



Seniors Social Isolation (SSI) Provider Network

Minutes of Meeting – BOM Webinar

SENIORS SOCIAL ISOLATION PREVENTION PEAK

Meeting Details

Date	Wednesday 22 October 2025
Time	10.00am – 11.15am
Topic	Know Your Weather, Know Your Risks
Location	Online via Zoom
Hosted by	Council on the Ageing Queensland and the Bureau of Meteorology
COTA Qld Host	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Wilson, Executive Officer, Seniors Social Isolation Peak Services Program, Council on the Ageing Queensland
Guest speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven Vickery, Community Engagement Lead, Queensland, Disability and Age (National), Bureau of Meteorology • Felim Hanniffy, Seniors Meteorologist, Bureau of Meteorology • Morgan Pumpa, Acting Queensland Community Engagement Lead, Bureau of Meteorology (over next 4 weeks in Steve's absence)
Recording	https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7H9dHDGrnCS3SbioAMHrudgCYsYa09YzT5G0WvJqLm9sG9oJ3TEzGynNA7xm-AAAd.h6JVObfIS2EJpzjc

Attendance

SSI funded organisations (n = 8)

FNQ

- **Alitia Twist**, Torres Strait Older Persons Program - Thursday Island, Mura Kosker Sorority Inc
- **Kim Neil**, Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre - Seniors Service – Ingham, Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre Inc.
- **Tracey**, Uniting Care (Cairns)

Central Queensland

- **Jean Williams**, Barcaldine 60 & Better, Barcaldine Regional Council

SWQ

- **Carole Labram**, Somerset Seniors Connect, Somerset Regional Council
- **Lyn Buchanan**, Somerset Seniors Connect, Somerset Regional Council

Brisbane & SEQ

- **Jenny Reid**, Older Persons Action Program, Encircle Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre

North Coast Queensland

- **Shirley Hammill**, Pets for Life Program, Caloundra Community Centre

Others (n = 2)

- **John** (tbc)

Discussion Points by Agenda Item

	Agenda Item and Key Discussion	Actions
1	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgements – Karen Wilson (5.00 mins)</p> <p>Karen acknowledged the Turrbal and Jagera peoples, the Traditional Custodians of Meanjin (Brisbane), paying respect to Elders past and present and extending that respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander attendees.</p> <p>Karen encouraged participants to introduce themselves by typing their name, program, and the country they’re joining from in the chat.</p> <p>Karen introduced Steve Vickery, Community Engagement Lead, Queensland, Disability and Age (National), Bureau of Meteorology to introduce himself and the team and lead the session.</p>	
2	<p>Community Preparedness Overview – Steve Vickery (6:00 mins)</p> <p>The session is part of the Community Preparedness Program run annually before the high-risk weather season.</p> <p>The goal is to fill gaps in community outreach by the Bureau's standard services, especially targeting sectors at higher risk from severe weather.</p> <p>Acknowledgment of the connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the land and their traditional weather knowledge.</p> <p>The importance of recognising age and isolation, particularly among older Queenslanders is emphasised.</p> <p>The aim is to destigmatise isolation and enhance health and safety for all Queenslanders.</p>	
3	<p>Weather Outlook and Risks – Phelan Hanniffy (10:34 mins)</p> <p>Phelan, a senior meteorologist, will provide the seasonal outlook, including rainfall and temperature forecasts. The presentation will cover risks such as flooding and extreme temperatures, which are significant for older Australians. Plan to provide a PDF copy of the presentation and other resources in a post-session pack.</p> <p>The session is designed to encourage questions and interactions, allowing for a Q&A at the end.</p> <p>Seasonal Forecast Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The year-to-date has shown strong wet signals, particularly in Northern, Western, and Southeast Queensland. • Notable rain events included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alford Cyclone causing significant rainfall in the Southeast. • Three major rain events led to record rainfall in some areas. • The last three months have seen drying conditions, particularly in the Southeast. • Dams are reported as healthy due to previous rainfall; most are above 80% capacity. 	

