

# **“We do what is right, not what is expected”: A social worlds/arenas analysis of intersectional care in the Australian abortion arena**

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## **Background:**

Over past 15 years, Australia has decriminalised abortion care in every State and Territory, but Western Australia. However, this has not reduced abortion inequity which continues to disproportionately disadvantage pregnant people impacted by intersectional issues such as gender-based violence, poverty, race and disability. At this juncture, it is timely for health services to reconsider how they will provide abortion care, particularly for people marginalised by intersectionality. This presentation explores how abortion care is currently operationalised at a group and systems-level within the Australian abortion arena.

## **Methods:**

We investigated the groups that operated within the Australian abortion arena using a social worlds/arenas analysis approach. We analysed 18 nursing and midwifery interviews and pre-produced artefacts to located major groups that wield power over abortion access.

## **Results:**

We identified four groups/group-types - *Smugglers*, *Navigators*, *Marie Stopes Australia*, and *the Family Safety Framework* – that broadly attempt to achieve reproductive justice outcomes for people seeking abortion. At times these groups operated outside of the law or policies and procedures of their organisations.

## **Conclusion:**

The Australian abortion arena is a complex network of competing and allied groups that increase or reduce the marginalisation of vulnerable people. We call attention to pro and anti-abortion groups that continue to influence abortion care in Australia and emphasise the importance of streamlined, safe and confidential pathways for marginalised people.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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