Reducing bushfire risk to vulnerable community members through Health and Community Service agencies

A business continuity approach
Australian Statistics - Disability

One in five people are living with a disability

(18.3%)
One in seven people are aged 65 years and over (15.1%)

– Majority of those live in households (94.8%)
– In 2015, 50.7% of older people were living with disability

Source: 2015 ABS Data
What impact do bushfires have?

Victorian Bushfires 2009

– 173 people died
– 16% aged 70 or over
– 28% aged between 55 - 69
At-Risk Program and its Challenges

- Face to face workshop
- Online training module
Industry Challenges

- Introduction of Consumer Direct Care
  State → Commonwealth funding (NDIS)
- Limited funding to cover attending staff
- Time poor service providers
- Training raises more questions than answers
- Not everything is relevant
Business Continuity Framework

Industry Partnerships

Upper Management
Bushfire Risk Awareness

At Risk Managers and Carers
Education and Preparedness

Follow up Conversations
What’s in it for the care industry

BUSHFIRE RESPONSE FOR IN-HOME CLIENTS
A Guide for Health and Community Service Agencies

Bushfires can start suddenly and without warning.

This guideline provides instructions to Health and Community Service Agencies providing care, support and assistance to those Western Australians who are aged or living with a disability in their own homes.

The guide assists agencies to adopt and embed policies that help their Agency to prepare and respond to bushfire emergencies affecting their Direct Care Workers and in-home clients.

Government of Western Australia Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Thank you!

Questions?