

## Mapping Vulnerability

Most Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMP) include basic Australian Bureau of Statistics data – Language Spoken at Home, Households without Access to a Motor Vehicle, Need for Assistance with Core Day to Day Activities - to highlight areas of possible vulnerability in a region.

The Northern Rivers CSDC Team noted that this type of data as it appeared in the Northern Rivers LEMP did not provide a detailed picture of what vulnerabilities may exist and in which locations. With the assistance of Southern Cross University students, ABS data was gathered to provide a detailed view of possible vulnerabilities and vulnerable locations. The data collected included:

- Population
- Dwellings
- Children 0-14
- Youth 15-24
- Elderly 65+
- Household Income (weekly)
- Indigenous
- 2 or more long term health conditions
- Mental health
- Single or lone person household
- Renting
- Not in the workforce
- Unemployed
- Dwelling with no registered motor vehicle
- Non English language used at home
- Disability

This data was then presented visually, giving a clear indication of vulnerability against geographic location - Disaster-related vulnerabilities in Kyogle, Lismore and Richmond Valley LGAs (2021 ABS Census), [www.floodhelpnr.com.au/disaster-ready-together](http://www.floodhelpnr.com.au/disaster-ready-together). This data has now been incorporated into the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) and other council plans. Local NGOs also found the data useful for planning service delivery.

The next steps? Emergency Management and local NGOs working with communities identified as vulnerable in the data to define strengths, capabilities and needs to form the basis of future emergency planning.

### ***Understanding Disaster Risk***

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction **Understanding disaster risk: foundational concepts and principles**, [www.preventionweb.net/understanding-disaster-risk](http://www.preventionweb.net/understanding-disaster-risk).