

Social Inclusion/Cohesion – Environmental scan/evidence base

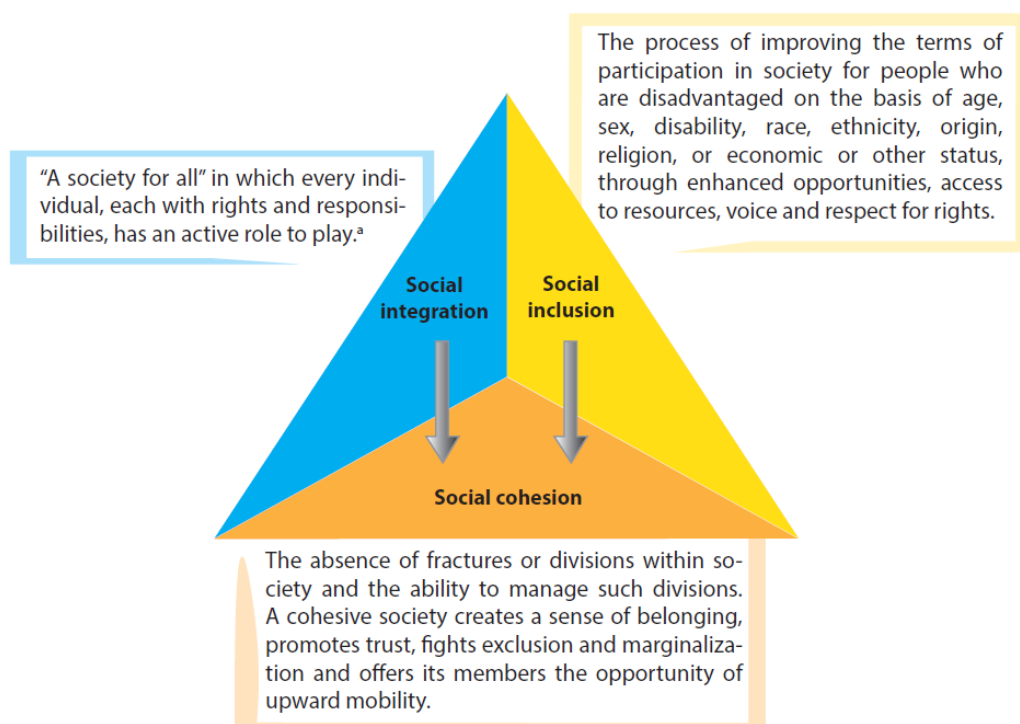
Definitions:

Social inclusion is the

- act of making all groups of people within a society feel valued and important.
- “the process of improving the terms of participation in society for people who are disadvantaged on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status, through enhanced opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights”
- The concepts of social inclusion and exclusion **focus on health, social, cultural and income inequalities** and imbalances
- There is debate about what defines social inclusion, largely due to differences in theoretical and political perspectives.
- Due to the lack of consensus on definition and conceptualisation, **the operationalisation and measurement of social inclusion is not straightforward**. Concepts are multidimensional and context dependent. Thus developing a single set of indicators is considerably challenging.
- [Social inclusion week](#) – 25th Nov – 3rd Dec

There are other interrelated terms such as social integration, social cohesion and social resilience mapped by the UN as follows:

Social inclusion, integration and cohesion



Source: Based on Easterly (2006), Hulse and Stone (2007), OECD (2011a), United Nations (2010).

^a Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995, para. 66.

