

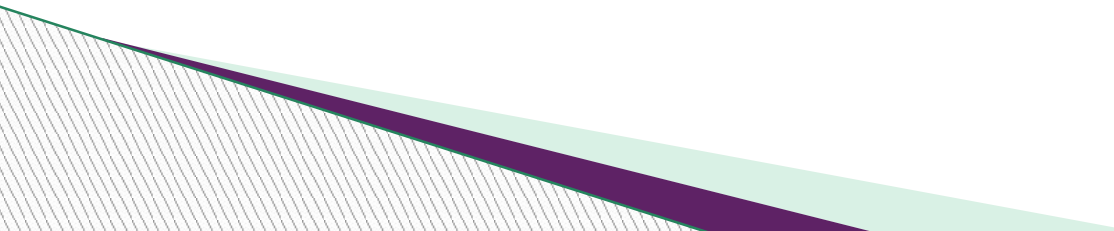
Mainstreaming gender in health policy: how are we doing in Australia?

Professor Helen Keleher

Monash University

6th Australian Women's Health
Conference: the New National Agenda
Hobart, May 2010

Overview

- ▶ Women and Gender Equity Knowledge Network of CSDH (WGEKN)
 - ▶ Key concepts
 - Gender equality – gender equity
 - ▶ Outcome measures for gender equity and inequity
 - ▶ Gender mainstreaming in Australian policy
 - ▶ Summary
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Hub of WGE KN

- ▶ Professor Gita Sen
 - Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore

- ▶ Dr Piroska Ostlin
 - Karolinska Institute, Sweden



Members

- ▶ **Adrienne Germain** International Women's Health Coalition, 333 Seventh Avenue, 6th floor, New York, NY 10001, USA
- ▶ **Afua Hesse** Medical doctor and professor from Ghana
- ▶ **Alex Scott-Samuel** University of Liverpool, EQUAL (Equity in Health Research and Development Unit), Division of Public Health, Whelan Building, Quadrangle, Liverpool, L69 3GB, UK
- ▶ **Anne Marie Goetz** Institute of Development Studies
- ▶ **Caren Crown** Levy Economics Institute, Gender Equality and the Economy, Blithewood Rd., Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, 12504, USA
- ▶ **Claudia Garcia-Moreno** WHO, Department of Gender, Women and Health, Geneva 27-1211, Switzerland
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Members

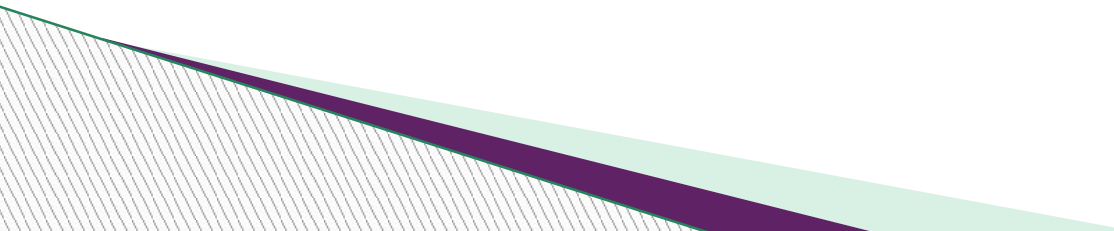
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Process of WGEKN work

- ▶ Face to face meetings
 - Bangalore
 - Stockholm
 - Cairo
- ▶ 8 papers commissioned from members

