

***The concept of race plays a part in perpetuating inequality and impacts health and educational outcomes.***

Race is consistent with three identifiers: it is a recent human invention, it is about culture, not biology and race and racism are embedded in institutions and everyday life (Goodman, 2013). Present-day reminders are when we are presented with voting, census or another governmentally generated form such as the Australian AQTF student questionnaire. This asks the student if they identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or 'None of the Above'.

When a person is deemed to belong to a race that is not belonging to the predominantly recognised community in any geographic region, it can and often does receive prejudiced consideration. This can cause disillusionment, mistrust, anger, disempowerment and marginalisation. This can also become inherited by progeny brought up in these marginalised communities and become part of their belief system. In other words, it can become what they expect from life and give little intrinsic motivation to do any better than what they have been brought up to believe. This also brings up other questions about how we negotiate with those born of mixed-race parents; how are they to be identified, applied to a voting form and either privileged or prejudiced?

As a result of Australia's "Whites Only" policy in its earlier era, the racism generated towards its First Peoples is often considered as a result of what Korff (2020) suggests as "the Queensland Aboriginal Act [Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897 (Qld)] being used as a basis for the more discriminately immoral and unethical South African Apartheid policy.

Australia's earlier policy created human rights inequality issues, social group divisions, individual displacement, extreme hardships, minimal education

opportunities, abuse, poverty, and displacement. The First Peoples became voiceless, but there appears to be a change in this situation, possibly paralleling that being experienced by the Maori in New Zealand in bringing about more significant recognition of equality in all aspects of society.

Sadly, there are still residual aspects of racism in Australia, as evidenced by the lack of suitable housing and mental, health and educational differences compared to the predominantly “white” population. With these differences or inequities, the traditional peoples of this country have not had the inspiration to overcome the more accessible, imported pathways of excessive alcohol availability and consumption, non-traditional (fast) foods and the lack of trust in medical science. This, in turn, has led to decreased health and longevity, with social integration spurned (or unwelcome), causing strife and repercussions from the law. Exemplifying results = Diabetes and high levels of suicide and incarceration compared to “None of the above” members of society.