



## USING A DATABASE

### Why Do We Need A Database?

In the event of an emergency a detailed list of household members skills, resources and contact information is a critical asset which provides valuable information that community partners and stakeholders such as first responders, Police and Civil Defence need to know. It also allows Neighbourhood Support staff and volunteers to quickly and effectively assist their community to overcome adversity by providing timely updates and pertinent intel such as severe weather warnings and updates, info on road closures, power failures, boil water notices and more.

For household members, knowing the neighbours who live around them and having a way to contact them in an emergency also provides a sense of security and increases community connectedness and personal wellbeing.

### Database Options

There are many different examples of databases that are currently used by NSNZ members, here are just a few:

- Microsoft Office – a personalised Excel spreadsheet or word document. Google also offers a similar suite of applications for those who don't have a Microsoft software license.
- [Wild Apricot](#) is a database recommended by a member who finds it easy, cheaper than some alternatives and suits their requirements.
- [Gets Ready](#) is a purpose-built web system where residents can securely record their contact details and any special needs, resources and skills they want to share, to help their local community look after each other in an emergency.

For further information, we are happy to send you a Gets Ready PowerPoint that will assist in understanding the benefits and capability of the database. Please email our Community Advisor, [Kelsey Scarr](#) to receive a copy.

- [Mailchimp](#) is a common distribution tool for sending newsletters and communications in bulk. Mailchimp can also double as a free database storing valuable information such as name, address, and phone number. You can also make notes or 'tags' on skills, special medical needs or other relevant information that may be pertinent in an emergency situation.

