



Gender, Intersectionality & Ableism Community of Practice Evaluation Snapshot

On 20 October 2020, 39 representatives (34 women/ 3 non-binary/gender fluid & 2 men) from 25 organisations engaged with the Preventing Violence Together (PVT) Communities of Practice (CoP) on Intersectionality and Diverse Communities.

This October CoP took a specific focus on disability and ableism. Women and girls with disabilities are twice as likely as women and girls without disabilities to experience violence throughout their lives. The pandemic has further increased the risk that women with disability will experience family violence.

The aim of this CoP was to provide an opportunity to explore intersecting forms of discrimination and disadvantage, and move to effective practice in our region, for the prevention of violence and ultimately towards building an inclusive community, that holds people with a disability in high value.

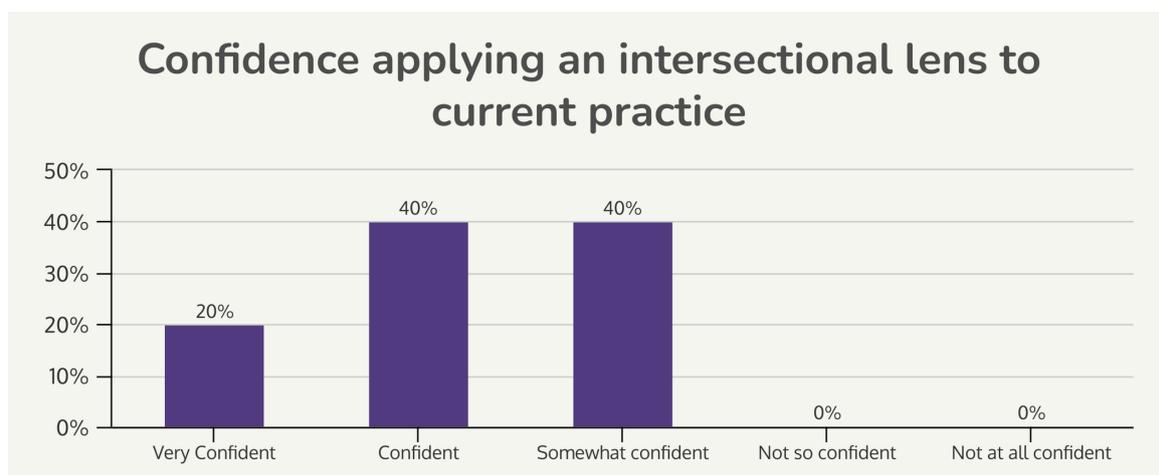
Presenters at this CoP were representatives from:

- [Women With Disabilities Victoria](#)
- Deakin University, WHISE and program peer mentors from [Sexual Lives and Respectful Relationships \(SL&RR\) Program](#)

Applying Learnings

Prior to the CoP 10% felt 'very confident', 41% felt 'confident' and 25% felt 'not so confident' in applying an intersectional lens to their practice.

After attending the CoP, there was a positive shift, with 20% now reporting they felt 'very confident', 40% 'confident', 40% 'somewhat confident', 0% 'not so confident'.



MOST SIGNIFICANT TAKEAWAY



Intersectional approach to current practice

"Intersectionality covers different forms of discrimination (i.e. gender, ethnicity, disability, etc.)"

"Strategies for practice and the intricacies to consider for inclusive practice"

"A clearer understanding of intersectional factors"

"That we need to consider the intersectional approach from the planning stage and also be better at evaluating our current practice"

"We are still operating in silos though and intersectional approach is still a challenge"

Reflections on privilege and bias

"Ways in which I, a cis hetero white woman, can be aware of my own privilege and ableism"

"Unconscious bias can have significant impacts on others choices and decision making ability"

Insights

"There is much work to be done to change our culture"

"Just how high the stats are for people with a disability experience sexual assault"

"Really important to have men in the conversation regarding violence towards women"

"Importance of peer-led program for sex education"

WHAT WORKED WELL

"Having a variety of presenters/speaker covering different areas and format of presentations - Great presentations which were informative"

"Hearing from experts in the sector who shared their insights - great to hear from Deakin and SL&RR program"

"Sharing life experiences and stories "

SPECIFIC AREA OF FOCUS FOR THE NEXT INTERSECTIONALITY AND DIVERSE COMMUNITIES COP

- ✓ LGBTIQ
- ✓ Ageism
- ✓ Aboriginality
- ✓ CALD
- ✓ Women of colour
- ✓ How to apply principles broadly to different settings

WHISE, on behalf of the PVT Partnership, will be running an ongoing Communities of Practice for practitioners in the Southern Metropolitan Region.

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