

Diverse Needs: Complex overlaps in life experiences for older people (Intersectionality)

Think of a busy road intersection. When several roads and roundabouts meet, like the picture below, driving becomes more complicated. In the same way people's lives can feel more complex when difficult life experiences overlap or intersect.

Our identity

Our identity is shaped by many factors. When these factors overlap, some may face extra difficulties including poorer health, social isolation or struggle to find care. Past experiences can affect trust and comfort.

Aged care staff play a vital role

Aged care staff play a vital role in recognising unique needs. Asking about preferences and considering aspects of a person's identity results in inclusive, respectful and safe end-of-life care.

Scenarios to reflect on

- An older Aboriginal man lives in a rural area is financially disadvantaged with diabetes and kidney disease. What barriers might he face? How could his community be involved in planning his end-of-life care?
- An older woman with past trauma had her baby removed for adoption. She now lives with her sister, has mental ill-health, declining health and needs daily care. What would help her build trust in staff and feel secure?

Understanding older people's fears and need for safety helps provide care that builds trust and dignity.

Find out more from the [Diversity Council Australia](#).

Download the [intersectionality fact sheet](#) from CareSearch.

