



Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Policy review of the impact of the Hazelwood mine fire on older people



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Presentation overview

- Older people stream team members
- Aim of the project stream
- Research completed to date
- Next steps

Older people stream team members



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Aim of the Older people stream

- The aim of this component of the Hazelwood Health Study was to assess the impact of the smoke event on older people, focusing particularly on a review of the policy decisions made with respect to older people during the event.
- The objective was to inform best practice for future emergency events.



Research completed to date

- The stream took a qualitative approach involving:
 - Focus group and interviews with over 90 older community members.
 - Interviews with 17 service providers and decision makers that supported them during the smoke event.
 - Compilation of a detailed chronology of the event, highlighting those specifically related to older people.
 - Review of the literature on older people & disasters.
 - Review of relevant policy documentation at the time & following the event.
- Note - assessment of the health impacts on older people will be undertaken as part of the Adult Survey analyses.



Next steps

- Data collection and analysis has been completed and a full report will be finalised by the end of this month and made available to community members along with a brief summary report – both will be available on our website.
- A policy brief will be prepared, which we hope will inform future responses to emergency events.
- The team will communicate the findings to the research participants and community groups and the broader community.