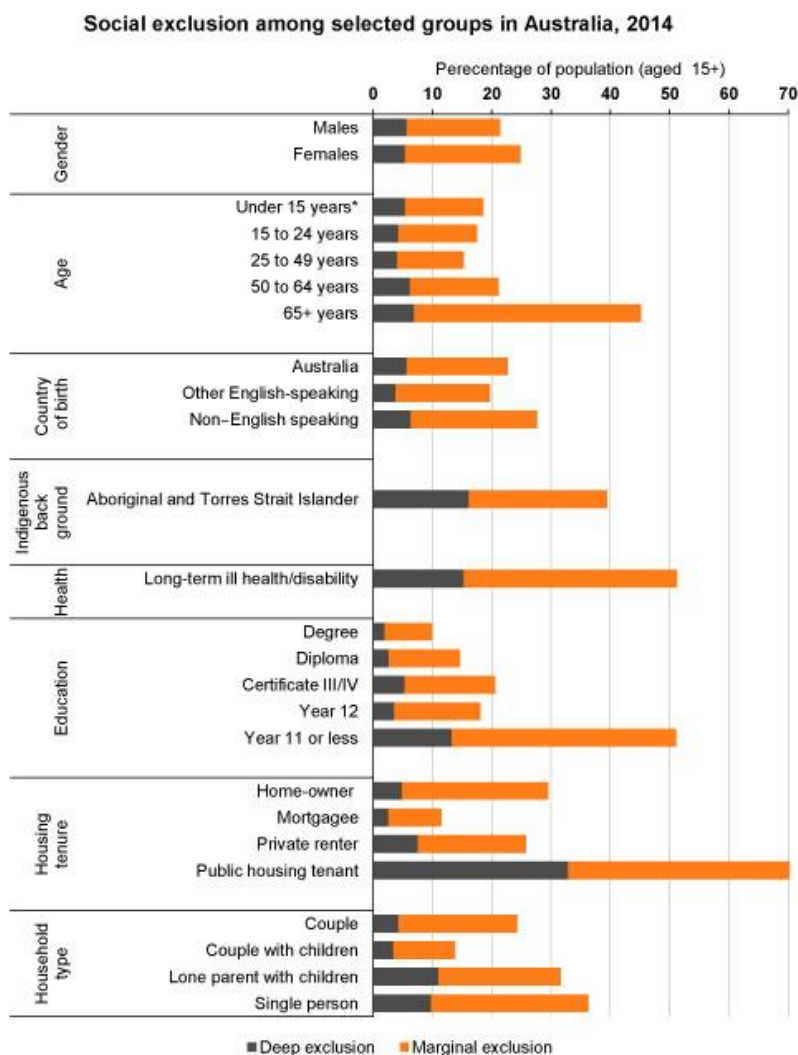
Image From [here](#)

- Involves more than access to economic resources

Who experiences social exclusion?

Using the latest annual data (2014), the graph below shows that:

- Women are more likely to be excluded than men.
- Nearly half of people over 65 experience exclusion – more than any other age group.
- Social exclusion is more common among immigrants from non-English speaking countries than native-born Australians.
- Among Indigenous Australians, nearly 40% experience social exclusion.
- More than half of the Australians who have a disability or long-term health condition experience social exclusion.
- Early school leavers are much more likely to experience exclusion than those with a diploma or degree.
- More than 30% of single person and lone parent households experience social exclusion.
- Public housing tenants experience social exclusion at more than twice the rate of people living elsewhere



[The Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Melbourne Institute 2016](#)

Policy review and context:

Improving social inclusion opportunities for population health has been identified as a priority area for national/international policy.

Overview:

	Relevant Policy/Plan/Act	Timeframe	Policy goals/relevant sections	Priority groups	Themes
Context					
Overarching Charters and Acts	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	1948	Articles 21,22,23	N/A	N/A
Other legislation in Victoria includes:	Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986	Last updated 2017	Article 1 All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development	Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Disability Act 2006</i> • <i>Multicultural Victoria Act 2011</i> • <i>Victorian Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001</i> • <i>Carers Recognition Act 2012</i> 	Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)	Latest Update July 2014	Relevant section(s) are Section 18 (2)“Taking part in public life” – the right to opportunity without discrimination	Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) hold distinct cultural rights- Section 19(2)	N/A
Relevant Policy (determinant specific)	The People of Australia – Australia’s Multicultural Policy	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embracing and benefiting from the strength of our different cultural traditions • responds to our cultural diversity and aims to strengthen social cohesion 	ATSI CALD	Principle 2: The Australian Government is committed to a just, inclusive and socially cohesive society where everyone can participate in the opportunities that Australia offers and where government services are responsive to the needs of Australians

					<p>from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>Principle 4: The Australian Government will act to promote understanding and acceptance while responding to expressions of intolerance and discrimination with strength, and where necessary, with the force of the law.</p>
Local government					
INWPCP catchment					
Moreland	Moreland Human Rights Policy	2016 - 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an inclusive organisation • Advance inclusion and social cohesion in the community • Deliver inclusive and accessible services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATSI • Migrant/refugee communities • Women • GLBTIQ • People with a disability • New/emerging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment and participation • Equitable and Accessible services • Accessible places and spaces • Advocacy and leadership
Yarra	Inclusion for all: Access and inclusion Plan	2014 - 2017	Support an inclusive city that respects the human rights of all its citizens, celebrates their diversity and promotes their participation in all aspects of community life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with a disability 	Not listed
Melbourne	Melbourne for all people	2014 - 2017	Relates to Goal 1 of CoM council plan: A city for People <i>'Melbourne will be accessible, inclusive, safe and engaging. Our streets, buildings and open</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CALD communities • People with a disability • ATSI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and inclusion • Safety • Connection • Health and Wellbeing • Life-long learning

