

HIV AND HEALTH – CHALLENGING THE IMPACTS OF PREJUDICE

Authors:

Banks R L¹

Background: Australia has had anti-discrimination laws since the mid-1970s. It was not until 1992, with the enactment of the federal *Disability Discrimination Act*, that PLHIV (or believed to be) had access to mechanisms to challenge the discrimination being experienced both at a personal and systemic level. These laws have held great promise, but it is common to hear those who rely on these laws for protection express their disappointment with the outcomes achieved.

Approach: Broad-based human rights protections that encompass both preventive and remedial mechanisms to protect, promote and fulfil the full spectrum of internationally recognised human rights are a vital (and missing) part of both improving outcomes for individual and groups affected by discrimination and other barriers to full equality, inclusion and respect. So too are discrimination laws that fully contemplate the lived experience of those affected by prejudice.

Current understandings of stigma and prejudice and their effects on people's lives are absent from the tools, interpretation and remedies of discrimination law. This means that the experiences of people affected by stigma and prejudice targeting PLHIV are not well understood and reflected in the decisions made in discrimination cases.

Outcomes/Impact: Research being undertaken to consider how understandings of stigma and prejudice can be integrated into both discrimination law and broader human rights frameworks may provide a means to better challenge the ongoing (and often subtle) forms of discrimination that affect PLHIV.

Innovation and significance: This research has the potential to underpin a new generation of discrimination laws that are more able to fulfil the promise that those affected by discrimination and prejudice have long hoped for.

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¹ PhD Candidate in Law, University of Tasmania. Former Anti-Discrimination Commissioner for Tasmania. Practising lawyer and human rights advocate. E-mail: robin.banks@utas.edu.au