

## **Healthcare access for women with disabilities**

**Experts in our health guide**

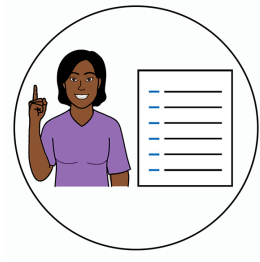
**Part 1**

**Women with Disabilities Victoria**



**Easy English**

## Hard words



This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means.

## You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what this book is about



- find more information.

We will write our contact information at the end of this book.

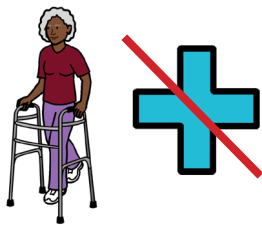
## About this book



This book is from Women with Disabilities Victoria.



This book is about healthcare access for women with disabilities.

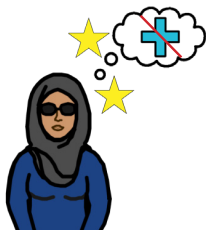


There are lots of reasons why healthcare services might **not** be accessible for women with disabilities.



When healthcare services are **not** accessible women with disabilities might

- **not** get the care they need



- **not** reach the healthcare goals they have.

## Your rights



Everyone has healthcare **rights**.



Rights are things everyone should

- get
- have
- do.

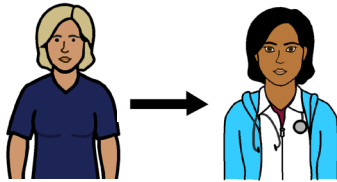
You have the right to



- access healthcare services that will support your health and wellbeing

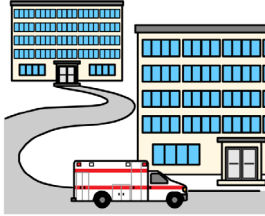


- have healthcare services that work for you
- always get good healthcare in all healthcare places and spaces.



It is also your right to go to

- different healthcare professionals



- different healthcare places and spaces.



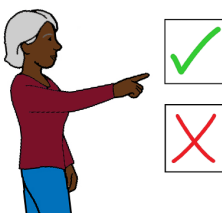
When you go to a healthcare service it is your right to always

- be supported



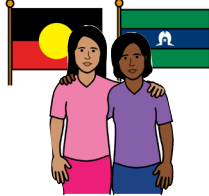
- feel safe

- be respected



- make your own choices about the healthcare you want and get.

# Impacts on your health



There are some things that can mean there are barriers to health and wellbeing for women, including

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity



- LGBTIQ+ identity



- the country you or your family are from



- how much money you have



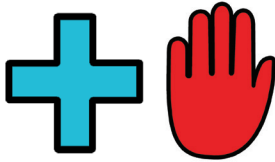
- where you live.



Sometimes these things

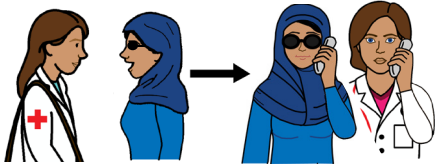
- can **not** be controlled by us

- become **barriers** to accessing healthcare services.

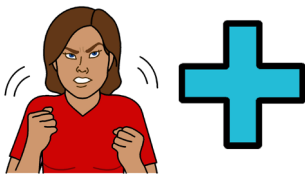


Barriers are things that might

- stop you from accessing healthcare services



- change how you can access healthcare services



- make it hard for you to access healthcare services.



To fix barriers, healthcare services should

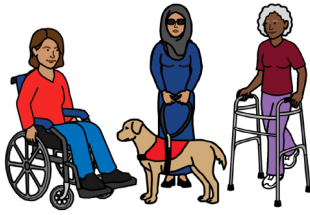
- learn about what we need

- make their healthcare services accessible



- make their healthcare services inclusive.

# Barriers to accessing healthcare



Barriers to accessing healthcare services will be different for everyone.



Healthcare professionals might

- focus on your disability and **not** on your health



- **not** include you in decisions about your healthcare and goals



- **not** treat you how you want to be treated



- **not** know enough about disability to make sure they are being inclusive



- believe things that are **not** true about women with disabilities that mean you might **not** get the care you need.





The healthcare service might

- cost too much money



- **not** be fully accessible.

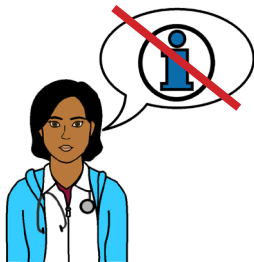


Healthcare professionals and services might

- **not** meet or understand your communication needs

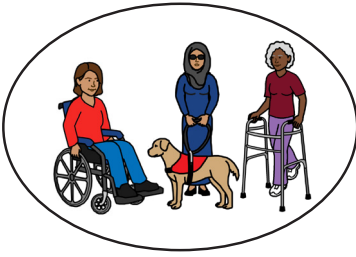


- **not** give you information in ways you understand



- **not** give you information that is inclusive for women with disabilities.

## How we can fix healthcare barriers



Women with disabilities can

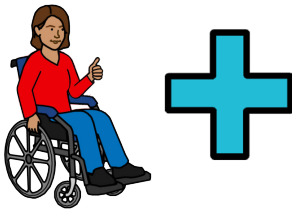
- support each other



- tell people about our rights



- ask for accessible healthcare



- ask for inclusive healthcare



- be part of groups or committees where you can tell organisations what you want and need.

## More information



For more information contact  
Women with Disabilities Victoria.



Website [www.wdv.org.au](http://www.wdv.org.au)



Email [wdv@wdv.org.au](mailto:wdv@wdv.org.au)



Scan this QR code

You can learn more at: [www.wdv.org.au](http://www.wdv.org.au)

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This resource was prepared by Women with Disabilities Victoria.

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