			<i>spaces will be alive with activity. People of all ages and abilities will feel secure and empowered, freely participate in their community and lead healthy lives'.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disadvantage and homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a voice
Moonee Valley	Diversity, Access and Equity Policy	2014	Support an inclusive city that respects the human rights of all its citizens, celebrates their diversity and promotes their participation in all aspects of community life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSI Sex and gender Areas with lower SEIFA index CALD LGBTIQ Disability Carers Lifestages – children and the elderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering respect and celebrating diversity Promoting Participation Creating accessible places and spaces Leadership and representation
Other/North West Metro Region					
Darebin	Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan	2015 - 2019	Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liveable housing and safe public places Accessible transport and freedom of movement The right to education, employment and pathways to health and wellbeing An amplified voice in public affairs and decision making The right to creative and dynamic city with quality services Freedom from discrimination into the future 	Disability CALD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liveability Collaboration Accessibility Social justice Diversity participation

Evidence base:

- The evidence base in terms of social inclusion is less developed than PVAW
- Systematic reviews still are examining the constructs and validity of psychometric measures; [one systematic review of 25 instruments](#) found no single measure of social inclusion was found to demonstrate a consistent level of psychometric evidence and the need for better methodological design and testing. Other systematic reviews are [determinant specific](#) (mainly focused on social inclusion for disability or [children with a disability](#))
- There is the potential role for agencies to contribute to the evidence base around social inclusion and/or contribute to evidence-informed practice.
- A literature review from Deakin developed 7 domains for enhancing social inclusion and community connectedness

Promoting social inclusion and community connectedness	
1) Liveability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate for increased focus on liveability in planning and service delivery 2. Consider recommendations for service design arising from DHHS Boroondara Liveability collaboration study.
2) Reduce pathways to social disadvantage associated with place-based disadvantage	Develop and implement range of programs across: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MCH services 2. School-based programs, complemented by tutoring and mentoring support 3. Community based programs.
3) Capacity building for program design, implementation and evaluation	Capacity building workshops on program design and delivery, including evaluation. Support for range of evaluation techniques, including formative and developmental evaluation to support emergent programs.
4) Increase volunteering rates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a strategy to increase volunteering rates across the community 2. Provide training for organisations in responding to changes in volunteering practices.
5) Community-based programs and leadership development	Consistent rollout of community-based programs across EMR which support grass-roots needs identification, develop leadership and support implementation of community-led projects to address social inclusion e.g. Opening Doors.
6) Common regional measurement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailed analysis of data, including AURIN and ABS, to identify drivers of disadvantage and exclusion, especially with reference to diverse and isolated groups 2. Program planning to meet diverse needs.
7) Promoting resilience and working with digital communities	Activities to be determined, pending further review of actions arising from new VicHealth Mental Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2019

From [Deakin report](#)

Current practice/best practice:

Best practice is dependent on the determinant being acted upon (employment, education etc) – there is a broad range of literature available internationally, nationally and locally.

Primary promotion of social inclusion:

- *Promoting positive child and youth development* (overlaps with PVAW)
- *Repurposing volunteering* - volunteering can actively remediate the effects of social exclusion, strengthen bridging social capital, support increased networks and promote positive role models

Secondary promotion of social inclusion:

- *Repurposing volunteering* - volunteering can actively remediate the effects of social exclusion, strengthen bridging social capital, support increased networks and promote positive role models
- *Screening, pathways and responses for Social Inclusion* - indicators that specific cohorts are at increased risk of social exclusion, including specific age cohorts such as disengaged youth and isolated older adults, some cultural minority groups, and those experiencing disability or with limited communication

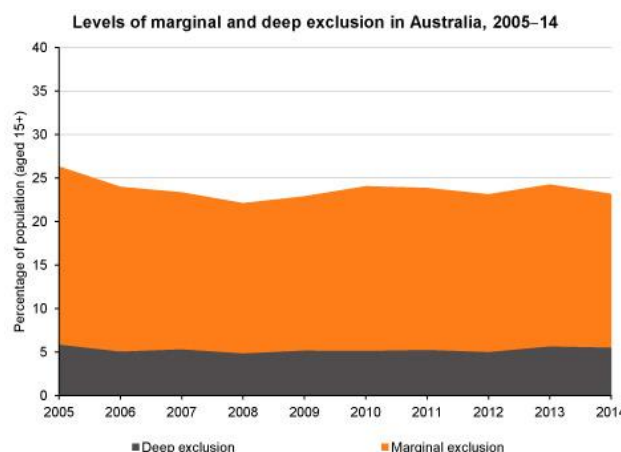
Measuring social inclusion/ exclusion – indicator sets.

