



RESILIENCE
TO NATURE'S
CHALLENGES

Kia manawaroa –
Ngā Ākina o
Te Ao Tūroa



THE UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau
NEW ZEALAND




VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

Social Vulnerability in Disasters

Who is being left out of our efforts to prepare for disasters?

Dr Denise Blake, Dr Shiloh Groot, Melanie Roundhill, Vy Tran, Anne Rijnink, Tycho Vandenburg

September 15 2022



***I AM TOO BUSY
PAYING OFF
SOMEONE ELSE'S
MORTGAGE TO
PREPARE FOR AN
EARTHQUAKE***

MELANIE ROUNDILL

Supervisors: Dr Denise Blake and Dr Shiloh Groot

The Population

Low income

- Struggle to afford day to day supplies
- Unable to afford to purchase a house
- Go without necessities to afford rent

Renting

- Housing instability and insecurity
- Constrained by renting rules

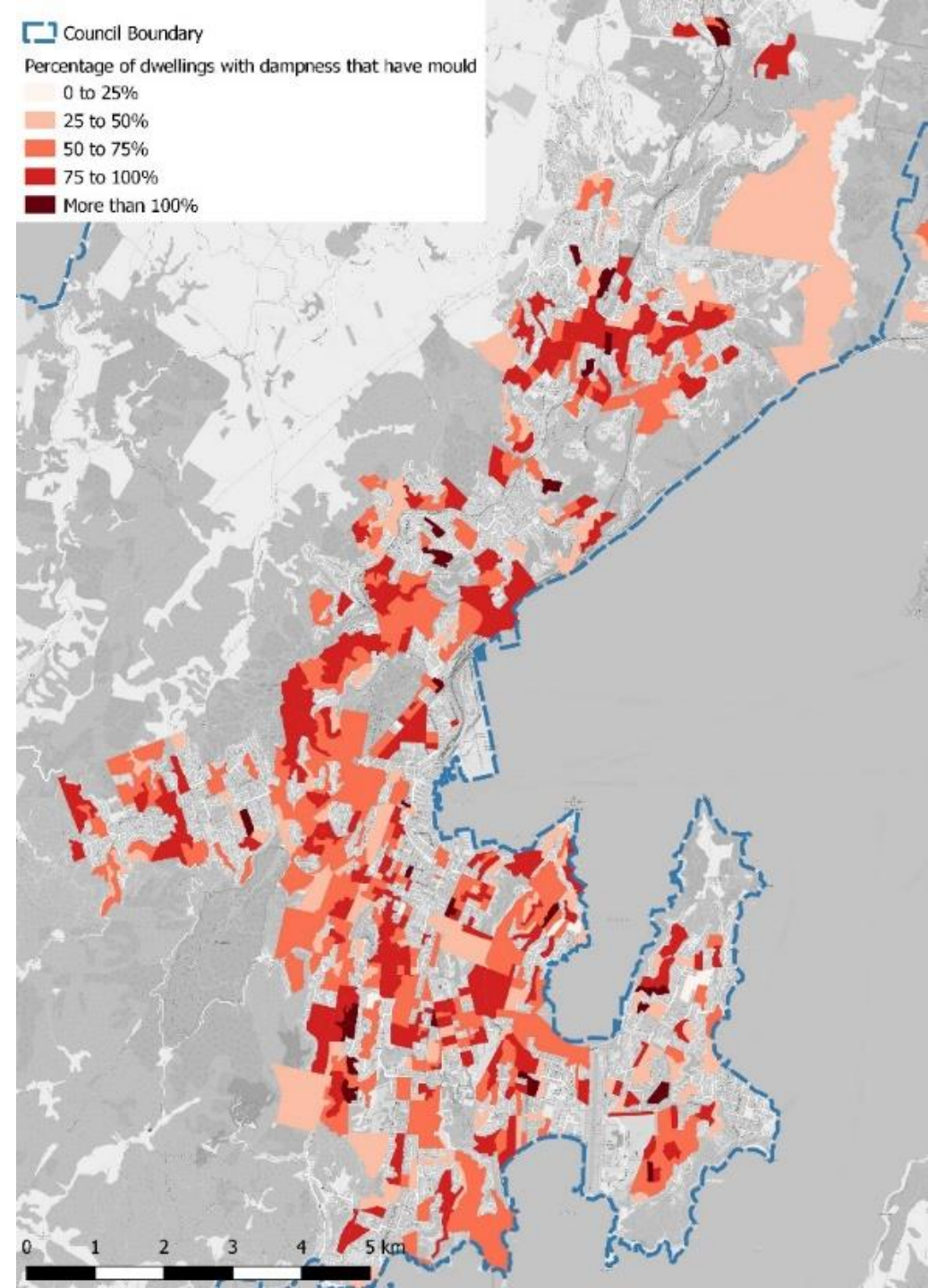
Student

- Potentially unaware of renting rights
- Income constraints
- Substandard housing