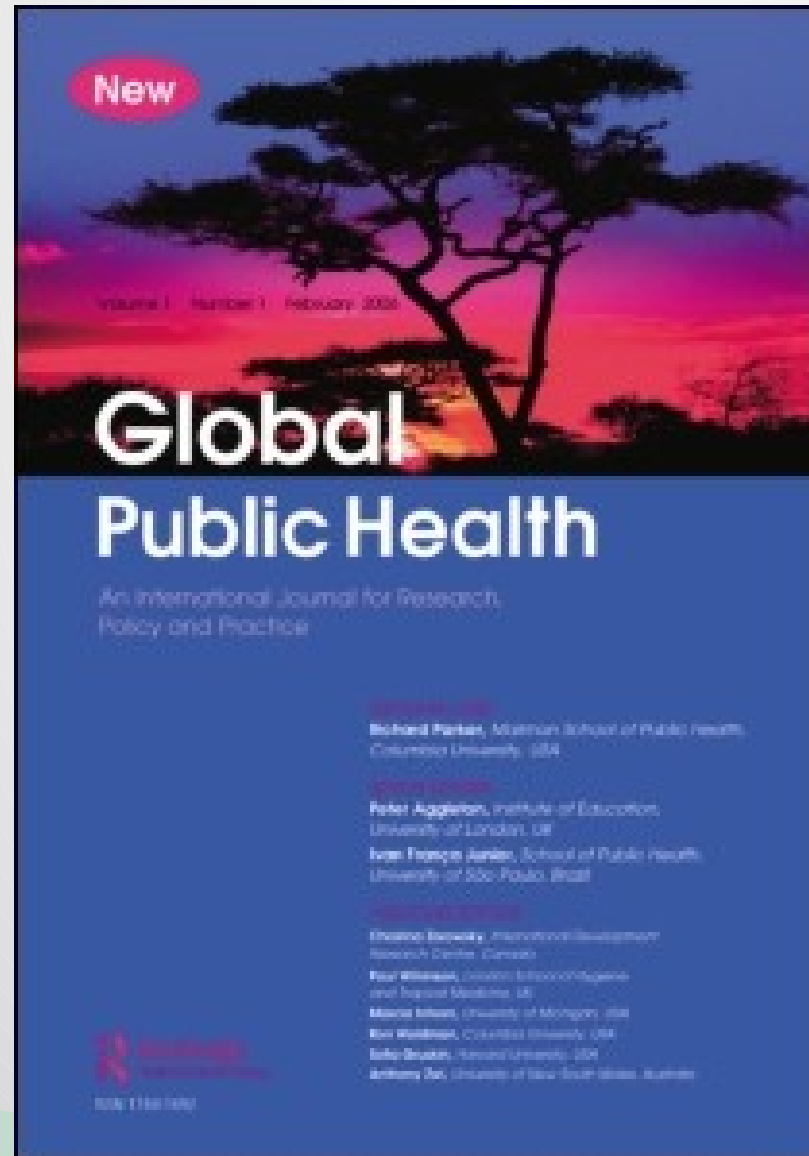
Some key debates

- ▶ Topics of commissioned papers
 - ▶ Definitions of key terms
 - Gender norms, bias, vulnerability, gender relations, power relations, empowerment, etc etc
 - ▶ Gender-blind policies
 - Global Fund on HIV-AIDS and Men and boys
 - ▶ Hostility to gender justice
 - ▶ Levels of evidence
 - ▶ Search for accountability for gender responsiveness in health care
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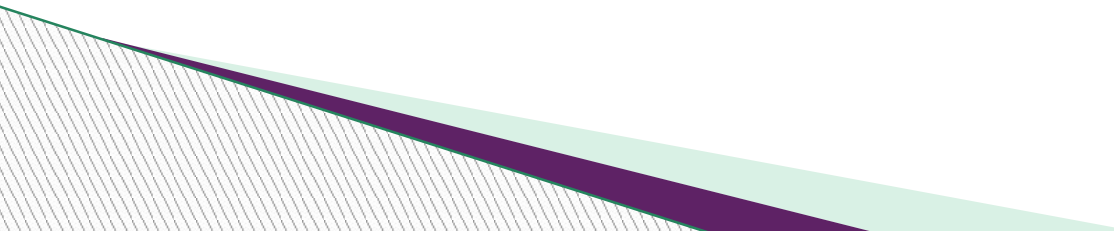
More key debates

- ▶ Health care – privatised, lack of services for women, access etc
- ▶ Implications of globalization
- ▶ Work of other KNs

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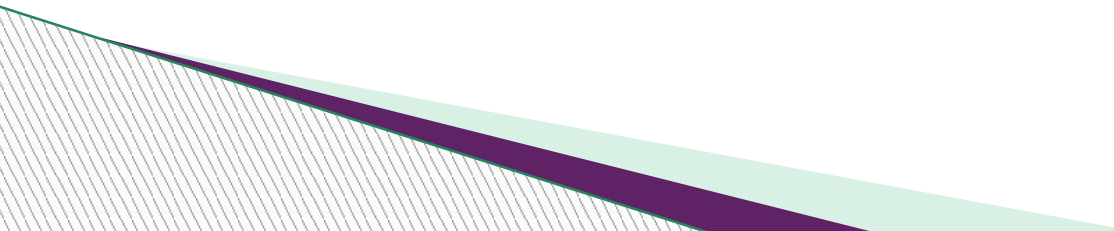


