

# Intersectionality - Translation of theory to practice

## Evolution of intersectionality frameworks in Victorian primary prevention

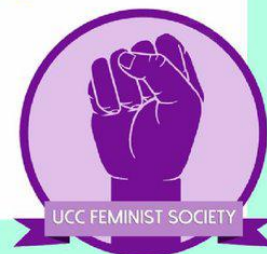
Women's Health in the South East  
Tuesday 26th May



**Intersectionality** was a term coined by Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, whose definition is as follows:

"WOMEN EXPERIENCE OPPRESSION IN VARYING CONFIGURATIONS AND IN VARYING DEGREES OF INTENSITY. CULTURAL PATTERNS OF OPPRESSION ARE NOT ONLY INTERRELATED, BUT ARE BOUND TOGETHER AND INFLUENCED BY THE INTERSECTIONAL SYSTEMS OF SOCIETY.

EXAMPLES OF THIS INCLUDE RACE, GENDER, CLASS, ABILITY, AND ETHNICITY."



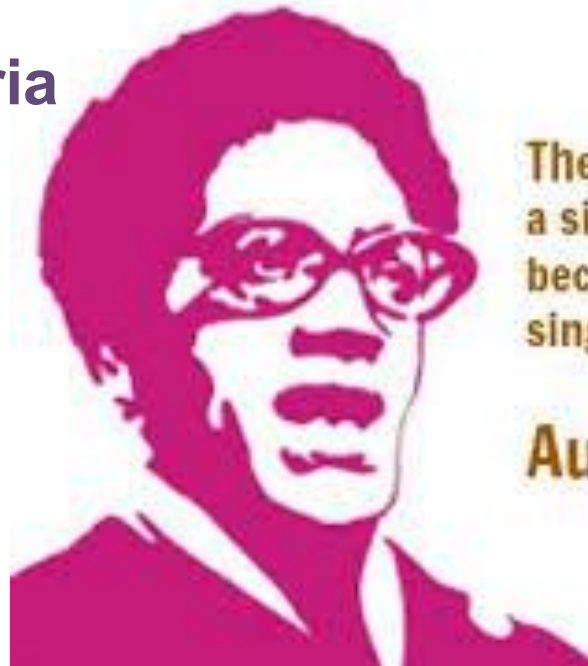
<https://youtu.be/O1isIM0ytkE>

# Outline

Respect  
Victoria

Preventing  
Family  
Violence

- **Definitions and frameworks: what is included?**
  - **Government**
  - **Non government**
- **Respect Victoria**
- **Voices of women**
- **Good practice in Victoria**



**There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.**

**Audre Lorde**

# Royal Commission into Family Violence

Respect  
Victoria

Preventing  
Family  
Violence

The Royal Commission's TOR required it to consider the needs and experiences of people affected by family violence, having particular regard to, among others:

- children
- seniors
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- people within culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people
- people living in rural, regional and remote communities
- people with a disability

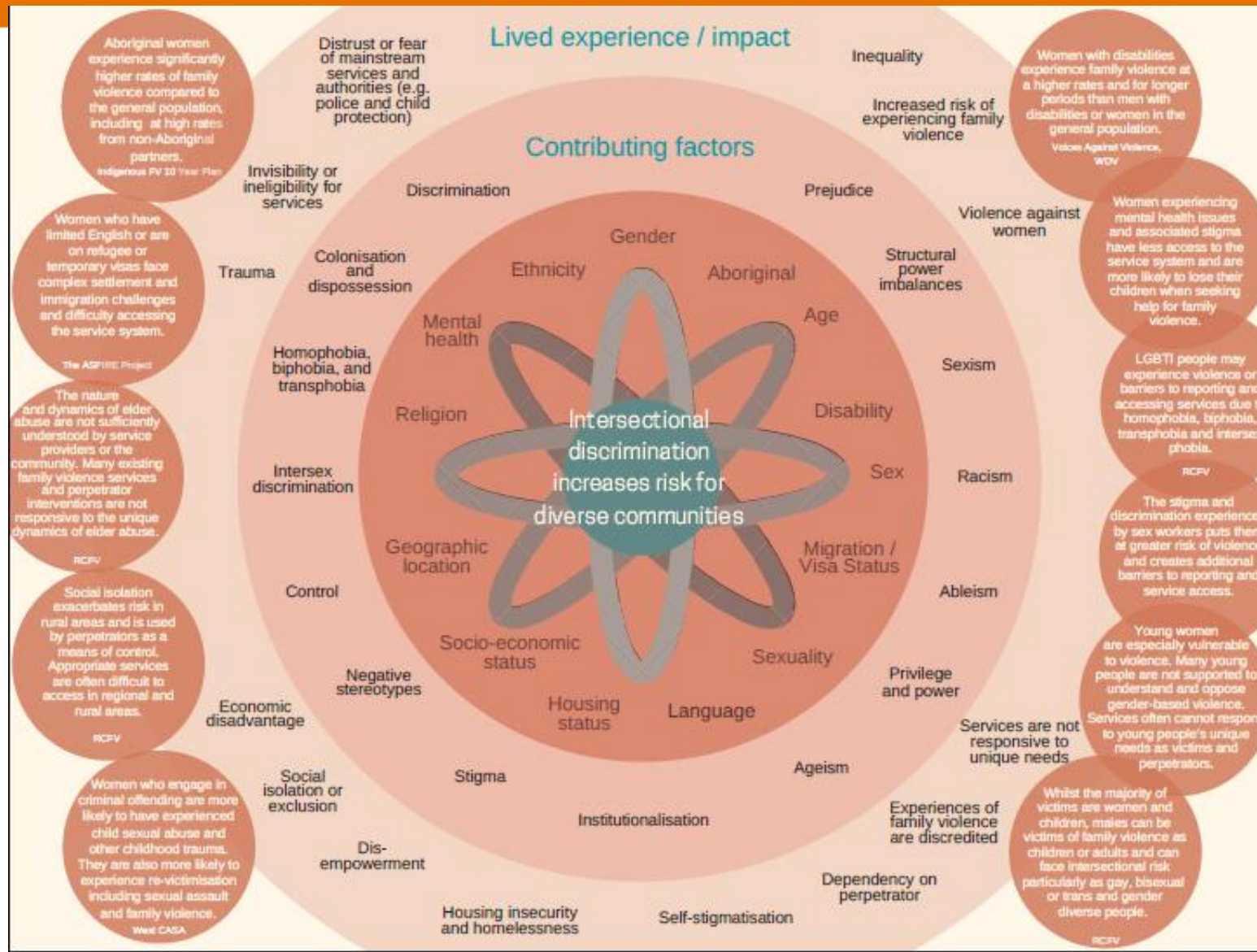
*The terms of reference did not refer to male victims of family violence, women in prison or women working in the sex industry. Nevertheless the Commission considered it important to take into account their experiences and needs.*