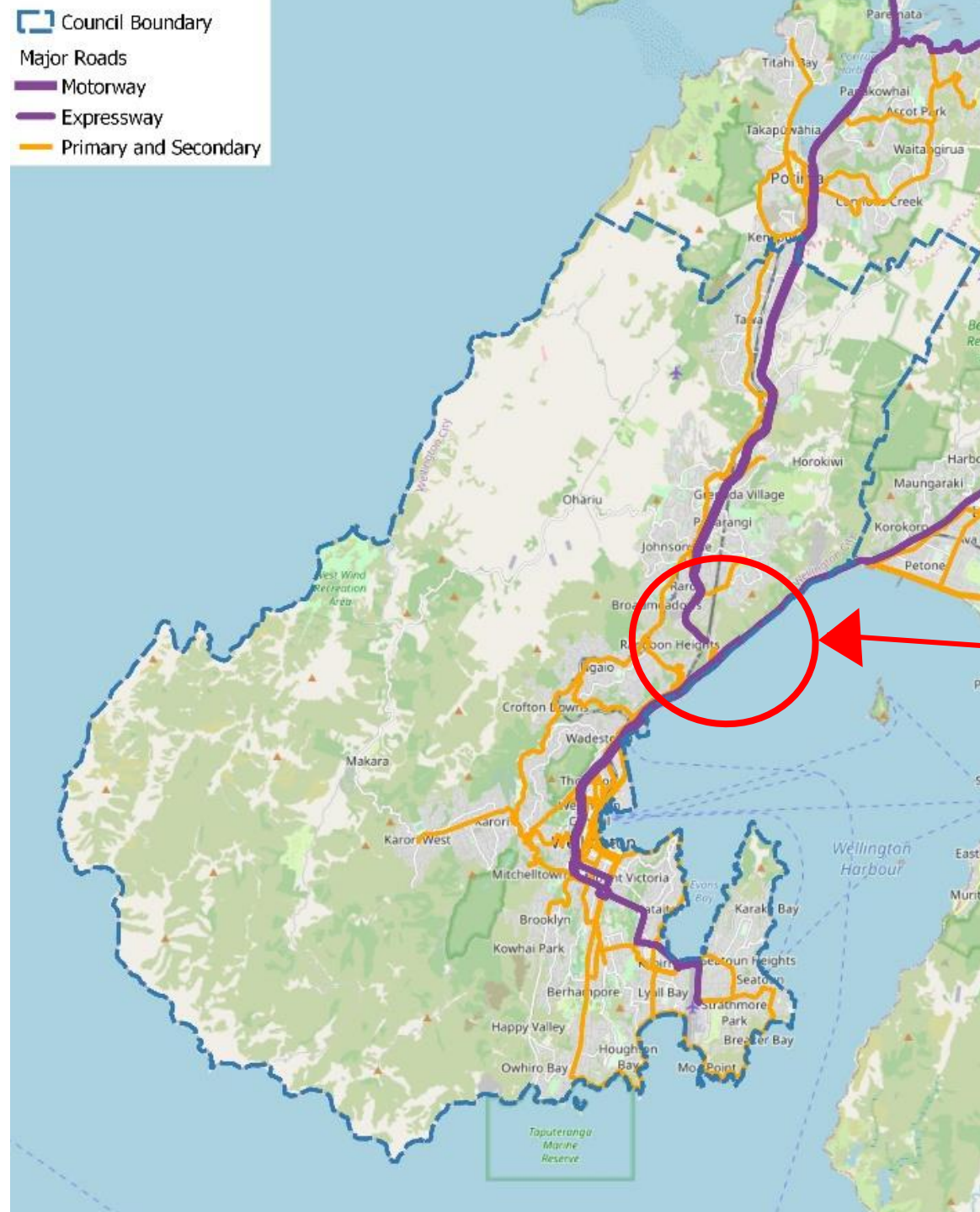
Wellington City



Wellington City and Earthquakes

Risks

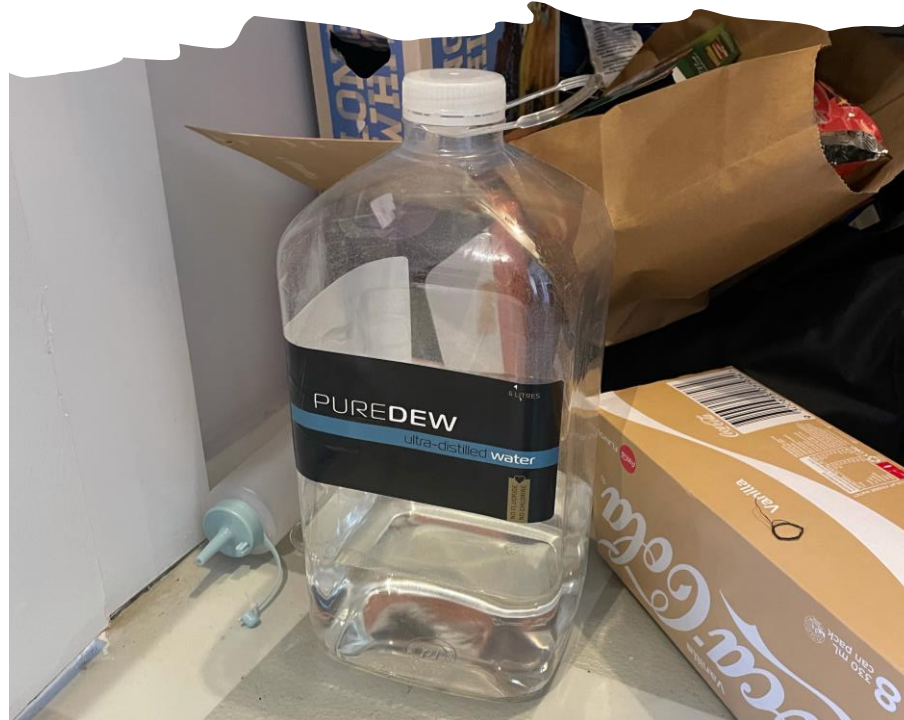