Gender equality

- ▶ *Gender equality* is about women and men having equal opportunities for equal outcomes
 - ▶ *Gender inequalities* are measurable differences (disparities) in health achievements of women and men
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Gender mainstreaming: equality approach

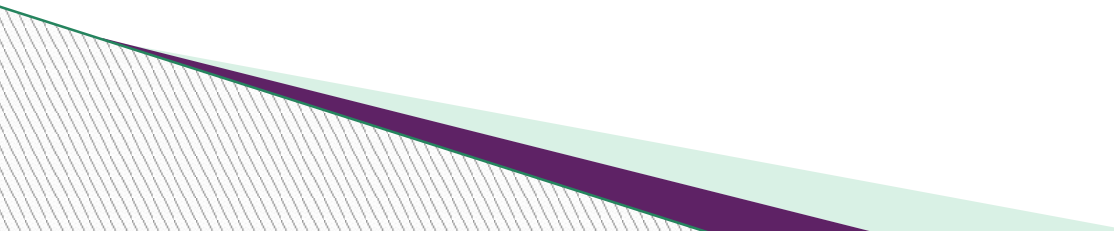
Aim [of gender mainstreaming] is to bring about gender equality by infusing gender analysis, gender-sensitive research, women's perspectives and gender equality goals into mainstream policies, projects and institutions (Association for Women's Rights in Development 2004, 1).

- ▶ De-politicises gender
 - ▶ Women represented as 'special needs' groups trying to be acknowledged by male-dominated organisations
 - ▶ The equality approach fails to acknowledge pervading inequitable gender power relations
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Gender equity

- ▶ Gender equity emerges from social relations
- ▶ Gender equity is a field that recognises in all societies, that women are disadvantaged by the levels of social, economic and political power held by men
 - therefore gender equity is about tackling gender inequities – those which are unfair and unjust

Gender inequities

- ▶ Gender inequities are inequalities of health deemed to be unfair or stemming from some form of injustice
 - ▶ Gender inequity is widely and deeply entrenched in individual and community attitudes and behaviours, societal norms, institutions, and market economies, with their impact apparent in poverty, discrimination, violence and injustices.
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Indicators and outcomes

Indicators to measure effect of policy and programs on gender equity/inequity

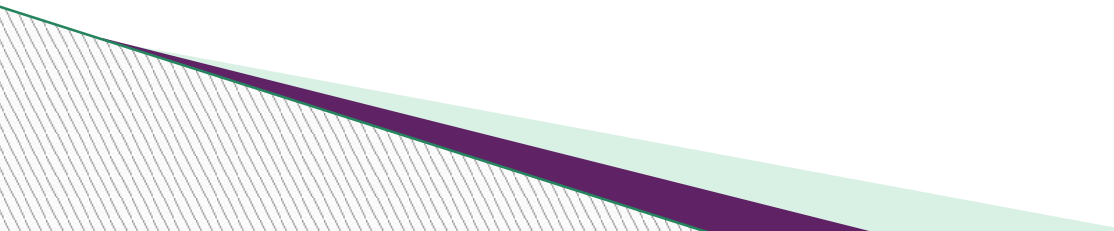
Obvious targets should include:

- ▶ Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services through the primary health care system;
- ▶ Eliminating gender inequity in access to assets and employment;
- ▶ Achieving a 30 percent share of seats for women in national parliaments;
- ▶ Reducing by half the lifetime prevalence of violence against women (UN Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality 2005)

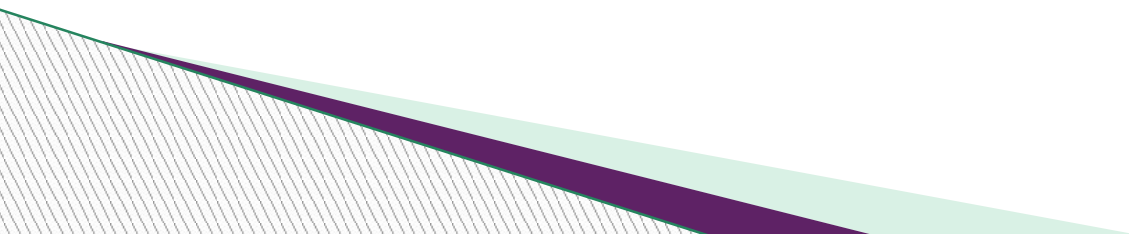
Gender mainstreaming: equity approach

Aim is to achieve gender equity and reduce gender inequities:

