

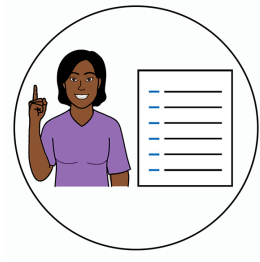
## **Safe and accessible healthcare settings for women with disabilities**

**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 the roles **healthcare staff** have in making sure healthcare settings are



- accessible

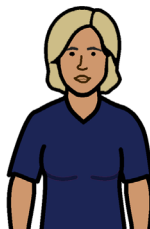


- safe.



Healthcare staff includes

- doctors and nurses

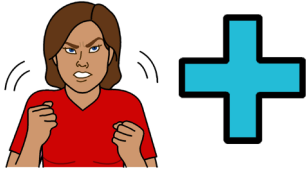


- allied health professionals
  - for example, physiotherapists and speech pathologists



- administration and reception workers.

## What healthcare staff should know



Healthcare staff can help make their services better for women with disabilities by

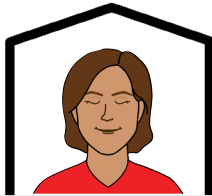
- knowing why it can be hard for women with disabilities to access healthcare



- making their services accessible



- being inclusive for women with disabilities



- having safe and welcoming services.



Healthcare staff should always

- talk about how important access and inclusion is

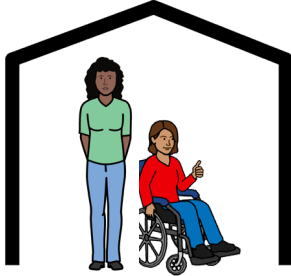


- work with women with disabilities as clients and colleagues.

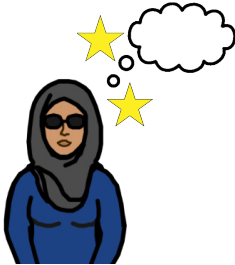


Healthcare staff should know

- what laws they have to follow to make sure places are physically accessible



- how they can support women with disabilities to access their places and spaces



- what plans and goals their workplace has to support women with disabilities.

## Your rights



All women with disabilities have the **right** to

- get accessible healthcare services
- get healthcare services that include them
- be treated with respect.



Rights are things everyone should

- get
- have
- do.



Healthcare staff should talk about how important the rights of women with disabilities are whenever they can.

## What healthcare staff need to do

When healthcare staff have a woman with disabilities as a client they should

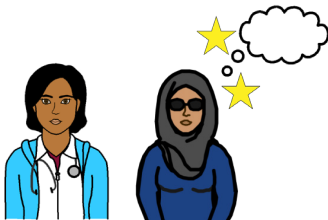


- work with you

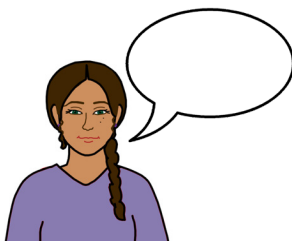
- listen to you



- understand that you know a lot about your body and health



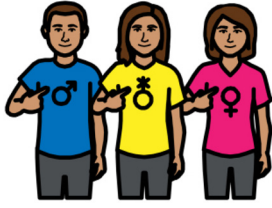
- work towards the healthcare goals you have and **not** the goals they think you should have



- use words that help you feel safe

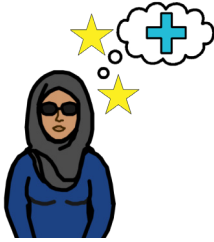
- ask questions in a way that lets you answer how you want.

## Gender, health and disability



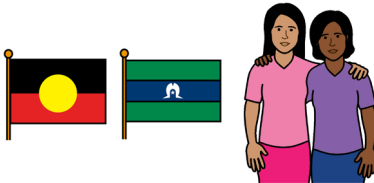
A person's gender, health and disability can

- change how they access healthcare

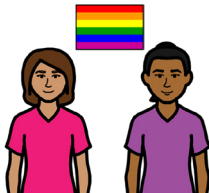


- impact how they reach their healthcare goals.

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



- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity



- LGBTIQ+ identity



- the country you or your family are from

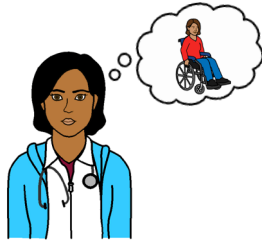


- how much money you have



- where you live.





Healthcare staff should think about

- the different things that can impact on the health of women with disabilities

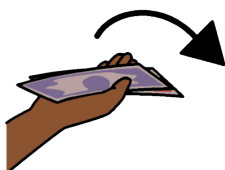


- how to work with women with disabilities



- how to work with women with disabilities who have had trauma happen to them.

## Women with disabilities working in healthcare



Women with disabilities working in healthcare

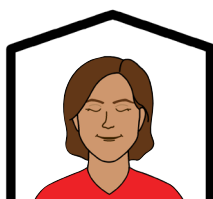
- must be paid for the work they do



- are good at the work they do.



Women with disabilities do **not** have to tell other people about their disability or support needs unless they want to.



Healthcare organisations **must**

- be a safe space where women with disabilities can talk about their disability and support needs



- respect the choices of women with disabilities when they do or do **not** talk about their disability and support needs.

## 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)

The development of this resource was supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information.

The Australian Government Department of Social Services funding is gratefully acknowledged.

Women with Disabilities Victoria would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support from our partner organisations – Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, Women's Health Loddon Mallee and Women's Health in the North as well as members of the Project Advisory Group.

Our particular thanks to Women with Disabilities Victoria's twelve Health Experts, who contributed their expertise to this resource as part of our co-design process.

This resource was prepared by Women with Disabilities Victoria.

Published by Women with Disabilities Victoria: Level 9/255 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000

© Women with Disabilities Victoria 2022

This Easy English document was created by Scope (Aust) Ltd. in March, 2022 using Picture Communication Symbols (PCS). PCS is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox, LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission. This document must not be sold to third parties. The images must not be reused without permission. For more information about the images, contact Scope on 1300 472 673 or visit [scopeaust.org.au](http://scopeaust.org.au)