- Tsunamis
- Landslides
- Liquefaction
- Damaged water mains
- Fires



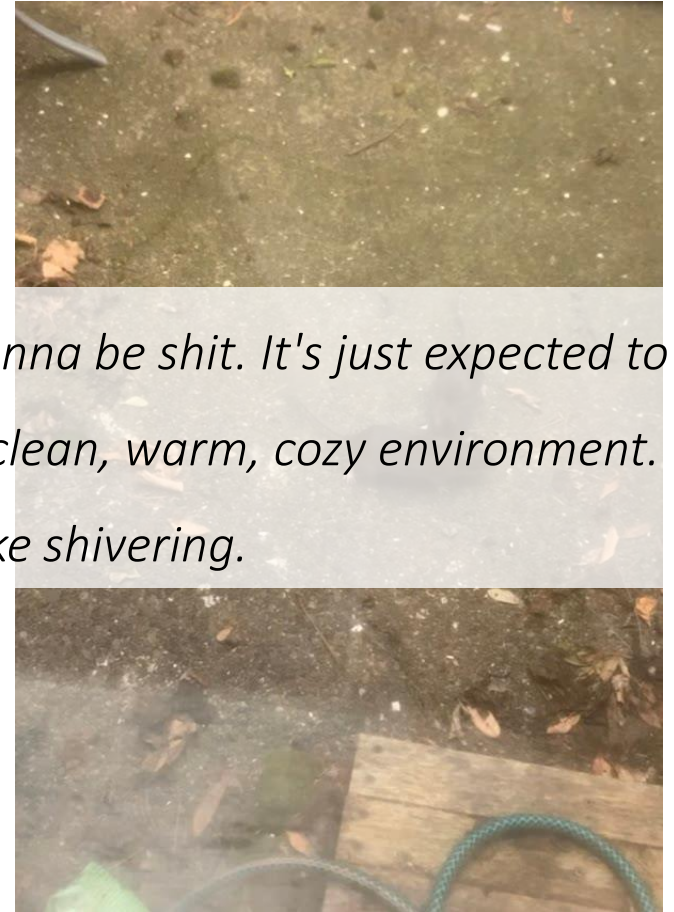