Until recently income alone was used to measure disadvantage in Australia. It is now widely accepted that extending this to measure social exclusion is essential to monitor social progress and the effectiveness of government policy.

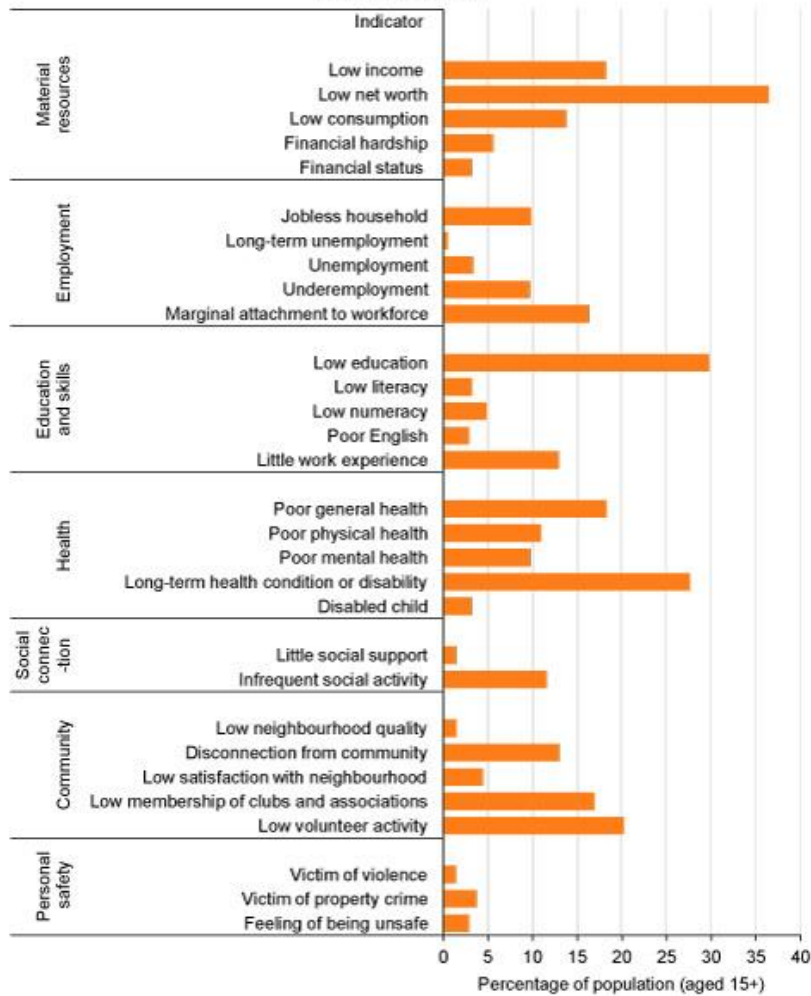
[BSL key indicators for social exclusion](#) include the following domains of life - *material resources, employment, education and skills, health and disability, social connection, community and personal safety*.

BSL classify exclusion into marginal social exclusion and [deep social exclusion](#). For example, an individual counted as deeply excluded will most likely be experiencing at least four of the indicators across at least two domains.

In 2001, 1.4% of Australians were very deeply excluded. By 2005, this figure was down to 1.1%. In 2014 the figure remained at 1.2%, which means that more than 220,000 Australians experience very deep social exclusion each year.



Percentage of Australians experiencing each social exclusion indicator, average 2005–14



[Scanlon Foundation](#) has developed a [Social Cohesion Index](#) which measures the broad domains of *Belonging, Social Justice and equity, Participation, Acceptance and rejection legitimacy* (indicated by a negative view of immigration), and *worth*.



[Deakin](#) have developed a suite of indicators for both social inclusion and exclusion indicators relevant to social inclusion and risk factors (pages 111 – 121)