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Sovereignty & Health

A/Prof Gregory Phillips, PhD

Research Fellow - Aboriginal Health

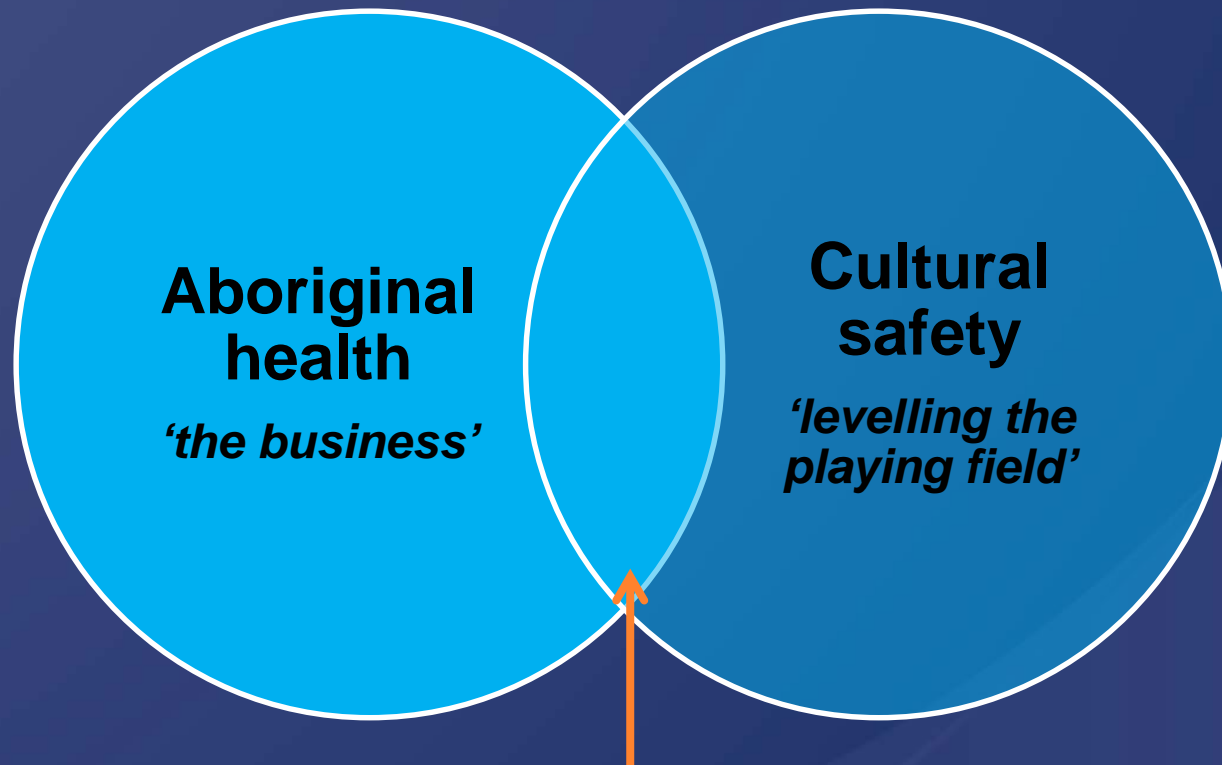The Lowitja Institute Conference
Melbourne, 9 November 2016

Overview

- Problems
  - Whiteness as DV, habitus
  - 'Inclusion' and the terms of power

- Solutions
  - Self-determination, nation-building
  - Power sharing

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'The Aboriginal Problem'

- How one defines the problem is how you define the solution (Bacchi 2012)

- In improving health outcomes and poor access, is the problem:

  – Aboriginal individual capacity and/or 'compliance'?

  – Or institutional barriers and the enabling environment? (Gerlach 2012)

  – Or both?

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A Model of Applied Cultural Safety in Australia

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Aboriginal health

'the business'

Cultural safety

'levelling the playing field'

'Indigenous Knowledge' is about Intellectual Property - and depends on PLACE, context, history, social phenomena, languages, customs, cultures, spiritualities and religions

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In Australia...