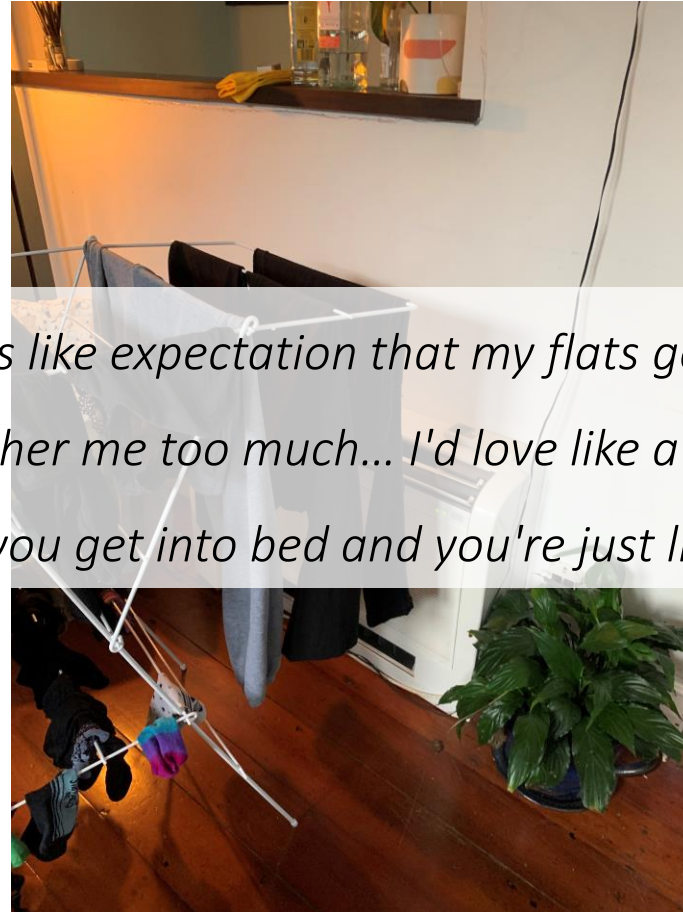
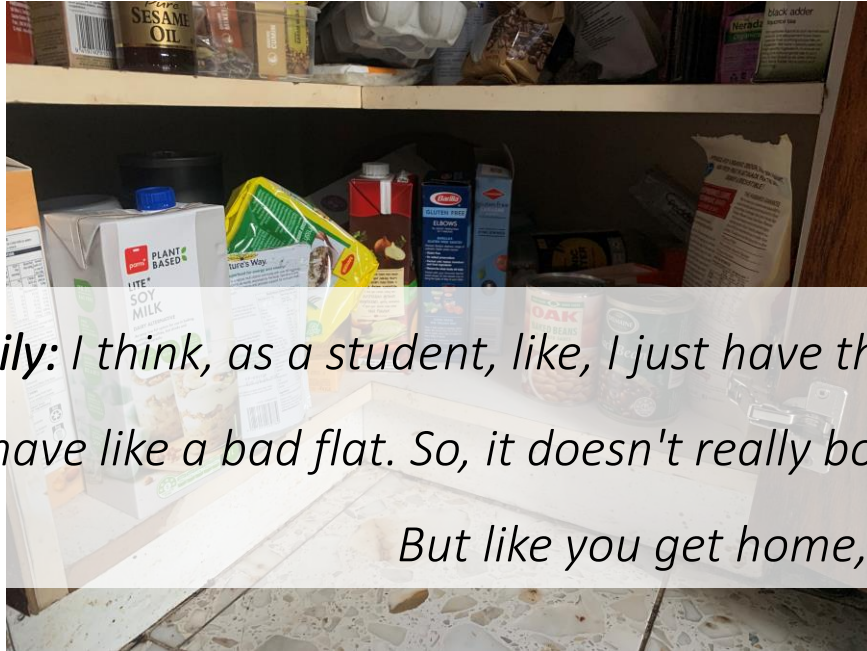
High risk area for landslides that would block access

