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Gendered Indigenous Health and Wellbeing within the Australian Health System: A Review of the Literature

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Introduction: This literature review examines the literature (both peer reviewed and grey) on gendered Indigenous health and wellbeing within the Australian healthcare system. The review was commenced in 2014 as a collaborative research activity by members of the Health and Wellbeing Node (HWBN) of the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN). The work continued over the life of the NIRAKN Health and Wellbeing Node as an ongoing collaborative project.



The Challenge: Traditionally, Indigenous men and women maintained distinct gendered realities. Colonisation and the subsequent introduction of the patriarchal system altered these realities, negatively impacting on Indigenous men's and women's health and wellbeing in a cumulative and continuing way. This literature review provides an overview of gendered Indigenous perspectives of health and wellbeing, and discusses some of the intervention strategies in Australia that have attempted to address these issues. In providing a context for understanding gendered Indigenous health perspectives, this literature discusses the place of Indigenous peoples in contemporary Australian society and the complex historical factors that inform the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The Response: The research involved a review of gendered Indigenous health literature involving a systematic search of peer-reviewed and grey literature, and government and non-government reports.

The Engagement: This work commenced as a conversation between Indigenous researchers who were members of the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) Health and Wellbeing Node who are intimately aware of the ongoing crisis in Indigenous health and wellbeing. As we progressed our collaborative conversation, we agreed to focus on several specific areas and commenced with this review of the literature about gendered Indigenous health and wellbeing in order to gain a deeper understanding of what is known and what research has taken place.

The Impact: This work does not set out to include all work produced, but to open up the discussion on ways to offer a greater focus on and improve gendered Indigenous health and wellbeing. We offer this monograph as a contribution to the larger conversation that needs to be had, to develop a broader understanding of Indigenous gendered health and wellbeing and what needs to happen in bringing about positive health outcomes for Indigenous peoples in Australia. Future research is needed to not only describe the situation of gendered Indigenous health and wellbeing, but to involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and men in the ways that health services serve this community. More work is needed to build strong evidence of what works in improving gendered Indigenous health outcomes.

If you are interested in more details about this research, please refer to the full document: Fredericks B., Daniels, C., Judd, J., Bainbridge, R., Clapham, K., Longbottom, M., Adams, M., Bessarab, D., Collard, L., Andersen, C., Duthie, D. & Ball, R. (2017). *Gendered Indigenous Health and Wellbeing within the Australian Health System: A Review of the Literature*. CQUniversity, Australia: Rockhampton. This can be freely accessed at:
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