

Get it right for people living with
disability: Get it right for everybody

Community recovery following the Canterbury
earthquakes

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Acknowledgments

Participants

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Background

International literature suggests that disabled people are disproportionately vulnerable following a natural disaster^{1,2,3,4}

There is limited research that exploring the longer-term impact of disasters on disabled people

Disabled population expected to increase

- 24% (1.1 million) reported disability, of which 17% (636,000) reported the need for a mobility aid⁵

NZ's disability policy framework advocates for equal opportunities

Aim of PhD

To understand how people who use wheelchairs experience community inclusion in the four years post-earthquake

Philosophical foundations

Pragmatism

- Knowledge is constructed, viewed, and valued within the context of action
- Research questions should address concrete problems to promote social action

Transformative paradigm

- Places values such as social justice and human rights as fundamental in informing research decisions

Methodology

Phase One - Qualitative Strand

- Individual and group interviews

Survey development

- Informed by Qualitative analysis

Phase Two - Quantitative Strand

- Survey

Phase One Participants

Interviewed **13 participants** (6 women, 7 men)

Age range: 24 – 74 years

A mix of ethnicity

Time using a wheelchair: 4 – 46 years

A mix of wheelchair types, impairment types, funding streams

Phase One Results

Five key themes:

1. Earthquake magnified barriers
2. Community inclusion takes energy
3. Social connections important
4. An opportunity found?
5. An opportunity lost?

Earthquake magnified barriers

If you cant get past the road cones or you cant get up the curb because there's no curb cut because they've blocked it off and they haven't bothered to put a temporary one down... if they don't do that stuff than how can you take part?

Particip

Community inclusion takes energy

you say 'yeah, I'd love to take it but can I just, give me two months until I alter the bathroom,' and they've got twenty other people that'll move in tomorrow... so that's just an added stress

Participant 13

Social connections important

my friends I've still got pre earthquake but have helped me through the post earthquake, like my sport, going to sports something I did before the earthquake, but I've kind of got that stronger connection because we've like all survived it

Participant 2

An opportunity found?

we've got a blank slate, a blank canvas and so... let's make it a city that the rest of the world looks at and goes "wow!"

Participant 5

An opportunity lost?

If there's not enough political push and there's no, very little or no drive from within the industry and if it's not kept at the forefront it's just going to be forgotten

Participant 3

Phase Two Participants

Sixty-four participants (39 women, 25 men)

