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TITLE: Natural disasters, young people, and social inequality

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There is increasing evidence from so called 'natural' disasters in Australia and elsewhere in the world that pre-existing inequalities and social and economic divisions are amplified by such disasters and their 'after shocks' in the form of administrative inertia, job losses, insurance refusals and poverty. While much of this mayhem may belong to the world of adults, the plight of children and young people is far less well documented and considered.

In much of the current literature dealing with resources for children and young people at times of a range of disasters and emergency situations, little provision is made or envisioned for disabled and socially excluded or marginalized children and young people. This paper emerges from a project to undertake a critical review of the field of literature with the intention of identifying the quality and scope of existing provision and where this might be enhanced in order to properly include disabled and marginalized children and young people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The expected outcomes will be the identification of resources required to be developed, with a view to seek further research funding to draft and test these through fieldwork.