Disaster Risk
REDUCTION & RESILIENCE
Funded by the National Disaster
Risk Reduction Program

wacoss

GO BEYOND GAS

# Getting Prepared for High Heat

**1** Understand Warning Systems for WA → **Advice -** stay up to date
**Watch and Act -** start taking action
**Emergency Warning -** act immediately

**2** Define 'at risk' populations within your organisation or local community → Think about who in your organisation or local community may need more assistance in accessing communications or resources.

**3** Identify stakeholders and existing relevant assets → Who are the key stakeholders you need to be engaging with? What assets can you tap into?

**4** Align heat intervention responses with various levels of heatwaves → Make messaging around heat meaningful and accurate - check out Sweltering Cities.
Interventions should be targeted for populations most at risk and overlapping vulnerabilities.

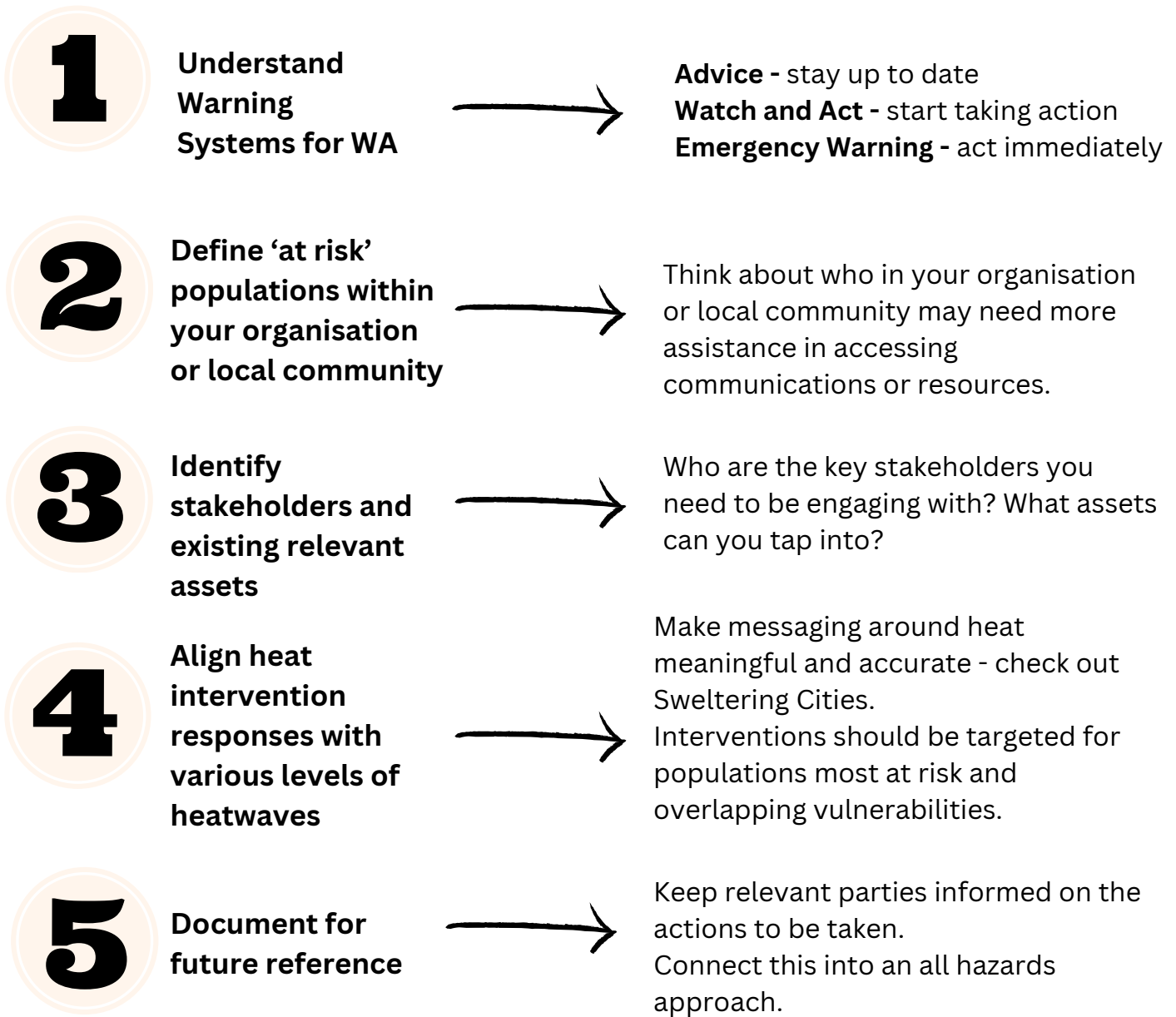**5** Document for future reference → Keep relevant parties informed on the actions to be taken.
Connect this into an all hazards approach.

# How to stay in the know on heat warnings

**WACOSS heatwave communications** - Under the State Hazard Plan - Heatwave, WACOSS disseminates heatwave warning communications to a subscribed userbase of community service agencies. To be added to this list, email heatwavewarning@wacoss.org.au with the region you work in and the best contact information to receive these warnings.
**Emergency WA** - A map based display with the best avaliable emergency information from across the State. Here you'll find information about heat, fires, storms, floods and other prescribed hazards. Visit https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/
**Healthy WA** - This website provides health and medical information to help individuals and communities improve and manage their health and wellbeing. Visit https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/

# Resources for more information

- Disaster Plan for Community Organisation (ACOSS) – This ACOSS developed template allows for community organisations to develop a disaster plan. The Resilient Community Organisations toolkit uses 6 key steps to build a disaster plan; leadership, building networks, knowing your risks, managing your risks, preparing others and learning and improving.

- Sweltering Cities - Working at the intersection of climate justice, inequality and health, Sweltering Cities is building grassroots power, telling compelling stories of extreme heat impacts and winning strategic campaigns that make a real difference cooling homes and suburbs. Check out Sweltering Cities for reports and guides, including a media guide for reporting on heatwaves and extreme heat.

- Sweaty and Stressed: Renting in an Australian Summer – Through the summer of 22/23, renters experiences of heat in their homes was captured by Better Renting. This report found that renters are in excessive heat 45% of the time, with indoor temperatures exceeding 25 degrees more than 10 hours a day and exceeded 30 degrees for over an hour a day.

- How to Cope in a Heatwave – easy read information – This resource is developed by the Council for Intellectual Disability. This resource gives instructions in an easy read format to how to cope in a heatwave.

- Stuck in the Heat Report – This report, produced by the Kimberley Community Legal Services, explores the lived experience of public housing tenants in the Kimberley during periods of extreme heat. Among other things, the report found that extreme temperatures and humidity experienced in the Kimberley are dangerous to human health and wellbeing, and that poor quality housing, maintenance issues and overcrowding due to low housing stock impacts tenants ability to effectively control the temperature and energy efficiency in their homes.

- Red-Cross Climate Ready Communities guide – This guide is for anyone wanting to support their community to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, whether they be individuals, a self-organised community group, local council or community service providers.

- WALGA Emergency Management News newsletter – This monthly newsletter provides EM sector updates and events and training opportunities.

- Heat Health Fact Sheet -  A 5 page fact sheet by Doctors for the Environment Australia detailing why extreme heat is bad for the body, who is most at risk and what we can do.