# Victorian Government (2017) Family Safety Victoria

Respect  
Victoria

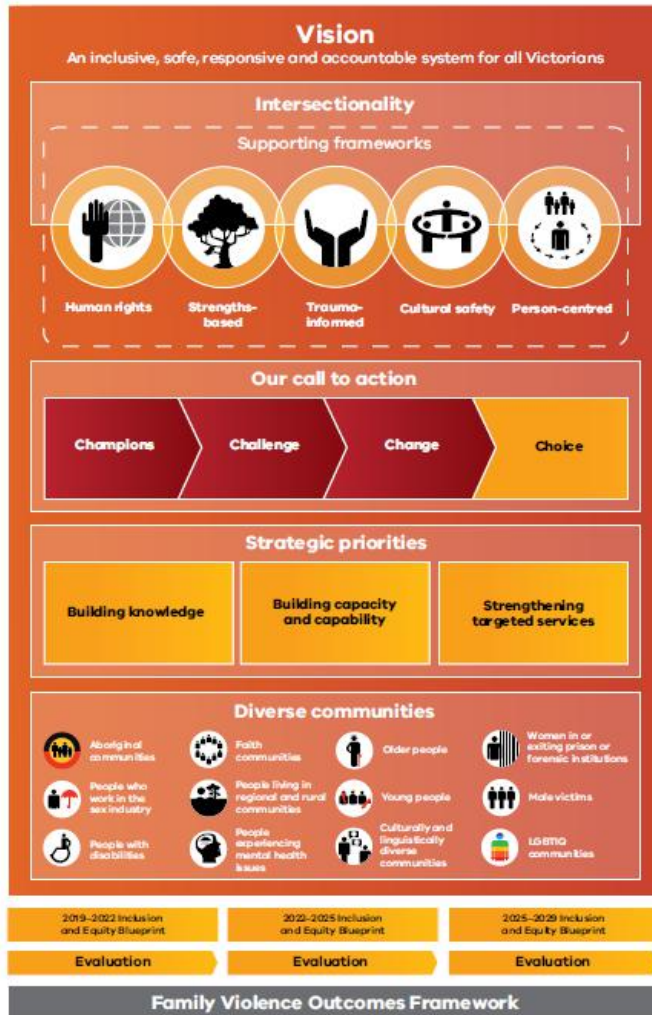
Preventing  
Family  
Violence



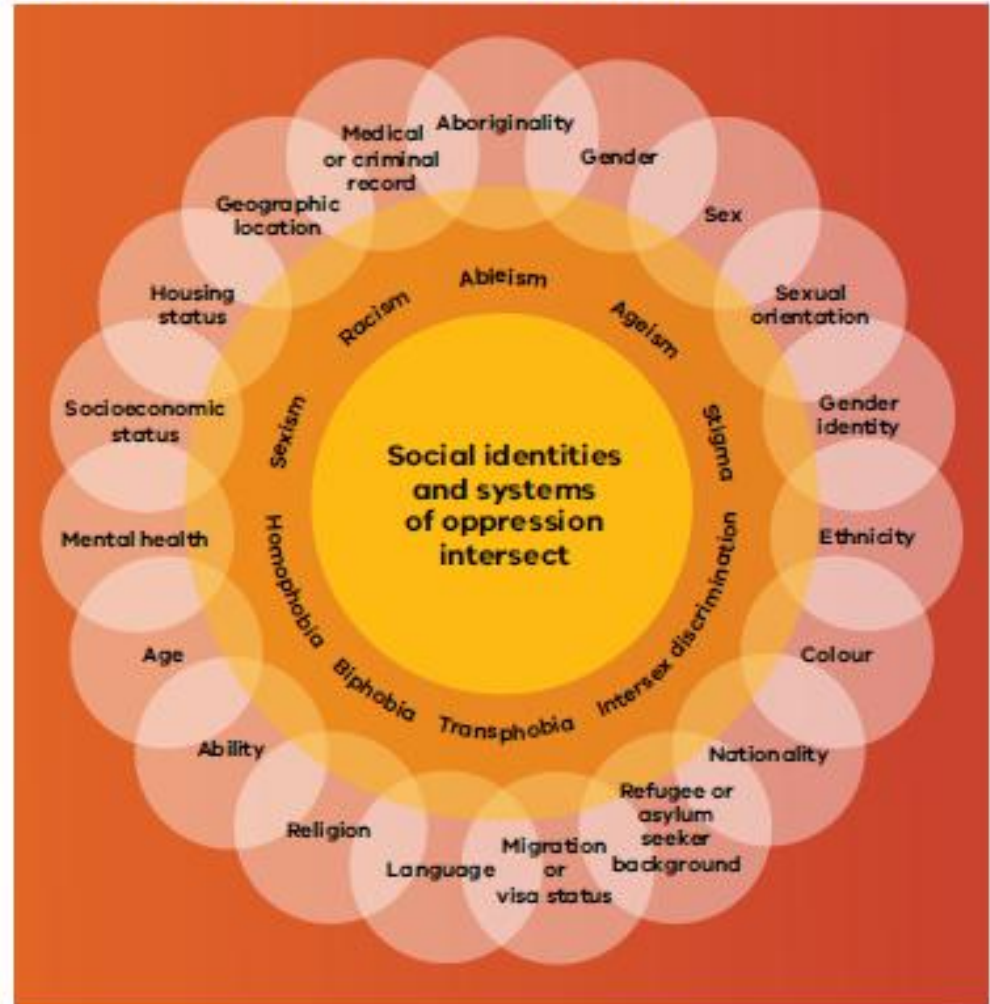
# Everybody Matters: Inclusion and Equity Statement

