

Mindout: Online presentation, July 17th 2018

Intersecting identities LGBTI people with disabilities

Presenter
Jax Jacki Brown

Acknowledgment of country

First Peoples Disability Network Australia



UN definition of disability

Disability is 'the interaction between persons with impairments & attitudinal & environmental barriers that hinders their full & effective participation in society on an equal basis with others' (UN General Assembly 2007)

Australia is the worst place in the world's developed nations to have a disability, ranking 27th out of 27 of the OECD countries.

(Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers 'Disability Expectations' Report, 2011)

Mental health

LGBT people with disability have twice the rate of anxiety and psychological distress than LGBT people without disabilities

(Source: 'The everyday experiences of LGBTI people living with disability', Leonard & Mann, 2018)

Disability & sexual health knowledge

- Inadequate sex education
- Pleasure and strength based sex ed needed
What we *can* and want do with our bodies
- Teaching sexual health & respectful relationships are protective factors from abuse
- Less access to LGBTIQ community

Signaling sexuality

- When people think about access they often think about access to buildings, they don't think about access to information, community and belonging, being able to live where and with whom you wish
- Disability is seen to trump other areas of identity

Disability & gender diversity

- People with disability's gender expression is often heavily policed by support workers, family, friends, society.
- Disability can render other aspects of self invisible in the eyes of other people

Similarities: LGBTIQ & Disability

Both identities are subject to marginality and discrimination

Both involve developing a positive sense of self, pride, finding community, coming out

Defiant Lives



<https://vimeo.com/206687316>

Accessing the NDIS as an LGBTIQ person

- How do you know if your Local Area Coordinator (LAC) is going to be LGBTIQ supportive or knowledgeable?
- How do you prepare for your planning meeting and describe what your life looks like and what connection to the LGBTIQ community means for you?
- How do you find services and supports which are LGBTIQ inclusive?

Barriers to engaging with services

- Access issues-transport, ramps, the accessible entrance to a building being a different entrance to everyone else, attitudes (having previous experiences of encountering prejudicial attitudes)
- Cost/poverty
- Difficultly navigating a service system
- Systemic disadvantage

Increasing inclusivity & accessibility

- Spend time investing in diversity training! This will help immensely to make your service/workplace more inclusive and welcoming
- Model diversity and inclusion in your workplace by employing LGBTIQ people, people with disabilities, indigenous people and people of colour
- Ask everyone what their access requirements are (not just people with disability)

Q&A



jaxjackibrown



jaxjackibrown@gmail.com