Earthquake Preparation

- Enhancing Survival Storing:
 - Water
 - Food
 - Cooking supplies
 - Medical supplies
- Damage Mitigation
 - Securing furniture
 - Retrofitting



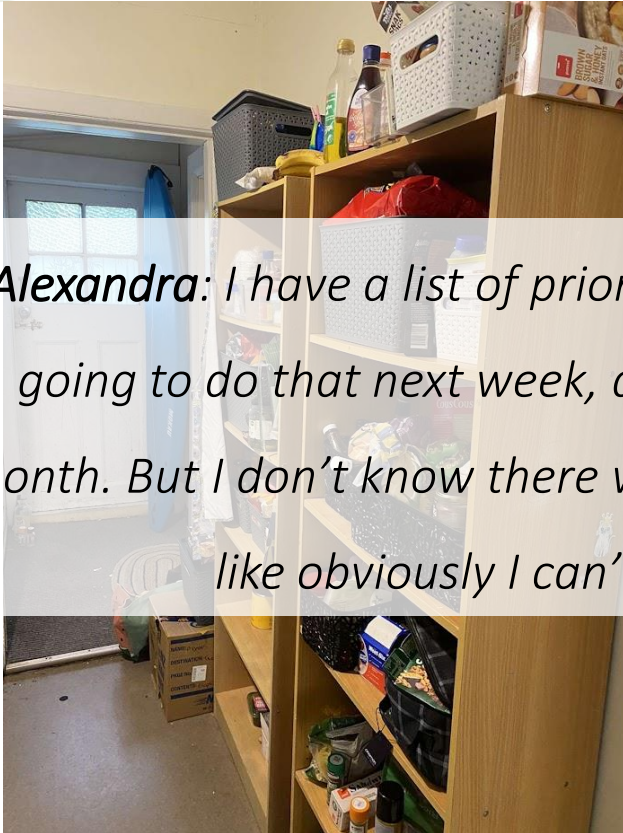
Life as a Low-Income Student Renter



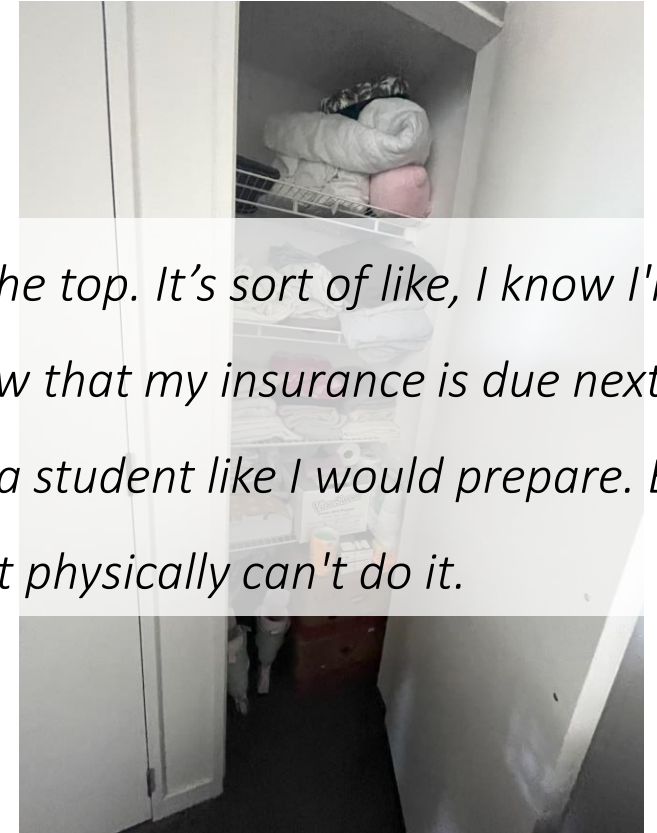
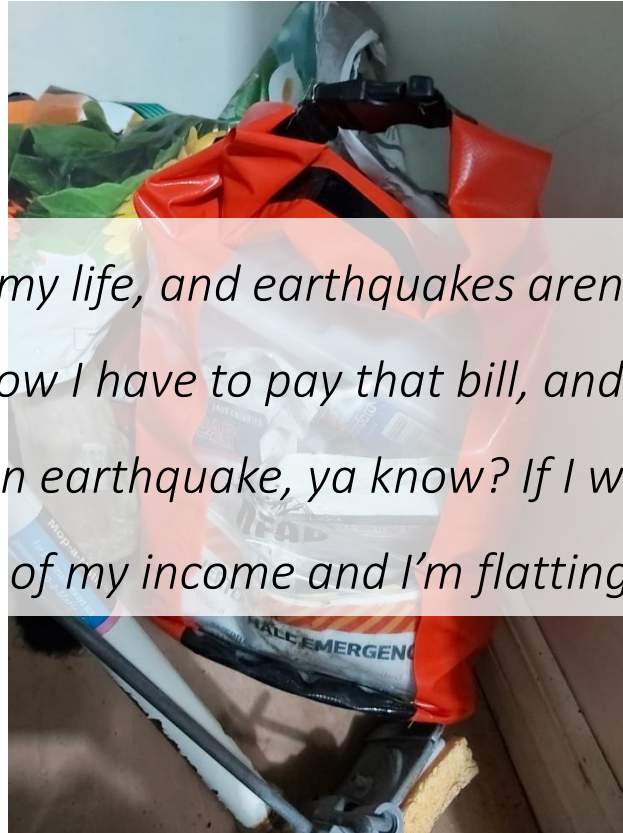
Lily: I think, as a student, like, I just have this like expectation that my flats gonna be shit. It's just expected to have like a bad flat. So, it doesn't really bother me too much... I'd love like a clean, warm, cozy environment. But like you get home, you get into bed and you're just like shivering.



Prepared...?



Alexandra: I have a list of priorities in my life, and earthquakes aren't at the top. It's sort of like, I know I'm going to do that next week, and I know I have to pay that bill, and I know that my insurance is due next month. But I don't know there will be an earthquake, ya know? If I wasn't a student like I would prepare. But like obviously I can't 'cause of my income and I'm flatting. I just physically can't do it.





Preparation Barriers

Financial difficulties

Renting regulations

Lack of space

Newly independent

She'll be right





Thank you

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS LIVING IN WELLINGTON

SUPERVISORS: DR DENISE BLAKE AND DR SHILOH GROOT

MASTER'S THESIS

VY TRAN – SCHOOL OF HEALTH

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National
SCIENCE
Challenges



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LITERATURE REVIEW

- Social capital
- Cultural, ethnic characteristics
- Discrimination based on language ability
- Past experiences of adversity

CONTEXTUALISING VIETNAMESE IMMIGRATION

- Modernised Vietnam
- The political economy resulting in high rates of immigration from Asian countries, including Vietnam
- The development framework

ONTOLOGY & METHODOLOGY

- Critical realism
- Narrative theory
- Levels of narrative analysis

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- First encounter with disasters

“Why is your house shaking? Houses can’t just shake right?”

- Preparing for disasters

“As I live overseas, I need to know how to take care of myself”

“From a consumer’s perspective, preparedness items don’t fit in well with my daily routine, so buying them is not my priority”

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KIA ORA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!