Respect  
Victoria

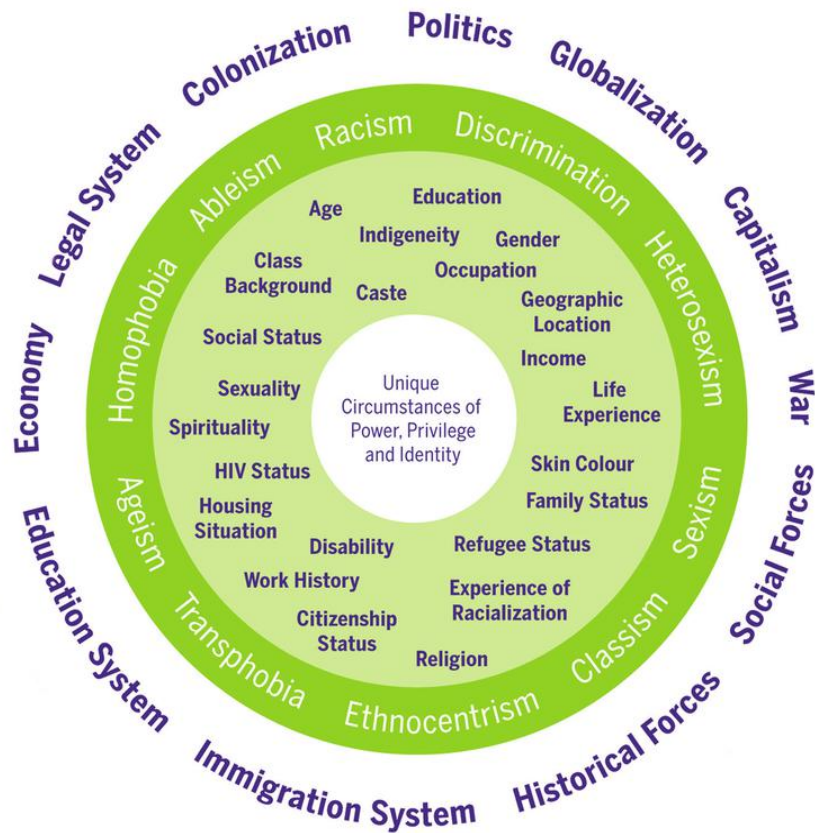
Preventing  
Family  
Violence



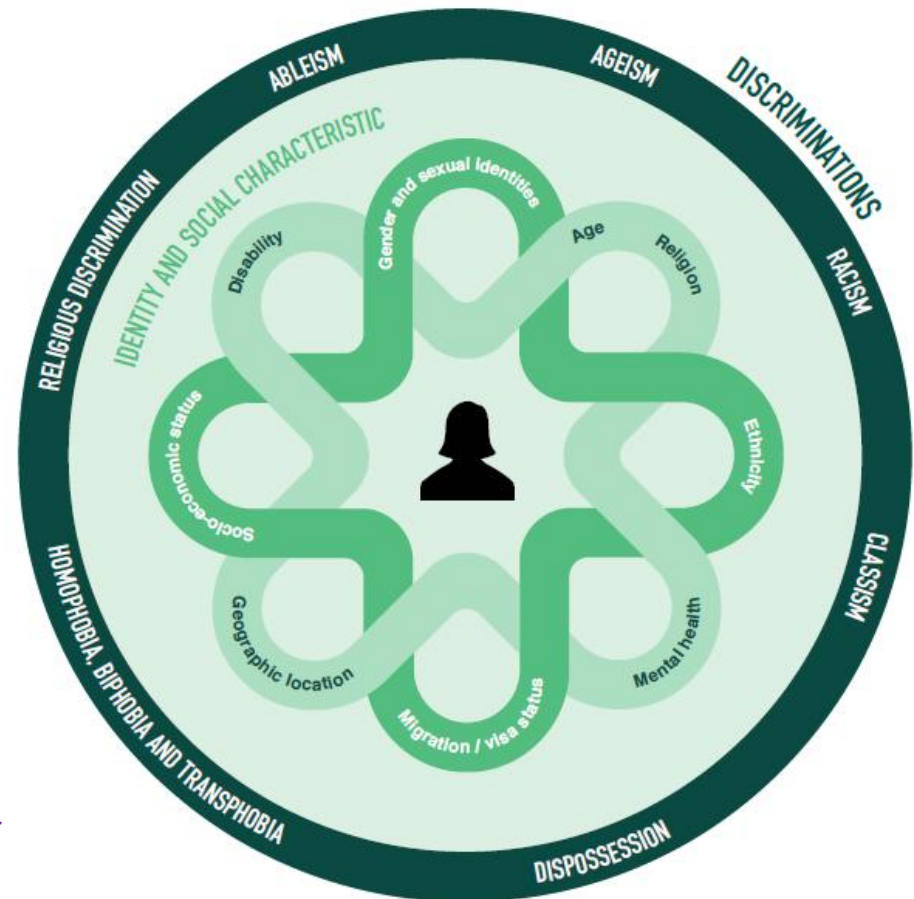
## UNDERSTANDING INTERSECTIONALITY



# International and national models



## Commonwealth of Australia Fourth Action Plan 2019



**Innermost Circle:** unique circumstances

**Second Circle:** aspects of identity

**Third Circle:** types of discrimination impacting identity

**Outermost Circle:** larger forces and structures reinforcing exclusion

**Note:** it is impossible to name every discrimination, identity or structure. These are just examples to help give you a sense of what Intersectionality is.

Simpson, J (2009). *Everyone Belong: A Toolkit for applying intersectionality*. Ottawa: Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW)

