

CULTURE IS INCLUSION

A narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability

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Executive Summary of research findings

1. Disability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is twice as prevalent, more complex in terms of co-occurring disabilities, and compressed within a shorter life expectancy compared to other Australians.
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability experience unique form of 'intersectional discrimination' and social inequality that is an interaction of discrimination that is both Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander and disability related.
3. Frequent exposures to various forms of discrimination can have cumulative impact and can manifest into 'apprehended discrimination'. This is a pathway in which a fear of discrimination transforms into a rational expectation of discrimination, and it can lead to a person avoiding social situations where they could be exposed to possible discrimination.
4. The statistical data and testimony of participants show that intersectional inequality is acute and pervasive across all supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability; including disability services, health, education, employment housing and transport.
5. The impact of intersectional inequality as a detrimental impact upon the social health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.
6. The sole category that is an exception to the inequalities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability is their social participation within their own communities. Rates of participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in cultural and community activities are on par with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
7. A culture of inclusion is a moderating force on the social health and wellbeing and has a mitigating impact on intersectional inequality.



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