The equity approach:

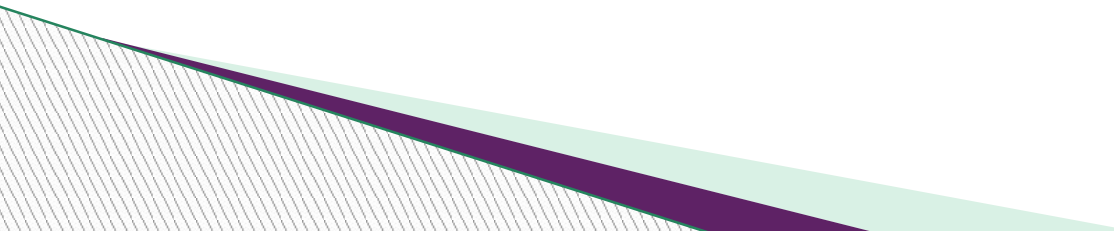
- Measures and names inequalities
 - Makes policy accountable for making measurable differences to gender inequities
 - Implements initiatives to tackle inequalities
 - Enables equal representation in governance at all levels
 - Enables women to exercise their rights to participate equally in the decisions that affect their lives
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- ▶ Gender mainstreaming: a process
 - ▶ Gender equity: the goal



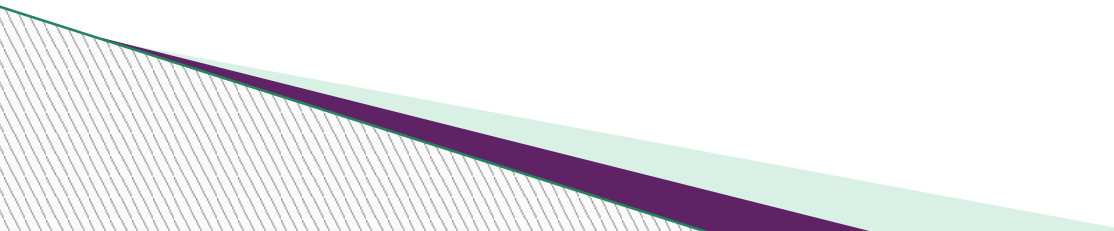
- ▶ Gender mainstreaming is not a policy goal in Australia

Accountability of governments for women's health

- ▶ Governments are accountable under UN agreements
 - ▶ Eg:
 - Beijing Platform for Action
 - UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
 - Millennium Development Goals:
 - Goal 3: 'Achieve Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment'
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Research question

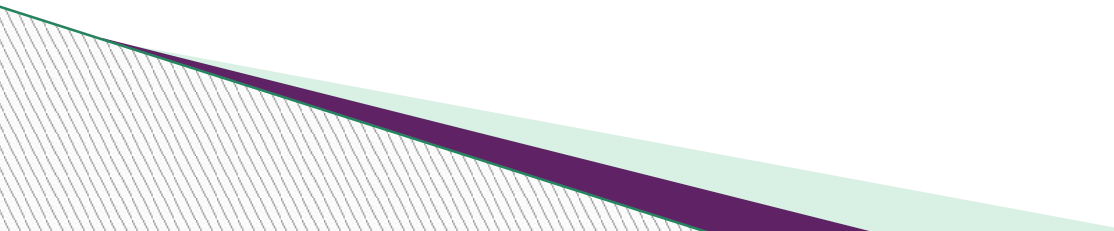
Given the pioneering work done on women's health policy in Australia, how well are we doing on gender mainstreaming?



