



Methodology Statement

Uniting NSW.ACT – Extreme weather impacts on frontline staff - March 2026

This research complies with the Australian Polling Council Quality Mark standards (see www.australianpollingcouncil.org/standards)

Item	Response
Research company	89 Degrees East
Client commissioned research	Uniting NSW.ACT
End client	Uniting NSW.ACT
Fieldwork dates	27/01/2026-23/02/2026
Mode of data collection	Online
Target population	Frontline staff in care and community services (18+), national
Sample size	n=829
Is voting intention published?	No - not asked.

Item	Response
Effective sample size after weighting applied	N/A
Margin of error associated with effective sample size	3.5% at 95% confidence level
Variables used in weighting	N/A
Weighting method used	N/A
Full question text, responses categories and randomisation	See below.
Proportion of landline/mobile completed interviews	N/A
Source of online sample	Convenience sampling (distributed by Uniting NSW.ACT and organisations in the UnitingCare Australia network)

Positioning of voting intention questions in the questionnaire?	N/A – not asked
How were undecided voters handled?	N/A
2PP calculation method	N/A

Full Text of Published Questions

1. Which of the following describe you?

Select all that apply. **Randomise order.**

I work in...

1. Aged care and/or home and community care
2. Disability services
3. Housing and homelessness services
4. Early childhood education and care
5. Youth and family services
6. Drug and alcohol services
7. Other services **[Box to type]**
8. None of the above. **[EXCLUDE]**

2. How old are you?

Select one.

1. Under 18 **[EXCLUDE]**
2. 18-29 YEARS
3. 30-39 YEARS
4. 40-49 YEARS
5. 50-59 YEARS
6. 60+ YEARS
7. Prefer not to say

3. How do you describe your gender?

1. Man
2. Woman
3. Non-binary
4. I use another term **[box to type]**
5. Prefer not to say

4. Do any of the following describe you? Select all that apply.

Randomise order.

1. I identify as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community.
2. I identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
3. I identify as a person with disability.
4. I identify as a neurodivergent person.
5. I speak a language other than English at home.
6. I migrated to Australia from another country.
7. One or both of my parents migrated to Australia from another country.
8. None of the above. **[exclusive select]**
9. Prefer not to say **[exclusive select]**

5. Which organisation do you work for?
6. Which state or territory do you work in? Select one.
7. Which type of area do you usually work in?

ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES

8. **In the past 5 years, have you been affected by any of the following extreme weather events?** This includes any flow-on effects, such as air pollution, road closures, power outages etc.
Select all that apply.
Randomise order.
 1. Floods
 2. Fires i.e. bushfires
 3. Heatwaves i.e. abnormally hot weather often lasting several days
 4. Storms (severe)
 5. Cyclones
 6. None of the above. [exclusive select]

SHOW TEXT: The next few questions are about **heatwaves**. This means abnormally hot weather that often lasts several days.

9. **How would you describe your overall level of concern about heatwaves?**
SCALE: Not concerned at all, A bit concerned, Moderately concerned, Extremely concerned
10. **How would you describe your overall level of concern about the impact of heatwaves on the people you provide services to / care for?**
E.g. Children, disadvantaged families, older people, people experiencing homelessness, people with disability
SCALE: Not concerned at all, A bit concerned, Moderately concerned, Extremely concerned
11. **If you were working during a heatwave, would you be able to access the following?**
If the area where you work is not affected by heatwaves, please select 'N/A' (not applicable).
SCALE: No, Not sure, Yes, N/A
Randomise order.
 1. A cool or air-conditioned place to work with the people I support.
 2. Flexibility to change where I work to avoid the heat.
 3. Fans or cooling equipment.
 4. Rest breaks when I need them.
 5. Flexibility to adjust work hours or tasks due to the heat.
 6. Training or guidance to keep myself and the people I support safe in the heat.
12. **Have any of the following ever made it more challenging for you to provide services/care for people during a heatwave?**
Select all that apply.
 1. My work is mostly outdoors.
 2. I need to be in a specific location to do my job.
 3. I have limited transport options.
 4. It's hard to move the people I work with to a more comfortable setting.

