

Gender in Local Planning

Why is it important to consider gender in local planning?

Local planning and development can increase how equitably women and men participate in society and also their equal access to facilities, transport and public spaces. Integrating gender analysis into planning assists local government and other organisations to meet the current and future needs of local residents, both men and women.

How do we use gender in local planning?

Gender roles and responsibilities are rarely evenly balanced in any society and the Grampians region is no exception. Considering gender in local planning involves utilising and reviewing data, policies and practices relevant to men and women's health, social and economic wellbeing outcomes to understand and respond to existing and potential future inequalities.

Considering gender in local planning, as opposed to overlooking gender, assists us to understand the similar and different needs of women, girls, men and boys and avoid making false assumptions and perpetuating stereotypes about women and men at different life stages in our community.

Gender - social relations between men and women that are socially constructed and can change over time. This is different from sex which refers to biological differences between men and women.

Gender Equality - being fair to women and men, achieving equitable outcomes for all. Gender equality results in the absence of discrimination on the basis of a person's sex.

Gender & Data

Sex-Disaggregated Data - statistics collected and presented by sex.

Gendered Data - more than just sex-disaggregated statistics. Gendered data includes data that reflects differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men.

Gendered data refers to collecting and examining where possible sex-disaggregated data at the local level to highlight the different experiences and outcomes for men and women. Data can include educational, employment and income differences between women and men. Other data may look at trends in morbidity and mortality and patterns in health service use amongst women compared to men.

Data sources may include published and unpublished studies, sex-disaggregated databases as well as primary data collected at the local level, such as local consultations and community surveying.

Gendered data is important for local planning to understand gender differences and inequalities which are not visible when looking at non-gendered data. An example are potential differences between women and men's access to income, transport, paid/unpaid labor or care-taking responsibilities which can differentially impact capacity to work or participate in social, sporting, educational and voluntary activity.

Gendered Data: Local Government Areas

Victorian Health Infectious Disease

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/infectious-diseases-surveillance/infectious-diseases-surveillance-daily-summaries>

Victorian Police Crime Statistics

http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=782

Women's Health Atlas

<http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au>

Victorian Municipalities Gender Equity Statistics

<http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/29821/gender-equity->

Victorian Population Health Survey

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems/health-status-of-victorians/survey-data-and-reports/victorian-population-health-survey>

Gender Analysis

Gender analysis in local planning is important as it can reveal where there are gaps and inequalities that are likely to affect women's or men's participation rates, leadership or access to services.

Gender analysis is the process of identifying and analysing the similarities and differences in conditions, situations, needs and priorities between women and men. Gender analysis utilises gendered data and investigates policy and practice for gender differences, issues and inequalities that men and women may experience. As well as comparing information about men and women, the concepts of gender analysis can also be extended to considering different demographics such as ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or rurality, which can also support a more equitable approach to planning.

A gender sensitive approach to planning acknowledges and highlights diversity between men and women based on fact, both data and observation, as opposed to basing decisions on assumption. The analysis can provide insight into why these gaps and disparities exist and how they affect men's and women's opportunities and aspirations.

In contrast, where planning is gender blind and assumes gender is not a significant factor influencing how men and women may live, or does not influence programs or policies, we can run the risk of unintentionally causing negative outcomes.

Recognising difference and similarities between men and women (and other minority groups) is a key step to ensuring programs and resources are designed for equitable results for both men and women. This approach is often referred to as gender mainstreaming.

Approaches to gender planning



**Another commonly used term is gender transformative*

Adapted from Greaves et. al. 2014 'making it better: Gender-Transformative Health Promotion'

Sources

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John Hopkins University (2015), Gender Analysis Toolkit for Health Systems
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Our Watch, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and VicHealth (2015), Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia
<http://www.ourwatch.org.au>

The Women's Health Council British Colombia (2007), A Guide to Creating Gender Sensitive Health Services
http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/gender_manual.pdf

United Nations Development Programme(2014), Introductory Gender Analysis & Gender Planning Training Module for UNDP Staff
<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/gender-equality/overview.html>

United Nations Statistics (2014), Gender Statistics Manual
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/genderstatmanual/>

Women's Health Victoria (2011), Guide to developing a gender impact assessment
<http://whv.org.au/publications-resources/publications-resources-by-topic/post/guide-to-developing-a-gender-impact-assessment>