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**JOINT
CENTRE FOR
DISASTER
RESEARCH**

*People who inject drugs (PWIDs):
Access to harm reduction services during disasters*



Research conducted by Anne Rijnink
Supervised by Dr Denise Blake
with special thanks Dr Shiloh Groot

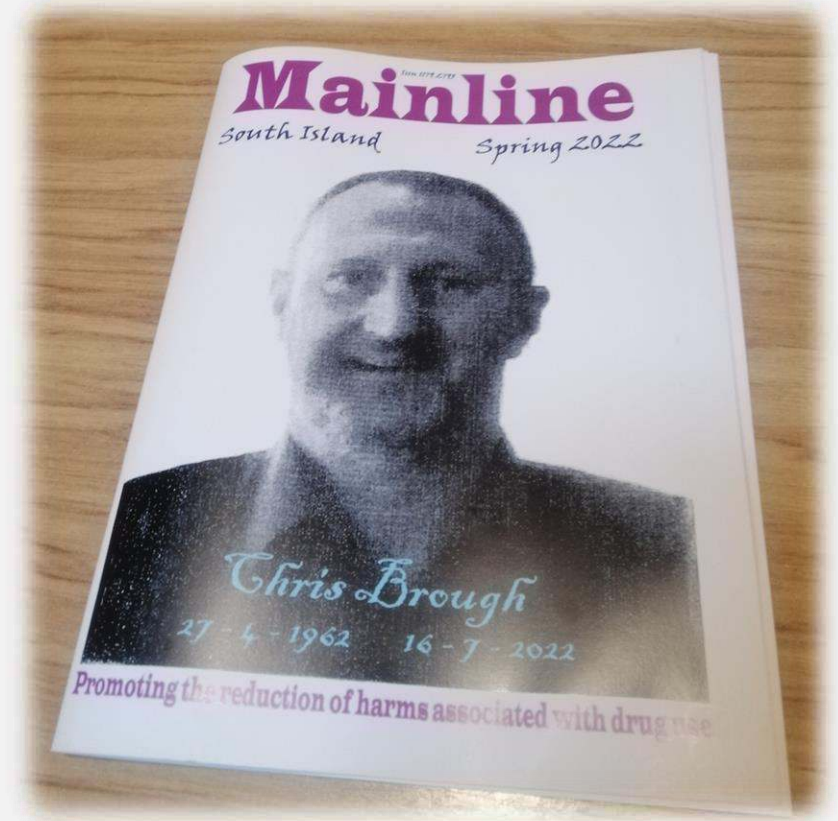
Overview



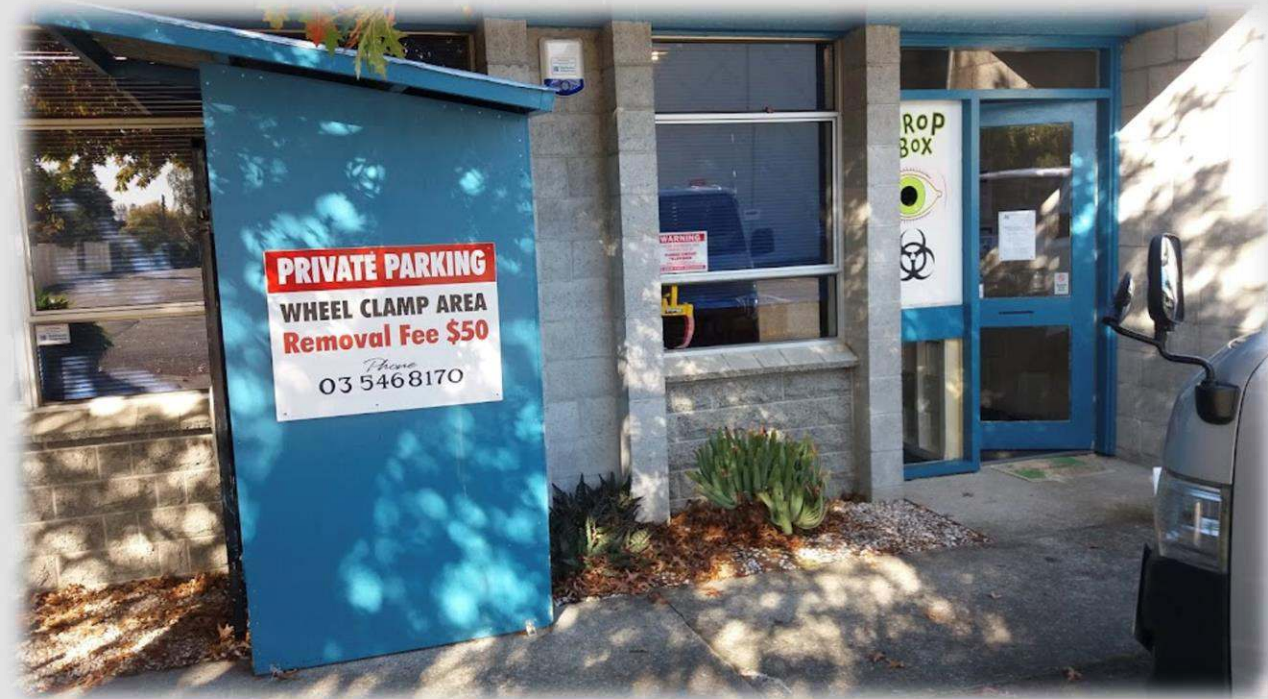
- Needle Exchange Programmes
- The research context
- Key findings
 - Personal influences
 - Social influences



