access requirements

Sunflower room

- All delegates are welcome to access the Sunflower Room if they need a quiet space
- Ask venue staff, conference staff, or volunteers if you need help locating the Sunflower Room
- Delegates are welcome to wear their Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyard

Assistive technology and accessibility aids

- You are welcome to bring and use loop earplugs, fidget aids and other personal supports
- Assisted hearing services are available within the venue. Please refer to the MCEC accessibility information or speak with venue staff for assistance on the day

Exhibition hall

- All delegates are welcome to visit the Exhibition Hall. Access is via Door 6
- Visitors who park in the accessible car parking spaces at the venue can take the nearby elevator to Door 6 to access the Exhibition Hall

- The Exhibition Hall can be a crowded and noisy space
- Note that seating in the Exhibition Hall is limited

Conference catering

- Catering for conference delegates will be available in the Exhibition Hall
- Morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea will be provided in the Exhibition Hall
- Refer to the conference program for break times
- Refreshment and lunch will be available at the Catering Stations in the Exhibition Hall
- Delegates who indicated their dietary requirements during registration will have a special icon on their delegate pass. Please go to the clearly signed dietary requirements catering stations
- Bring your own water bottle to refill in the Exhibition Hall or throughout the venue

Who to ask if you need assistance at the conference

- Registration desk, Customer Service desk, and venue staff
- Conference staff and volunteers
- Other delegates

Venue information

- Explore the [Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre website](#) for accessibility information and maps
- The [MCEC accessibility information and map](#) shows you where you can:

Locate:

- Charging stations
- Mobility Aid Charging Stations
- Cloak room
- Changing places
- Prayer room
- Wi-Fi
- Toilets

Find out more about:

- Assistance animals
- Assisted hearing
- Hidden Disabilities
- Vision impairment
- Wheelchair access and hire
- Wide and accessible seating
- BINS4Blokes

Downloadable venue map

[Downloadable MCEC venue map](#)

Transport information

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre provides [transport information to the venue](#).

This page features an interactive map that displays information about travel by car, train, tram, bus, bicycle, taxi or rideshare, and from the airport

Assistance animals

Assistance animals are welcome within the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in accordance with venue policy. Assistance animals are permitted in conference rooms, the Exhibition Hall, and other public areas of the venue.

For information about assistance animal access and facilities, including animal relief areas, please refer to the MCEC accessibility information or speak with venue staff on arrival.

Enquiries

Contact AIDR

if you would like a confidential discussion about your specific accessibility requirements at [contact us](#) or enquiries@aidr.org.au

Contact the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC)

(+61) 03 9235 8000

www.mcec.com.au