

Bridging Disability Across Cultures

Support Systems For CALD Communities

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01

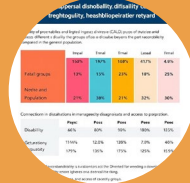
Understanding CALD Communities

Definition and demographics



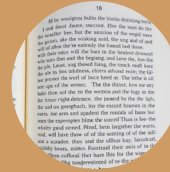
CALD Communities Overview

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia comprise over 25% of the population, speaking 280+ languages and representing diverse cultural backgrounds.



Disability Prevalence Statistics

Statistical breakdown of disability rates across different CALD groups compared to general population, highlighting disparities in diagnosis and support access.



Intersectionality Challenges

Examination of how cultural background and disability status intersect, creating unique barriers to service access and community participation for CALD individuals.

»»» Cultural diversity in NSW



Demographics of NSW
Communities



Migration Patterns



Cultural Celebrations

»»» Challenges faced

Language and Communication Barriers

Limited English proficiency creates obstacles for CALD individuals with disabilities when accessing services, understanding rights, and communicating needs effectively.

Cultural Understanding of Disability

Different cultural perspectives on disability may lead to stigma, shame, or reluctance to seek help, affecting service engagement among CALD communities.

Service Navigation Complexity

Difficulty understanding Australia's disability support systems, including NDIS processes, eligibility requirements, and available services creates significant access barriers.



02

Disability in CALD Context

Types of disabilities

Physical Disabilities

Conditions affecting mobility, dexterity or physical functioning, including paralysis, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, amputation and chronic pain conditions.



Sensory Disabilities

Impairments affecting one or more senses, including vision loss, hearing impairment, deafness, blindness and conditions affecting touch, taste or smell.



Intellectual Disabilities

Characterized by limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, affecting learning, problem-solving, and everyday social and practical skills.

Psychosocial Disabilities

Mental health conditions that substantially impact daily functioning, including depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and post-traumatic stress disorder.

►►► Prevalence among CALD communities



Statistical Overview

Data shows CALD communities experience disabilities at similar rates to general population, though reporting may be affected by cultural factors and access barriers.



Underreporting Issues

Cultural stigma, language barriers, and limited service awareness contribute to significant underreporting of disabilities within CALD communities.



High-Risk Groups

Refugees, older migrants, and newly arrived communities show higher prevalence of certain disabilities, often related to pre-migration trauma and settlement challenges.

»»» Cultural perceptions of disability

01

Disability as Punishment

Some cultures view disability as divine punishment for sins or wrongdoings, affecting how families seek help and support for disabled members.

02

Medical vs. Social Models

Western societies often adopt medical or social models of disability, while many CALD communities may emphasize family-based care over institutional support.

03

Shame and Family Honor

In certain cultures, disability carries stigma that affects family reputation, sometimes leading to hiding disabled family members from community view.



03

Support Services and Accessibility

▶▶▶ Available resources

Multicultural Disability Support Services

Specialized services designed to assist CALD individuals with disabilities through culturally appropriate care, multilingual resources, and personalized support programs.



Translated Information Materials

Educational resources about disability services available in multiple languages, including brochures, videos, and websites to improve accessibility for CALD communities.



Interpreter Services

Professional interpreters trained in disability terminology who facilitate communication between service providers and CALD individuals with disabilities.

▶▶▶ Improving service delivery



Cultural Competency Training

Equip staff with knowledge and skills to understand diverse cultural needs, improving communication and reducing barriers for CALD community members with disabilities.

Multilingual Resources

Develop information in multiple languages about disability services, eligibility criteria, and support options to increase accessibility and understanding.

Community Engagement

Partner with CALD community leaders and organizations to co-design services, build trust, and create culturally appropriate support pathways.

Thanks !