



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

Why do people prepare for natural hazards? Identifying relevant beliefs

Lauren Vinnell, Taciano Milfont, John McClure



L.Vinnell@massey.ac.nz



[@ljvinnell](https://twitter.com/ljvinnell)

RESILIENCE
TO NATURE'S
CHALLENGES

Kia manawaroa
– Ngā Ākina o
Te Ao Tūroa

People prepare for natural hazards when they believe they can make the effort, when they believe it can be life-saving and help them get through an event better, and when they believe it can be a fun and rewarding experience

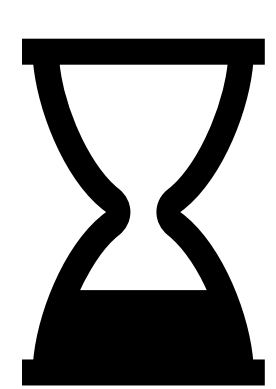
Background



In Wellington, knowledge of natural hazard risk is high but preparedness is low



Our beliefs about preparing play an important role in our behaviour, but which ones are most important?



Many studies just look at intentions to prepare – do intentions *predict behaviour*?

Method

- Random representative sampling
- Online survey
- Beliefs and intentions at Time 1 ($N = 151$); Behaviour at Time 2 one month later ($N = 61$)
- Scale response items
- Behaviour:
 1. Request earthquake planning guide
 2. Checklist of 19 items (controlling for behaviours already undertaken)
 3. Self-report general preparation

Results

- Instrumental attitudes, experiential attitudes, and self-efficacy explained intentions to prepare
- Specific beliefs which inform these factors identified (see above)
- Odds of requesting the planning guide *decreased* with higher self-efficacy
- Intentions to prepare at Time 1 predicted general and specific preparation one month later