Sampling frame

- ▶ Australian health policies 2005-2010
 - National Health Priorities (NHPs) and new policy/strategies issued during 2009-10 health reforms
- ▶ State policies (three States) since 2005
 - Either derivative of NHP or specific to that State

Scorecard rating of policies

- ▶ 5 = exceeds minimum standards
 - ▶ 4 = meets minimum standards
 - ▶ 3 = Needs improvement
 - ▶ 2 = Inadequate
 - ▶ 1 = Missing
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- ▶ NB: rating based on UN Country Team (UNCT) gender scorecard for policy and programs
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<i>Commonwealth policies reviewed</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>
Australian National Tobacco Strategy 2004–2009	Sex-disaggregated data	1
National Tobacco Strategy, 2004–2009: <i>The Strategy</i>	Sex-disaggregated data	2
National Priorities for Turning Around the Diabetes Epidemic 2007-2008	Sex-disaggregated data	2
National Drug Strategy: Australia’s integrated framework 2004-2009	No inclusion of gender or women	1
National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy 2009	No inclusion of gender or women	1
National Strategy For Heart, Stroke And Vascular Health In Australia 2004	No inclusion of gender or women	1
National Preventative Health Strategy – the roadmap for action 30 June 2009	Mentions need to consider gender and the health gap	1.5
National Chronic Disease Strategy 2005	No inclusion of gender or women	1
Building a 21stC Primary Health System	No inclusion of gender or women	1
National Mental Health Strategy 2009	No inclusion of gender or	1

<i>Victorian policies reviewed</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>
Victorian Women's Health and Wellbeing Plan	Excellent work on gender analysis and gender equity and intention to influence mainstreaming	5
Diabetes prevention and management: a strategic framework for Victoria 2007-2010	GDM mentioned	1.5
Victorian Drug Strategy 2006-09		1.2
Victorian Mental Health Reform Strategy 2009 –2019		4
A Fairer Victoria	Includes gender analysis and a determinants of social health and wellbeing focus	4
Victorian Tobacco Control Strategy 2008–2013	Focus on pregnant women	2

<i>Queensland policies reviewed</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>
Queensland Strategy for Chronic Disease 2005-2015	GDM mentioned	1.5
Queensland Drug Strategy 2006-10	Young women and binge drinking	2
Queensland Health Policy for People with Dual Diagnosis 2008	Women mentioned as a 'special population'	2
Queensland Closing the Gap - Housing	Mentions women	1.5
Queensland Closing the Gap - Health	Mentions women	2
Q'ld social policy on women's leadership and community building	Focus on development of women for roles in volunteering and community building	3

<i>Sth Australian policies reviewed</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>
South Aust Women's Health Policy	Excellent work on gender equity and intention to influence mainstreaming	5
South Australian Drug Strategy 2005-10	Mentions pregnant women twice	1.5
South Australia Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy 2010-2015	Women mentioned as a 'special population' – connects VAW and mental health	2
South Australia's Social Inclusion Initiative: People and Community at the Heart of Systems and Bureaucracy 2009	No mention of women or gender, or gender analysis	1

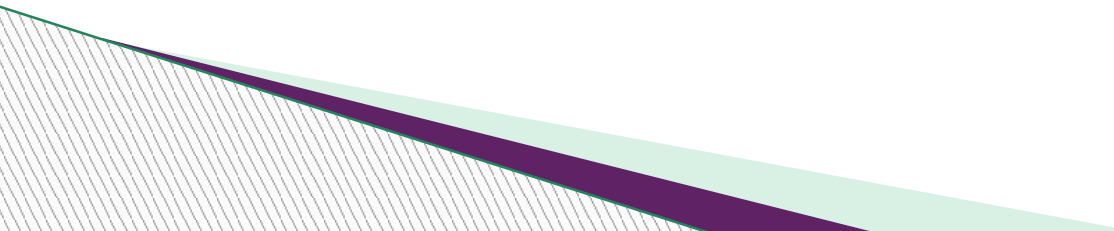
Is Gender mainstreaming out-dated?

- ▶ Might gender mainstreaming be overtaken by use of SDH analysis in policy or Australia's social inclusion policy agenda?
 - SDH is much more comprehensive and inclusive of a both gender and rights principles
 - Social inclusion IS a social determinant of health
 - The Social Inclusion Principles (CW of Aust 2010) makes no mention of the need to recognise gender issues or fails to show understanding of the need for gender analysis to underpin social inclusion outcomes

A gender lens on social policy

To be authentic, social policy goals should be aiming to achieve:

- ▶ Gender democracy
 - ▶ Gender poverty reduction
 - ▶ Gendering of rights
 - ▶ Gendering of social justice

 - ▶ Gender health equity is amenable to social policy...
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Summary

- ▶ Gender mainstreaming is only of value if it understood has having potential to be transformative of gender equity outcomes
 - ▶ There seems to be active resistance in Australian national health policy to women's rights and gender equity goals
 - ▶ Social policy should be strengthened around gender equity with indicators of progress
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