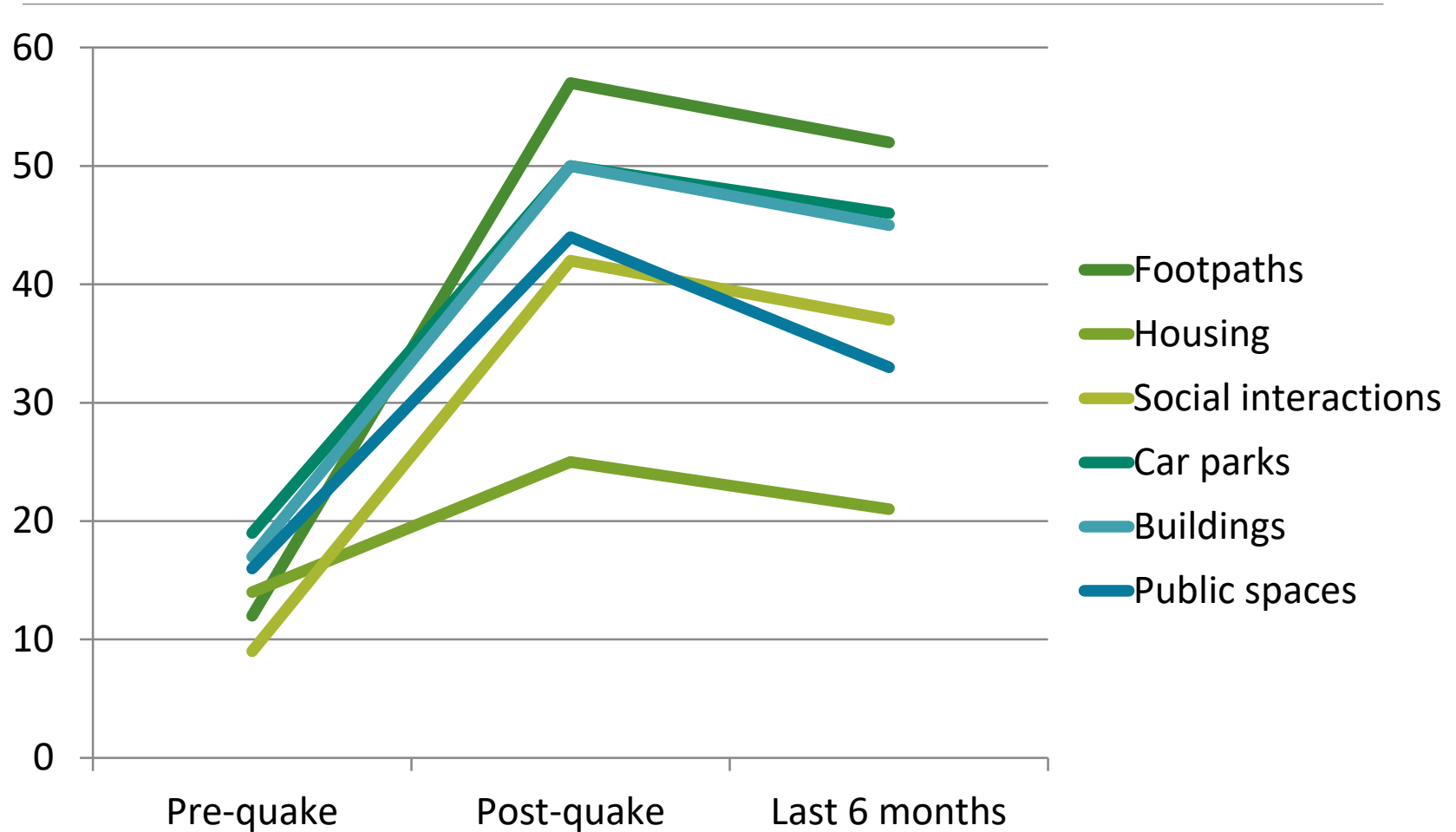
Age range: 16 – 82 years

A mix of ethnicity

Time using a wheelchair: 1 – 54 years

A mix of wheelchair types, impairment types, funding streams

Part Two Results



Integrated findings

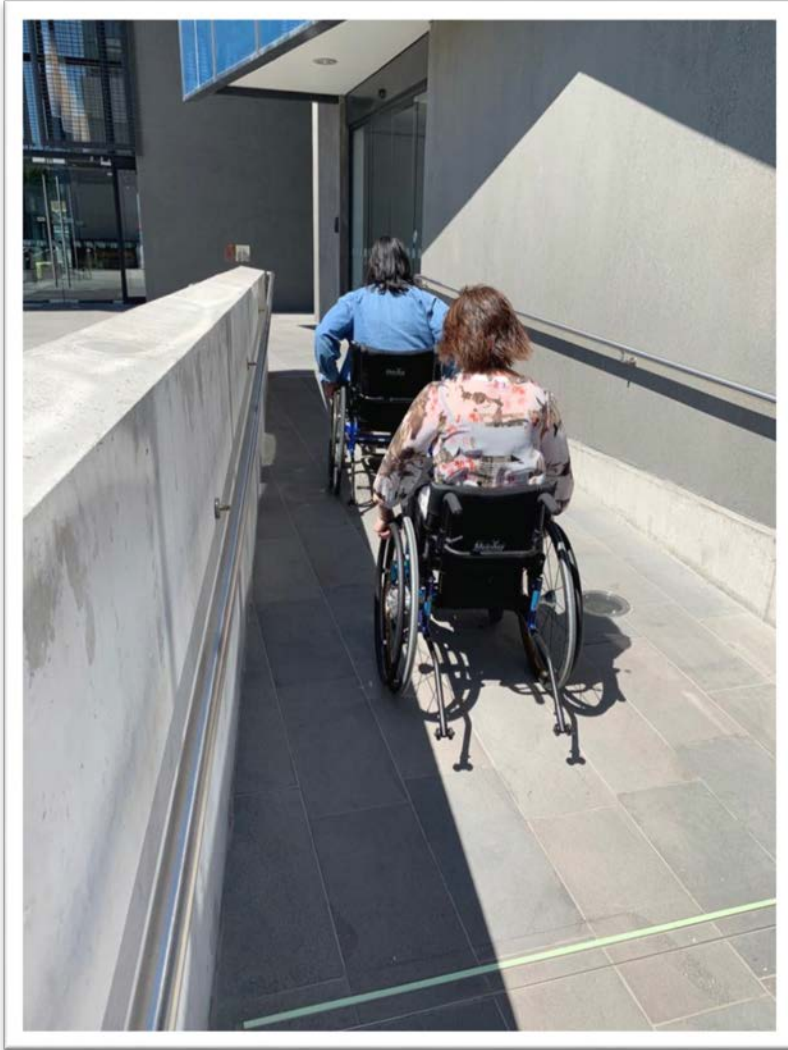
1. Multiple, magnified and on-going barriers reduce community inclusion
2. Disabling barriers constitute social exclusion
3. A need to reconceptualise disability following disasters
4. Realising the opportunity for change
5. The need to co-produce socially transformative outcomes

Take away message...

“Just as disability is not the inevitable consequence of physical or cognitive impairment, **disaster** is not the inevitable consequence of a natural hazard”⁶

(Hemingway and Priestly, 2006, p.25).

Form and Function



References

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