- Whiteness is not a skin colour...
  - it's a mindset ('habitus' of power & privilege)

    (Hartmann 2009; Bordieu 2004)

- Blackness is not a skin colour...
  - it's living cultures and spirit

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An ethnography of whiteness

The 8 White Identities
By Barnor Hesse

There is a regime of whiteness, and there are action-oriented white identities. People who identify with whiteness are one of these. It's about time we build an ethnography of whiteness, since white people have been the ones writing about and governing Others.

1. White Supremacist
   Clearly marked white society that preserves, names, and values white superiority

2. White Voyeurism
   Wouldn't challenge a white supremacist; desires non-whiteness because it's interesting, pleasurable; seeks to control the consumption and appropriation of non-whiteness; fascination with culture (ex: consuming Black culture without the burden of Blackness)

3. White Privilege
   May critique supremacy, but a deep investment in questions of fairness/equality under the normalization of whiteness and the white rule; sworn goal of 'diversity'

4. White Benefit
   Sympathetic to a set of issues but only privately; won't speak/act in solidarity publicly because benefitting through whiteness in public (some POC are in this category as well)

5. White Confessional
   Some exposure of whiteness takes place, but as a way of being accountable to POC after; seek validation from POC

6. White Critical
   Take on board critiques of whiteness and invest in exposing/marking the white regime; refuses to be complicit with the regime; whiteness speaking back to whiteness

7. White Traitor
   Actively refuses complicity; names what's going on; intention is to subvert white authority and tell the truth at whatever cost; need them to dismantle institutions

8. White Abolitionist
   Changing institutions, dismantling whiteness, and not allowing whiteness to reassert itself
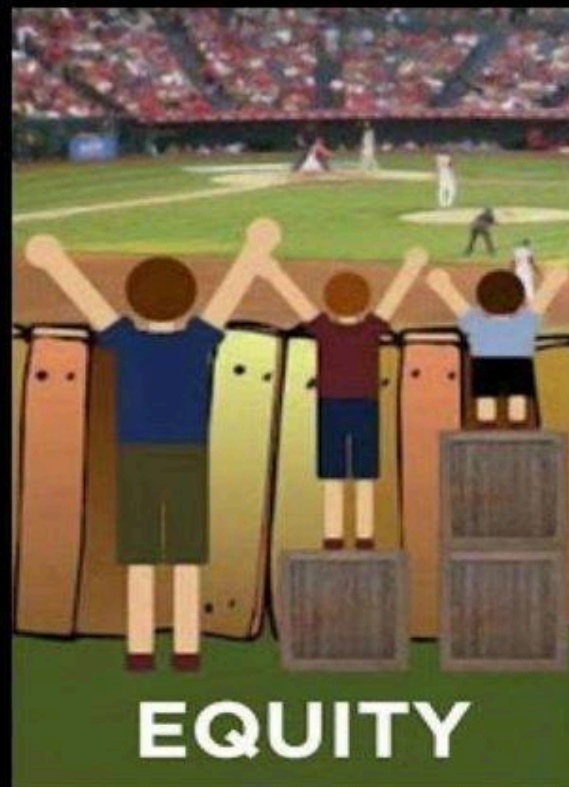
Equality vs Equity

Currently in Australia...

- We do inclusion or equality, not equity or social justice

- We do reconciliation or constitutional recognition, not treaty

- We do charity and benevolence, not social justice

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Solutions 1 – Recovery from Genocide

- Walk away – say no

- Heal the violence

- T&R - Admit and atone

- Withdraw and Rebuild

- Re-establish our own terms of power - Aboriginal Terms of Reference (Aunty Lilla Watson)

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Solutions 2 – Peace-Making

- Negotiate strategy

- Agreement
  - Constitutional recognition

  - 7th state

  - Treaty

  - Republic

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Conclusion

- Current terms of power – whiteness and inclusion – is shit

- We have to say no

- We have to renew our Terms of Reference

- Then we negotiate on equal terms

- We must co-own the Republic

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