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<p>Climate Drivers and Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current climate drivers include La Niña and the Indian Ocean Dipole, both favouring above-average moisture for Queensland. • The likelihood of unusually wet conditions is significantly elevated, particularly in Northern Queensland. • A potential flood risk exists due to saturated soils and above-average rainfall predicted for the upcoming months. • Extreme heat is also a concern, with predictions of above-average maximum and minimum temperatures. <p>Tropical Cyclone and Storm Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland's tropical cyclone season runs from November to April, peaking from February to April. • Last year had below-average cyclones, but one significant storm impacted the region. • Warm sea temperatures pose a risk for more severe cyclonic activity this season. • Bushfires are a potential concern due to grass growth from previous wet conditions, followed by dryness. <p>Key Takeaways – Steve Vickery (27:01 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary risks for the upcoming season are related to flooding and extreme heat. • Weather conditions can be unpredictable, and significant events may not always be captured in long-range forecasts. • Importance of preparedness and community resilience highlighted throughout the session. <p>Key Takeaways on Weather Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long-range forecast indicates that flood and extreme heat are the primary risks this season. • Queensland experiences a variety of hazards; weather can be unexpected and varies yearly. • Long-range forecasts provide an outlook but do not capture individual severe events, which can still occur. • Stay prepared for all hazards relevant to your area, as severe weather does not plan ahead. • The bureau provides essential weather information and advice to help communities prepare for these risks. <p>Bureau's Weather Hazards and Warnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bureau monitors eight key hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storms • Flooding • Tropical cyclones 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal hazards • Heat/Heat wave • Fire weather • Drought • Dust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bureau collaborates with partner agencies like Queensland Health for heat warnings and the Queensland Fire Department for fire-related alerts. • Local councils play a critical role in disseminating real-time data and information for community safety. <p>Weather Information Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bureau utilises extensive infrastructure across Australia to gather monitored and observed data for weather forecasting. • This data informs models that produce forecasts, assessing hazards, and determining risks. • Community warnings are communicated through the BOM app, which is central to safety decisions. • Feedback from the community is encouraged to improve the effectiveness of warnings and alerts. <p>Forecast and Observation Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bureau offers a variety of forecast products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current forecasts • Hourly forecasts • 7-day forecasts • Long-range forecasts • Additional tools include rain radars, weather maps, and specialized forecasts for coasts, oceans, and specific hazards like tropical cyclones. • Knowledge centres on the new website provide detailed information on various weather hazards, catering to different audience levels. • Warnings and alerts issued by the bureau help save lives and property by providing critical information about significant weather events. <p>Understanding Warnings and Alerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warnings are categorised into watch and warning phases, indicating preparation and action levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch: Broad area, early advice (1-4 days before impact). • Warning: Specific location, urgent action needed (within 6 hours before impact). 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key types of warnings include severe weather alerts, thunderstorms, coastal hazards, flooding, heat waves, and fire warnings. <p>Severe Thunderstorm Warnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four conditions must be met for issuing a severe thunderstorm warning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hailstones of 2 cm or larger • Wind gusts exceeding 90 km/h • Heavy rainfall causing flash flooding • Existence of tornadoes • If none of these conditions are present, a severe thunderstorm warning cannot be issued. <p>Fire Weather and Bushfire Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire danger ratings are assessed in collaboration with the Queensland Fire Department using the Australian fire danger rating system. • Daily fire danger ratings help the public make informed decisions regarding bushfire plans. • The bureau issues fire weather warnings, focusing on conditions that may lead to fire risks, whereas the fire department issues warnings for active fires <p>Australian Warning System Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australian warning system is a non-bureau product used by emergency services to maintain consistency in community advice. • It is developed to standardise emergency communication across different states while being informed by the bureau's data and forecasts. <p>Flood Risks and Types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding is defined as water extending over normally dry land, with significant risks during warmer months. • Flash flooding can occur from short bursts of heavy rain, often exacerbated by urban drainage limitations. • Riverine flooding happens when rivers overflow, affecting large areas for extended periods, typically caused by heavy rainfall or other natural events like king tides. <p>Preparation for Flooding and Weather Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's crucial to understand local flood risks, as flooding can vary greatly by location and year. • Community resources, such as local council websites, can provide valuable information about historical flood patterns and potential overland flow paths. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always stay updated with weather alerts and learn about nearby river systems and their behaviour during rain events. <p>Flood Warning System Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bureau is part of a national flood warning system with responsibilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather and water observations. • Modelling flood scenarios. • Providing information to dam operators and decision-making authorities. • Reviewing and testing infrastructure. • Local governments are responsible for issuing flash flood warnings due to the localised nature of flash flooding, which can occur rapidly (within six hours). • The bureau supports local councils with rainfall data but does not issue the warnings directly. • Residents are encouraged to check local government websites for up-to-date information on flooding. <p>Preparation Before and During a Flood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarise yourself with local catchments and waterways. • Know your local emergency service agencies and how to contact them. • Share resources and contact details with family, neighbours, and community members. • Stay updated with notifications and warnings specific to your forecast district by visiting the bureau's website. • Local councils have effective dashboards for monitoring conditions and warnings. <p>Role of the Bureau and NGOs in Emergency Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bureau serves as an information provider and does not respond directly to emergencies. • Notable NGO collaboration includes Disaster Relief Australia, which conducts preparedness programs, including large-scale mapping exercises for community engagement. • These maps help residents identify critical services and understand the potential impact of flooding on their day-to-day lives. <p>Understanding Flood Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's important to consider not just personal property but also access to essential services during a flood. • Mapping exercises help communities visualise flood risks beyond their homes, such as bridges and essential infrastructure. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a preparedness plan in place not only for flooding at home but also for scenarios where access to essential services is cut off. <p>Heat Wave Awareness and Warnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bureau defines a heat wave as three or more days of unusually high temperatures for a specific location. • Heat wave warnings come in three levels: low intensity, severe, and extreme, depending on the duration and intensity of heat conditions. • Collaboration with Queensland Health is crucial for advising residents on staying safe during extreme heat. <p>Organizations for Heat Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweltering Cities works on practical solutions to mitigate heat effects, especially for vulnerable populations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy efforts include lobbying for more shade in public spaces. • They provide tips for dealing with heat and protecting vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly or those with disabilities. <p>Nighttime Temperature Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High nighttime temperatures can exacerbate heat illnesses; it's essential to monitor them. • Recommendations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning on air conditioning earlier than needed. • Closing blinds to keep homes cool during the night. • Encourage community members, especially vulnerable individuals, to check in on one another during extreme heat conditions. <p>Heat Watch App and BOM App</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Heat Watch app allows users to input personal health information and receives tailored heat risk assessments and mitigation suggestions. • The BOM app provides trusted weather services; users should input their location to receive relevant notifications. • It is advisable to select specific hazard alerts that are relevant to your area to avoid notification fatigue. <p>New Bureau Website Launch and Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bureau's new website aims to improve accessibility and user navigation based on user feedback. • Users are encouraged to explore the new site and provide feedback for further improvements. • A document will be sent out with navigation tips and useful links. 	

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<p>Community Engagement and Follow-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of disseminating information about severe weather preparedness to the community is emphasised. • Organizations are encouraged to provide resources to seniors and those in isolated positions. • A follow-up session may be organized to address feedback and questions about the new website and weather preparedness. 	
<p>5 Q&A (1 hour, 07 mins)</p> <p>No questions, but Karen invited participants to share any questions after the webinar via email: karen.wilson@cotaqld.org.au Karen will collate and forward to Morgan for a response.</p>	
<p>8 Next Steps</p> <p>Steve to send pdf documents for circulation Karen to circulate the Zoom recording to the SSI Network and forward to Morgan.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Bureau of Meteorology - New </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Knowledge Centres - One Pager.png </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  New website - One Pager.png </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  BoM App - One Pager.png </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">  COTA - CPP Presentation - Final </div> <p>End of recording (1:13:46)</p>	

Prepared by: Karen Wilson, Executive Officer, Seniors Social Isolation Peak Services Program, Council on the Ageing Queensland. M. 0484 023 614 (M-Th) E. karen.wilson@cotaqld.org.au