

# Equality of care, can we achieve it and should we?

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# What does equality of care mean?

Equality = sameness

Inequality = difference

Equity = fairness

Inequity = unfair or unjust



# Equity or Equality

Equity involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives.

Equality aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things in order to enjoy full, healthy lives.

Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same things.



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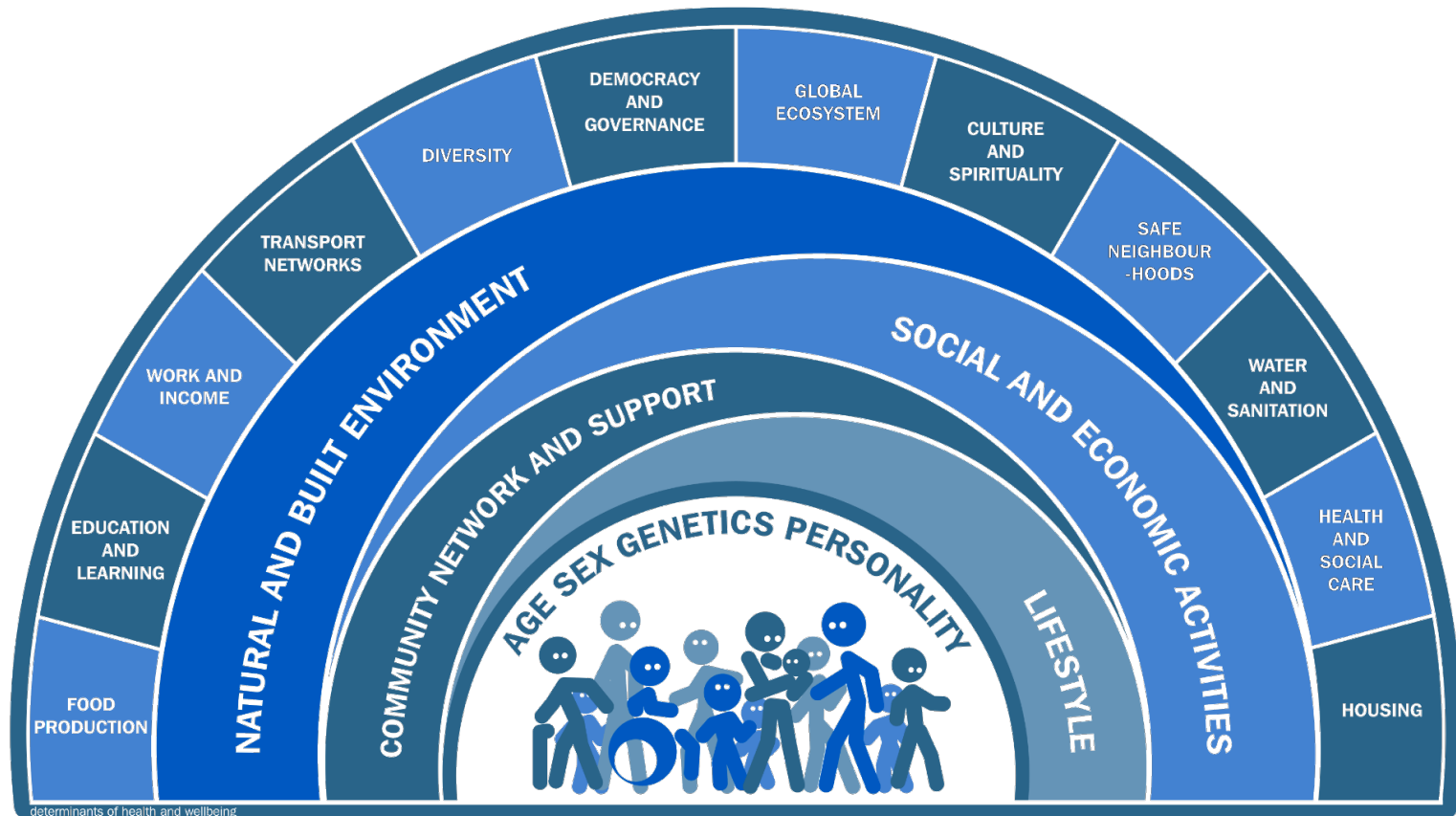
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# Health inequalities

- Health inequities are avoidable inequalities in health between groups of people within countries and between countries.
- These inequities arise from inequalities within and between societies.
- Social and economic conditions and their effects on people's lives determine their risk of illness and the actions taken to prevent them becoming ill or treat illness when it occurs.



# Determinants of health and wellbeing



determinants of health and wellbeing



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# Health inequalities

Examples of health inequities between countries:

- the infant mortality rate is 2 per 1000 live births in Iceland and over 120 per 1000 live births in Mozambique;
- the lifetime risk of maternal death during or shortly after pregnancy is only 1 in 17 400 in Sweden but it is 1 in 8 in Afghanistan.

Examples of health inequities within countries:

- life expectancy at birth among Indigenous Australians is substantially lower (59.4 for males and 64.8 for females) than that of non-indigenous Australians (76.6 and 82.0, respectively);
- life expectancy at birth for men in the Calton neighbourhood of Glasgow is 54 years, 28 years less than that of men in Lenzie, a few kilometres away.





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Equality

Justice

Fairness

Rights



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# Tripartite international Bill of Human Rights

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights (ICESCR).





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# Physiotherapy inequalities

Does everyone in your country have access to the physiotherapy services they need when they need it? If not why not?

Is this because of funding?

*With more funds we could decrease our waitlist and more people could avoid surgery.*

Is this because of limitations to practice?

*Direct access? Can new and innovative models of practice be trialled?*



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# Physiotherapy inequalities

Is this because of limitations to scope?

*Can physiotherapists work to their full scope – diagnose, prescribe, order tests?*

Is this because of our attitudes and beliefs?

*Indigenous people don't follow their exercise regime therefore why bother treating them?*



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# Can we achieve equality of care?

- Need to recognise that sameness is unfair.
- Equal access and equal treatment is unjust.



# Can we achieve equality of care?

- Physiotherapists have a clear role to play in advocating for our patients to get the health care that they need.
- Professional associations have a clear role to play in advocating that the profession be able to deliver the health care that patients need.



# Can we achieve equality of care?

- Collectively society needs to work to address the social determinants of health that impact on health outcomes.





# Should we?



Equity is the means

Equality is the outcome

Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization



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