

The Stolen Generation, the Hidden Generation, and the Current Generation: The origins of health inequity for indigenous youth

Authors:

Rhea Goundar¹

¹*University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia,*

Background/Purpose:

Australia is revered for its accessible and leading health care system. However, young Indigenous people face a disproportionate degree of health risks when compared to non-indigenous communities.

An inclusive health system is at the core of intergenerational health equity. My area of study aims to not only alleviate the systemic inequality young people in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities face when accessing the health care system, but also seeks to strengthen the relationship between healthcare and legal frameworks for future generations.

Approach:

Intergenerational equity is rooted in structural accessibility, and this is at the core of my approach. Currently there is lack of research on legal determinants of health and factors impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, including the effects of historical trauma, the impacts of systemic injustices, traditional Indigenous healthcare systems, and mental health issues – especially as they relate to young people. With there being such a large disparity between life-expectancy for Indigenous communities, there is a dire need for change and innovation. Because to be well and healthy is a fundamental human right.

Outcomes/Impact:

Innovation and Significance:

There is a lack of a targeted, interdisciplinary approach which unites health and law. Arguably this may be an unintended consequence of Australia's status as a leading healthcare system in the world, whereby development in this sector is not as acutely evident. My focus area holistic approach to work with nuances to increase structural accessibility for all communities, allowing for an inclusive Australia. To do so, not only reclaims rights and freedom for First Nations young people, but also fortifies a healthcare structure to meet the growing demands and impacts of globalisation.