5. The places where I work (e.g., offices, facilities, people's homes) don't have cooling or air conditioning.
6. I don't have much choice about when and where I do my job.
7. None of the above. [exclusive select]
8. **Not applicable** - the area where I work is not affected by heatwaves. [exclusive select]

SHOW TEXT: The next few questions are about **extreme weather events such as fires, floods, storms and cyclones**. This includes flow-on effects, such as air pollution, road closures and power outages.

13. How would you describe your overall level of concern about extreme weather events such as fires, floods, storms and cyclones?

SCALE: Not concerned at all, A bit concerned, Moderately concerned, Extremely concerned

14. How would you describe your level of concern about the impact of extreme weather events such as fires, floods, storms and cyclones on the people you provide services to / care for?

E.g. Children, older people, people with disability, people experiencing homelessness, low-income communities

SCALE: Not concerned at all, A bit concerned, Moderately concerned, Extremely concerned

15. Thinking about your work providing services/care to people, in the past 5 years have you done any of the following?

This could be before, during and/or immediately after an extreme weather event.

Select all that apply.

Randomise order.

1. Helped put emergency and backup plans in place so services could keep running during an extreme weather event.
2. Took part in activities to protect against extreme weather impacts, such as preparation for storms, floods or bushfires, or making sure important systems were in place.
3. Participated in training to prepare for extreme weather events so I can use what I learned in real situations.
4. Used warning systems to check how extreme a weather event might be, and planned my work around it.
5. Took time off to volunteer in local emergency response, such as the SES, RFS or CFA.
6. Provided extra assistance to the people I support, e.g. sharing safety advice, calling emergency services, assisting with evacuations or helping people access disaster recovery payments.
7. None of the above. [exclusive select]
8. **Not applicable** - the area where I work is not affected by fires, floods, storms or cyclones. [exclusive select]

SHOW TEXT: The next few questions are about **all** types of extreme weather, including heatwaves, fires, floods, storms and cyclones.

16. In the past 5 years, have extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, fires, floods, storms and cyclones, ever impacted you in the following ways?

Select all that apply. RANDOMISE ORDER.

1. Negatively affected my physical health.
2. Negatively affected my mental and emotional state.
3. Made it harder for me to sleep and rest.
4. Put more financial pressure on my household e.g. energy bills, insurance, loss of income, rising costs
5. Caused me discomfort in my home e.g. due to heat, damp.

6. Made me think about moving to a different area or living situation.
7. Caused me to access health support e.g. doctor's appointment, psychological support, medication.
8. Caused me to access workplace support e.g. to manage burnout or stress, debriefing support, disaster leave, time-off-in-lieu, Employee Assistance Program.
9. Caused me to access Government support e.g. financial support or other relief/recovery support.
10. None of the above. [exclusive select]
11. **Not applicable** - the area where I work is not affected by heatwaves, fires, floods, storms and cyclones. [exclusive select]

17. In the past 5 years, have extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, fires, floods, storms and cyclones, ever impacted your work and/or the people you support in the following ways?

Select all that apply. **RANDOMISE ORDER.**

1. Made it harder or stopped me from getting to/from work, including being able to travel to see the people I support.
2. Made me take unplanned time off work.
3. Negatively impacted the physical health of people I support, e.g heat stress, physical injuries, illnesses, worsening chronic conditions.
4. Negatively affected the mental and emotional state of the people I support, e.g. trauma and anxiety, difficulty regulating emotions.
5. Limited the tasks or activities I can safely do with the people I support.
6. Increased the stress or pressure of my job.
7. Changed the tasks I do as part of my work i.e. added new responsibilities outside of my normal duties.
8. Made me feel conflicted about whether I should put the needs of people I support before my own.
9. None of the above. [exclusive select]
10. **Not applicable** - the area where I work is not affected by heatwaves, fires, floods, storms and cyclones. [exclusive select]

18. Can you tell us about a time when an extreme weather event, such as a heatwave, fires, floods, storms and cyclones, made it more challenging for you to do your job/support people?

Please be as descriptive as possible.