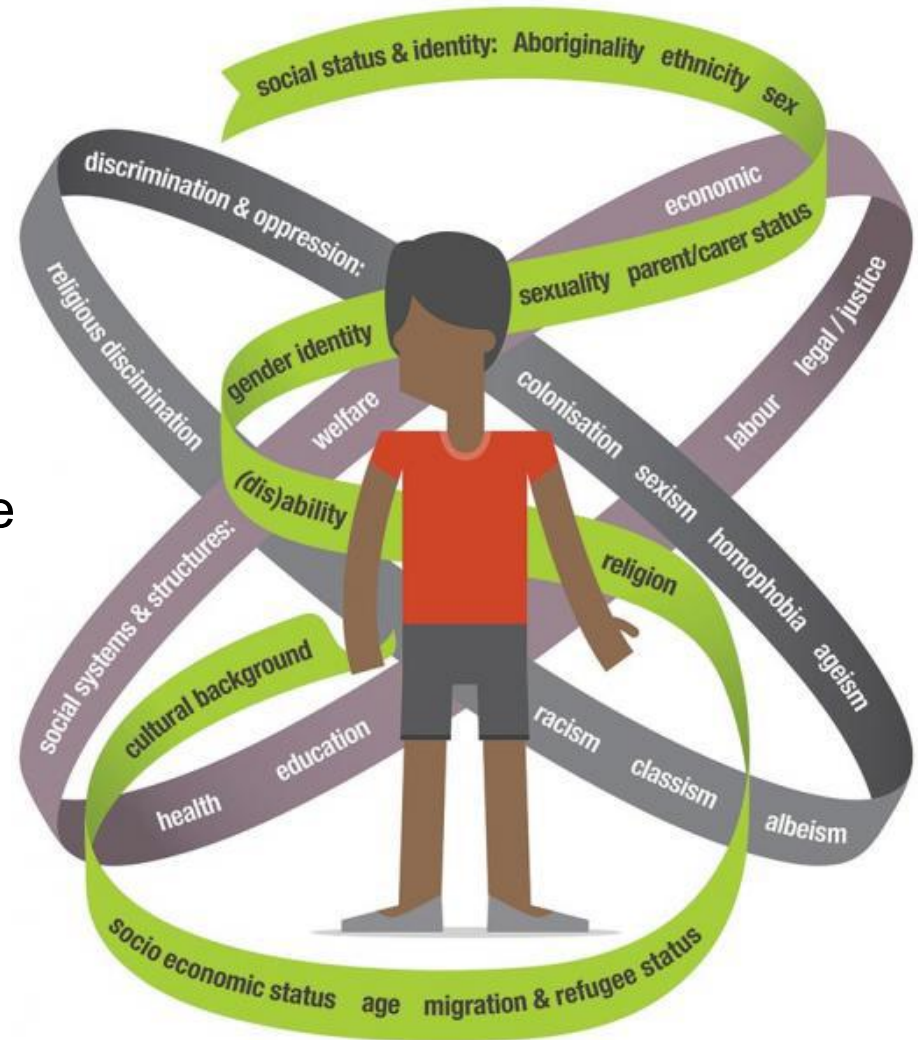
# Our Watch

Also used by Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria and GEN VIC

Respect  
Victoria

Preventing  
Family  
Violence

- The green ribbon represents the various factors that make up a person's social status and/or identity. These factors are what we often consider when we address the issue of 'diversity'.
- The purple ribbon represents the social systems and structures which can impact people positively or negatively.
- The grey ribbon represents forms of discrimination which can form the basis on which people are excluded.





## PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

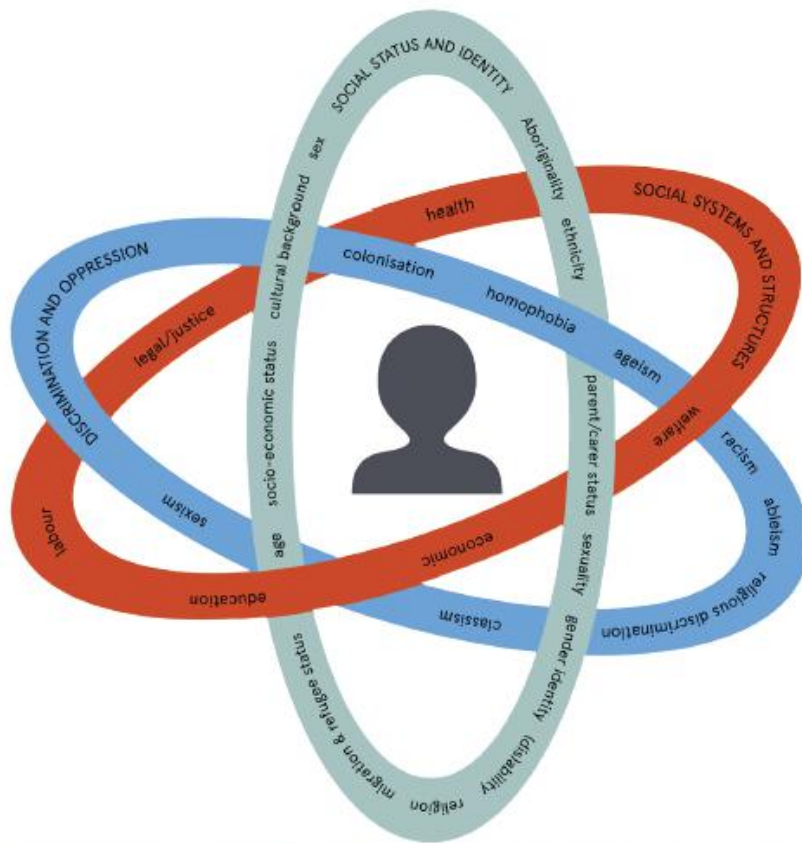


Figure 1. Intersectionality: Understanding the dynamics of power and privilege, and discrimination and oppression in our analyses of violence<sup>1</sup>