RIP
Chris Brough
27.04.62 – 16.07.22



Needle Exchange Programmes





1). Range of equipment



3). 16 gauge x 1 1/2 inch needle



2). Mircron filter (Red)



4). 3ml luer lok syringe



The Research Context

- Explored what hinders and enables accessibility to NEPs on the West Coast, South Island of Aotearoa New Zealand
- Qualitative, 14 IPA-based interviews and analysis
- Conducted follow-up interviews with seven people after the 2021 floods.





Findings



Personal/Psychological Influences



- **Hindering resilience**

Substance dependency

Lack of internal motivation
(foreseeing the need to be
prepared)

Financial resources



Financial Vulnerability



“... 23 dollars per week doesn't sound like much, but for me, that's four two litres of milk, and a couple of loafs of bread.”
(Emily)

Personal Influences



+ Enables resilience



Motivation to prepare for an emergency

Internal resilience: Experiences with hardship allowed PWID to let go, and move on

Already Resilient



... we lose our contents often throughout life. (laughs). We sell them. We leave them in houses when we move on, because we have to move on because we owe money, or whatever it is. (NEP staff).

Social Influences



- Hinders resilience

Unable to stay with family
and friends



Stigmatised- feel like they do not
get the same support as others

Difficulty navigating
social support

Difficulty Navigating Social Support



**I was out there, and I go to one place
and they go**

“no you need to go there”...

I was just getting pushed and pulled...

– “just go online!”

Well not everybody goes online.

**You know- I don't even know how to
use the internet.**

Social Influences



- Hinders resilience

Unable to stay with family and friends

Stigmatised- feel like they do not get the same support as others

+ Enables resilience

Peers in the drug using community support each other with accessing drugs and injecting supplies

Difficulty navigating social support



Recognition & representation of PWIDs



- Social stigma is a commonly cited barrier to health care access for people who inject drugs, including in Aotearoa New Zealand (Blake et al., 2020; Cuny, 1994; Middleton & O'Keefe, 1998; Walters & Gaillard, 2014, Blake et al., 2020; Gibson; 2020).
- Minoritised groups in Aotearoa New Zealand are often not included in preparedness practices (Blake & Lyons, 2016).
- PWID are likely to be face a lack of needs-specific representation in preparedness messaging.



What do these findings mean?

This study supports the need for Aotearoa New Zealand to move towards need-based emergency management to prioritise the wellbeing of those more vulnerable to disaster harms and injustice.

Kia ora!



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Dedicated to Chris Brough from the Nelson Needle Exchange

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Minoritized groups in Disaster Risk Reduction

Hard to engage or easy to ignore?

Tycho Vandenburg

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Pls: Dr. Denise Blake (Victoria University of Wellington) & Dr. Shiloh Groot (University of Auckland)

National
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Minoritized & Marginalized Groups



physical ability

class



religion

age

immigration status

ethnicity



sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics

Homelessness & Disaster

- A small body of literature attests to the disparate impacts of natural hazards and disaster events on homeless people;
- Majority of literature is from the United States and pertains to rough sleeping homeless people;
- Despite being flagged as a “vulnerable” or “high risk” population, homeless people are otherwise rendered invisible in many key documents and policies relating to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

