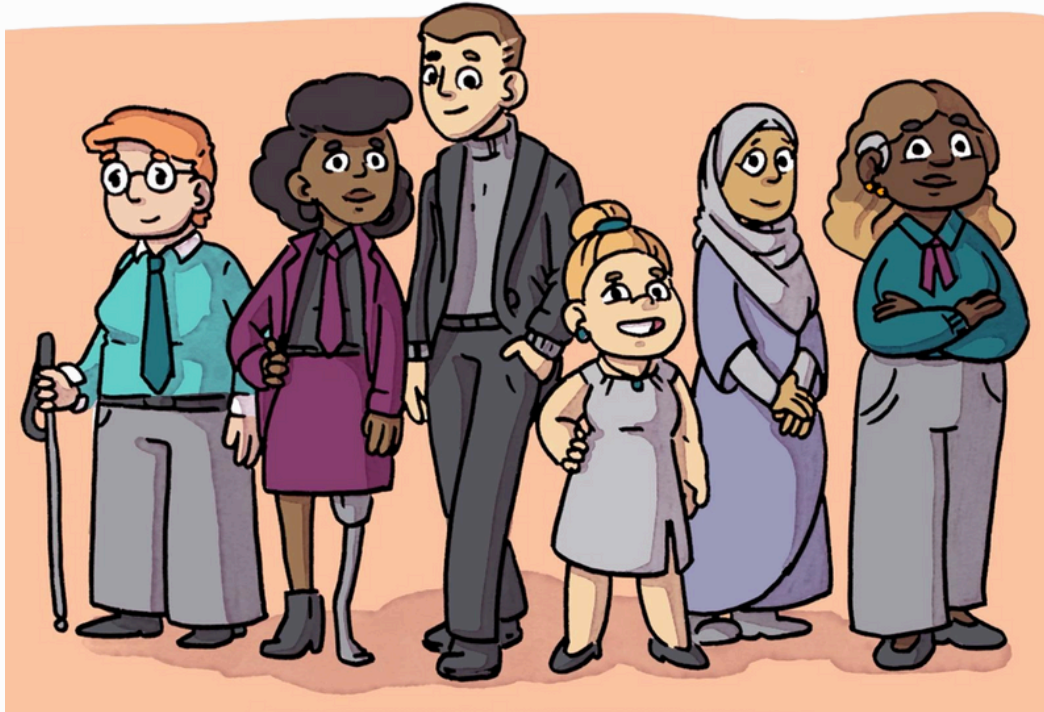


Barriers to accessing support services

for migrant and refugee women, non-binary, and gender-diverse people with disabilities



Support Networks

- Limited social networks in a new country, dependence on caregivers, and community stigma surrounding disability contribute to social isolation.

Financial Hardship

- The non-recognition of skills and qualifications acquired overseas directly results in the need to participate in precarious or low-paying work, and a lack of opportunities for career progression.
- Some visa categories exclude access to social support such as the Disability Support Pension (DSP) and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Access to Services

- Limited access to safe, accessible, culturally appropriate, and affordable healthcare, as well as access to transport, housing, employment, and other services.
- Limited access to in-language and accessible sexual and reproductive health information results in a lack of autonomy to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. Ableist views, such as assumptions that people with disabilities do not have desires, can impact the availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health information.
- Under-resourced services with limited budget for accessibility and supporting culturally appropriate services, such as recruiting bilingual Health Educators.



Immigration System

- Residency rights and visa status pose significant obstacles to women's independence, limiting access to essential health, social, and economic opportunities, particularly for those on temporary visas. The fear of visa rejection further compounds these challenges, often discouraging individuals from reporting instances of violence.
- Navigating Australia's visa system can be challenging for individuals with disabilities or ongoing health conditions. The health requirement focuses primarily on the economic impact of an applicant's condition, potentially labeling them as a burden to public health and community resources.
- Remaining silent about violence at work for fear of losing their position or their visa status. Sponsorship from an employer may be a deterrent from disclosing workplace discrimination and harassment in fear of not only losing their job but also losing their sponsorship and facing deportation.

This information was gathered from:

Preventing Violence Against Migrant and Refugee Women, Non-Binary, and Gender-Diverse People with Disabilities: Background Paper (2024).

Community consultations with women, non-binary, and gender-diverse people with lived experience of cultural diversity and disability. Participants were offered the opportunity to partake in one of two focus groups or contribute by responding to questions in a way that was most accessible to them.



For more information about how you, or your organisation, can take action to prevent violence against migrant and refugee women, non-binary, and gender-diverse people with disabilities please contact Women with Disabilities Victoria and Multicultural Centre for Women's Health.



wdv.org.au



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