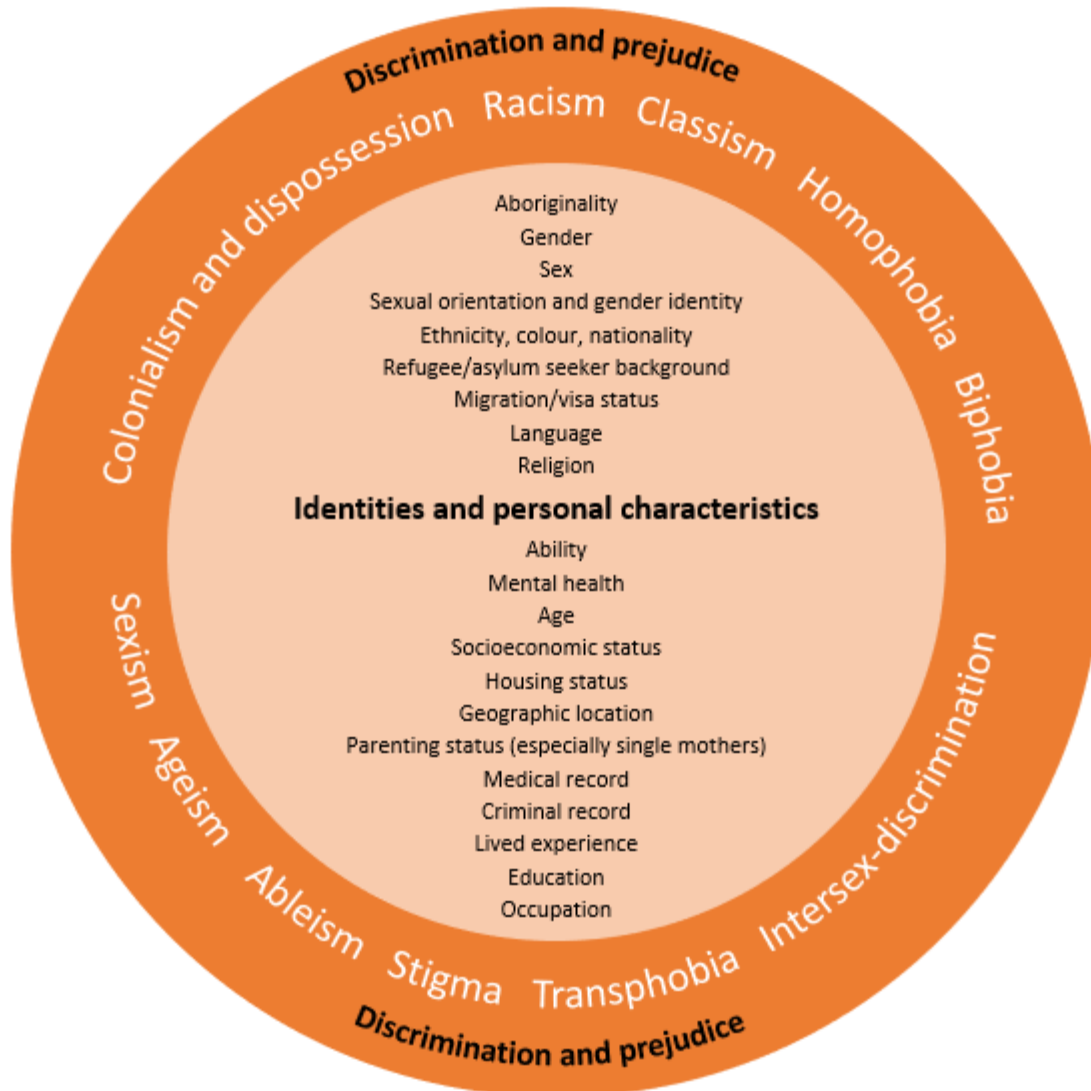
<sup>1</sup> This image has been adapted from Our Watch (2017).

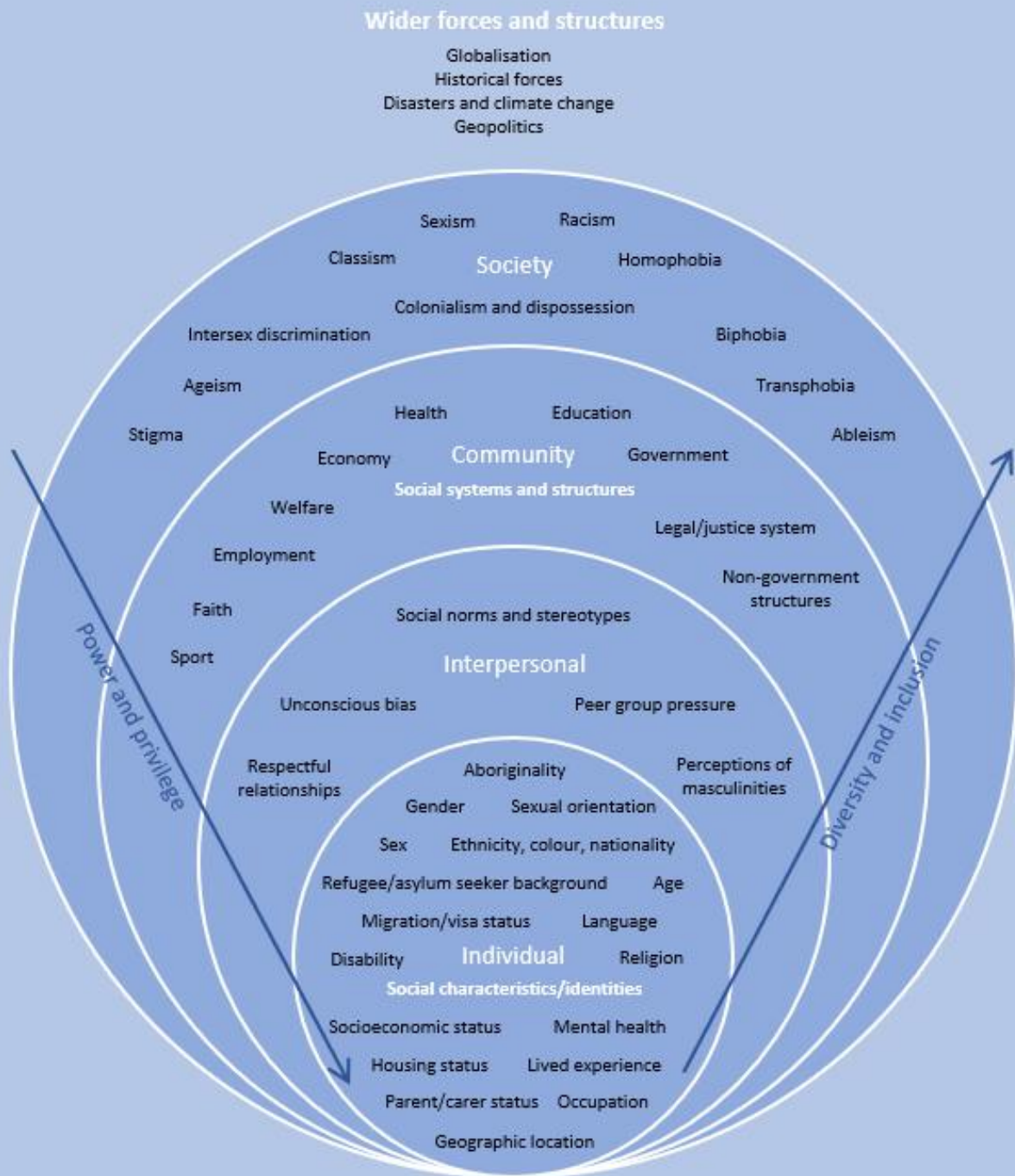
### Summary of key findings: Drivers and reinforcing factors of family violence within diverse Australian communities\*