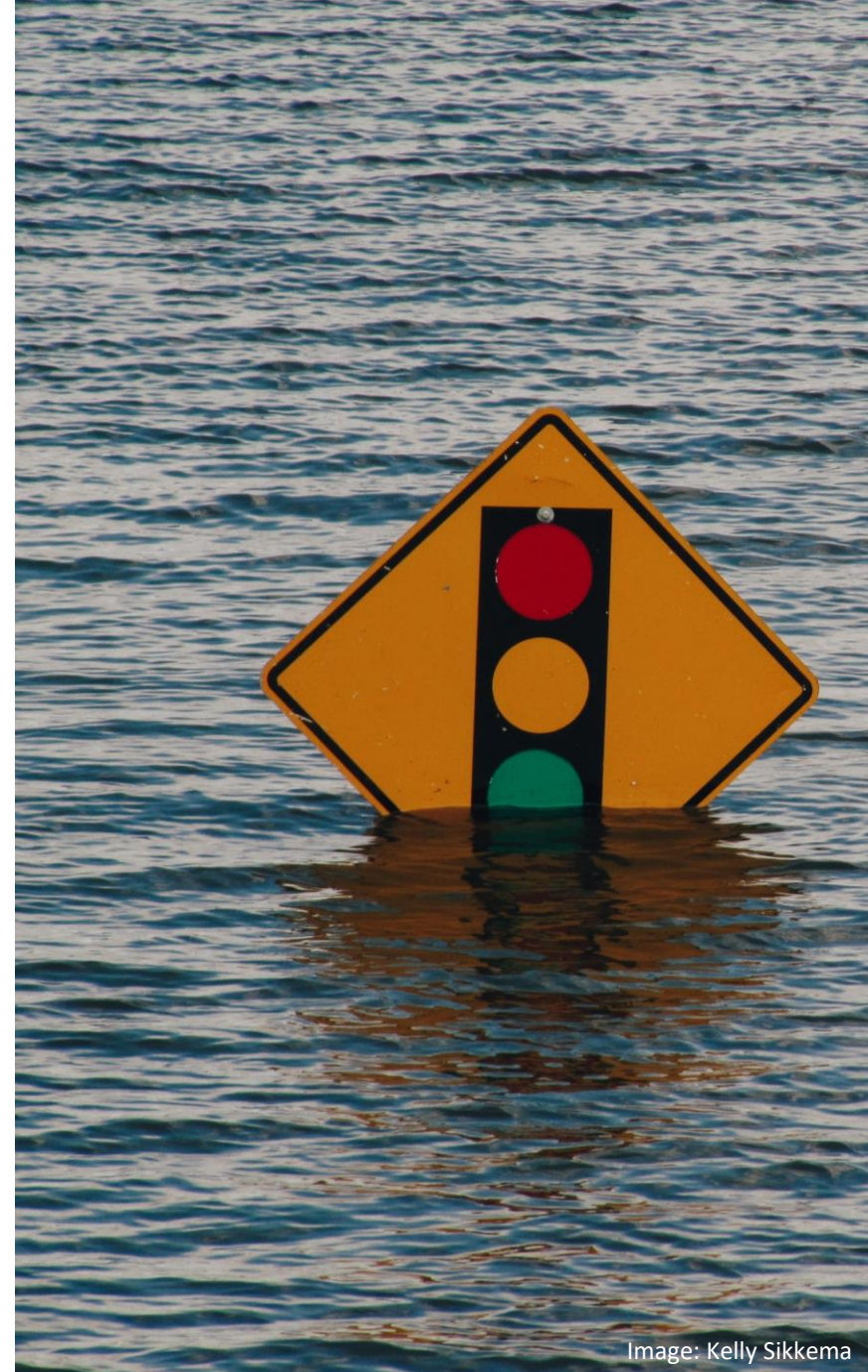


Problematizing Vulnerability

- Conceptually, vulnerability can perpetuate ideas and practices which, ironically, undermine the logic of disaster risk reduction.
- Vulnerability approaches tend to privilege Western science over other ways of seeing and being, which supports a Western hegemony in disaster studies and disaster risk reduction;
- Renders certain places and peoples as unstable, incompetent, indisposed and in need of fixing (often through individualistic lenses);
- Category of ‘vulnerability’ may be selectively leveraged to justify interventions which further displace and dispossess marginalized communities;
- Labelling communities that experience oppression as “vulnerable” in effect compounds these burdens.
- ... Not a lost cause!

Interrupting the field

- To interrupt is “to render visible potential shortcomings of critical disaster studies, but also to be *hesitant* about them, that is, to avoid an either/or logic” and rather, to think about both the potentials (and tensions) that emerge when we adopt other critical perspectives (Tironi et al., 2021, p. 252).



Environmental Justice

- Critical EJ prioritizes understanding (and responding to) the **interlocking systems of oppression** that are the root causes of social and environmental inequalities – this is crucial from a disaster risk reduction viewpoint.
- Indigenous EJ offers a model through which we can frame issues in terms of their colonial origins while affirming decolonization frameworks.



Homelessness & Disaster

- What historical, political, and social processes might be pushing homeless people to live in hazard prone areas?
- How might disaster risk reduction practices (e.g., moving encampments away from flood prone areas) further displace and dispossess homeless people?



Bridging Approaches

- Bringing critical disaster studies and Indigenous environmental justice frameworks into conversation, guided by relational ethics;
- Working *with* marginalized communities to identify and address their key priorities (scholar activism);
- Centralizing the phronetic knowledge of marginalized people;
- Explicit commitment to Te Tiriti and in pursuit of mana motuhake;
- Focus on transforming the systems and structures which produce disaster vulnerability in the first place (transformative praxis) – towards justice!



Putting it into
practice...

Do you want to
inform **disaster risk
reduction** efforts?



We want to speak to **trans and
gender diverse people** about
their experiences of **disasters** in
Aotearoa New Zealand.

If you are over 18 and want to know more
about this study, contact Tycho Vandenburg
t.vandenburg@auckland.ac.nz

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