COMMUNITY	SOCIETAL LEVEL	COMMUNITY/ ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL	INDIVIDUAL/ RELATIONSHIP LEVEL
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES	History of colonisation Racial discrimination	Lateral violence Intergenerational trauma	Alcohol and substance abuse Socio-economic factors
OLDER PEOPLE	Ageism	Invisibility of family violence against older people Social isolation	Family relationship Previous exposure to or experience of violence and trauma
CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES	Racial discrimination Anti-immigration attitudes	Sociocultural factors Social isolation	Insecurity Previous experiences of and exposure to violence and trauma
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX COMMUNITIES	Rigid gender norms and stereotypes Heterosexism, homophobia and transphobia	Invisibility of violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities Social isolation	Internalised homophobia Family relationships Previous experiences of and exposure to violence and trauma
MALE VICTIMS	Rigid gender roles and stereotypes Power and control		Previous experiences of and exposure to violence and trauma Retaliation/self-defence
RURAL, REGIONAL, AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES	Rigid gender norms and stereotypes	Social isolation Lack of perpetrator accountability Self-reliance and privacy	Financial arrangements and financial dependency Gun ownership
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	Ableism and discrimination against people with disabilities	Invisibility of family violence experienced by people with disabilities Social isolation Institutional conditions	Family relationships Previous experiences of and exposure to violence and trauma
WOMEN IN THE SEX INDUSTRY	Rigid gender norms and stereotypes Social stigmatisation and invisibility of sex workers	Under-reporting and discrimination in services	Gatekeepers and power in relationships Previous experiences of and exposure to violence and trauma Substance abuse
WOMEN IN PRISON	Rigid gender norms and stereotypes		Family violence and crime Child sexual abuse Mental illness Substance abuse Individual social disadvantage
CHILDREN	Rigid gender norms and stereotypes	Parenting practices and social norms	Exposure to intimate partner violence in the home Parents' characteristics Age
FAITH COMMUNITIES		Rigid gender and family roles Stigma and silence	Attitudes of faith leaders Individual beliefs

\* Empty boxes do not imply that there are no drivers or reinforcing factors for that community at that level. Rather, there is a lack of evidence to establish clear risk factors in those cases. The drivers and reinforcing factors presented here should be understood as intersecting and dynamic.

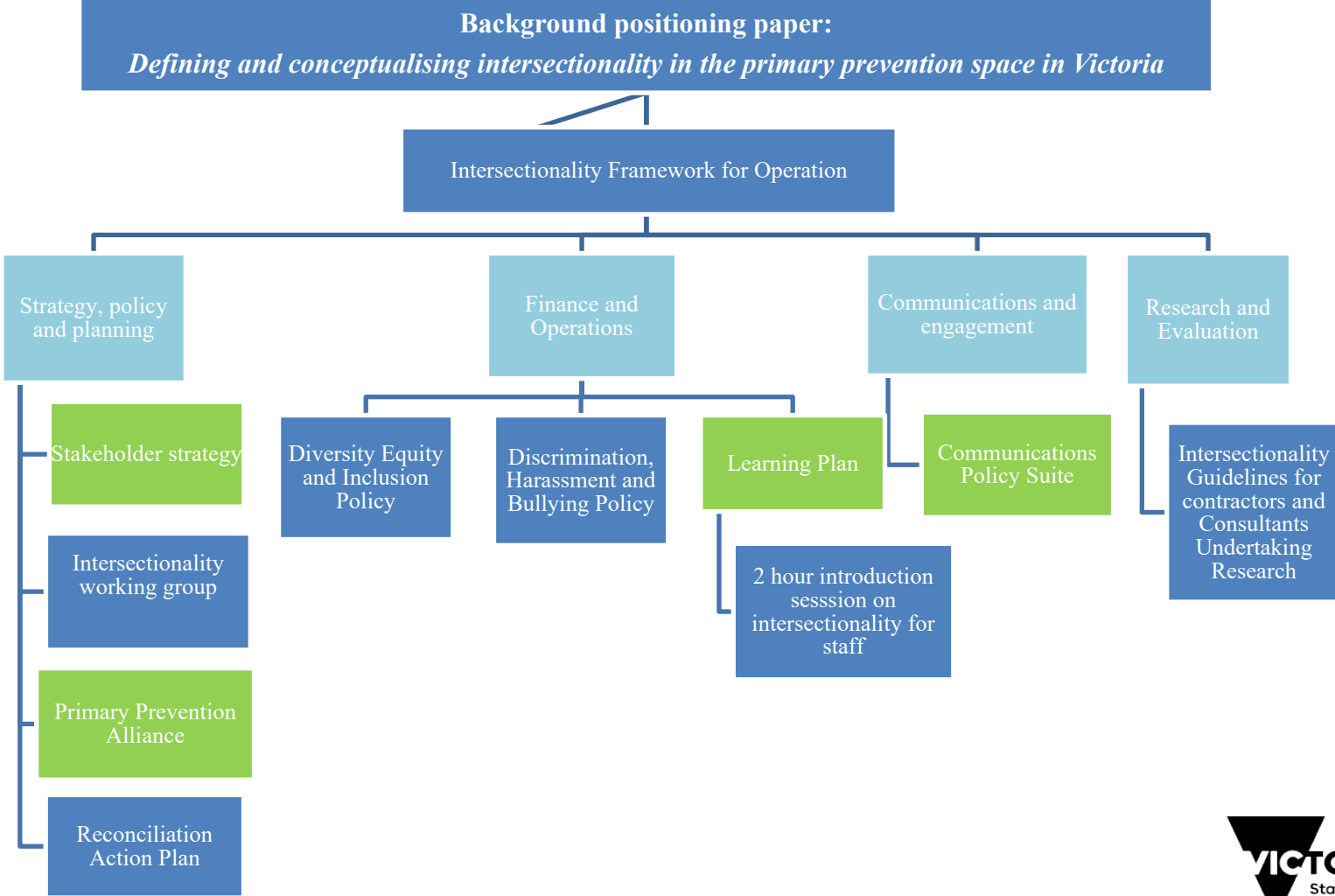
# Proposed Respect Victoria model





Respect Victoria  
socio-ecological  
model  
incorporating  
intersectionality

# Respect Victoria Intersectionality Framework Map



# Voices of Victorian women living at the intersection

Respect  
Victoria

Preventing  
Family  
Violence

## JAX JACKI BROWN

As a disability feminist who is queer, **I live intersectionality**, it shapes my life and my politics. However, the communities I belong to are often not intersectional or inclusive. The disability community can be very homophobic, biphobic and transphobic. I was reminded of this last week when I posted in a disability forum about a staff member for the National Disability Insurance Scheme who assumed the gender of my partner to be male, and my post was met with homophobic responses from other people with disabilities...

We need to get better at intersectionality. We need to be able to talk about behaviour that is problematic, exclusionary or reinforces privilege. Disability does not negate gendered privilege, but often people outside the disability community (as well as those within it) presume that it does, which both saddens and frustrates me.



# Celeste Liddle

Respect  
Victoria

Preventing  
Family  
Violence



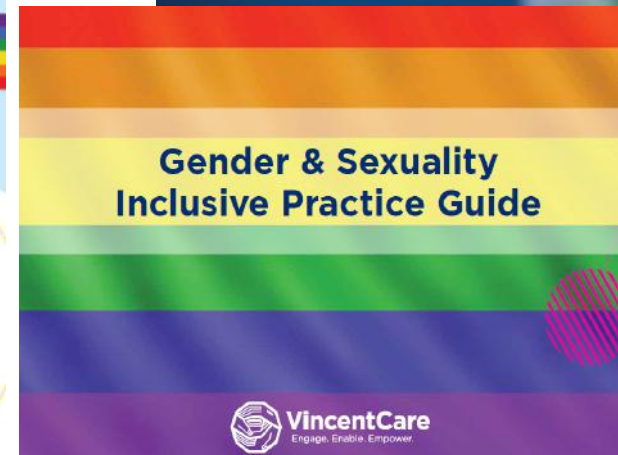
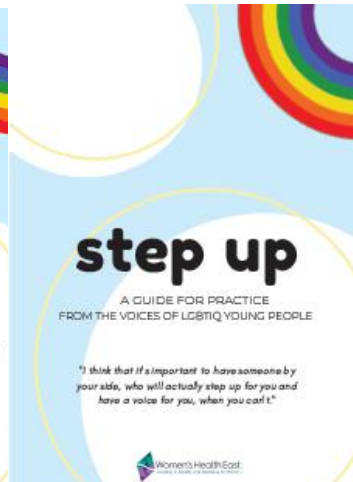
When it comes to intersectionality, we have to be incredibly careful because without that strong structural analysis, without that commitment to the rights of other human beings and the notion of equality for all, without using privilege to elevate the voices of those who have less rather than talking over them in the name of being an ally, it runs the risk of being identity politics doomed for nothing more than **circular games of oppression Olympics.**



# Good practice of integrating intersectionality in Victorian primary prevention

Respect  
Victoria

Preventing  
Family  
Violence



# Questions?

