

Social inclusion: How can it be measured in children?



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Overview

- Why the interest in social inclusion?
- The need for a literature review
- Literature review method
- Findings – the five faces of social inclusion
- Implications for practice

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Why the interest in social inclusion?

Key policy documents increasingly identify social inclusion as a desired outcome for people with disabilities:

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The Australian National Disability Agreement

Why the interest in social inclusion?

- A common understanding of the conceptual underpinnings of social inclusion and approaches to measurement has not been reached (Jenkin & Wilson, 2009; Rose et al., 2012).
- This may be due to:
 - Varying indicators of social inclusion across diverse fields such as economics, education and health.
 - Tension in the use of the terms ‘social exclusion’ and ‘social inclusion’ as opposites.

The need for a literature review

- Acknowledgement of the importance of social inclusion has prompted health and community organizations to identify methods to benchmark and monitor the efficacy of their services in relation to social inclusion.
- However, the ability to select such measures is limited by the lack of a common understanding as to the conceptual scope of 'social inclusion' when applied to the field of disability.

The need for a literature review

Aim

To identify different conceptualizations of social inclusion and approaches to measurement for children.

Literature review method

Searched:

- Electronic databases
- Websites

Search terms: social inclusion, participation, children, disabilities

Fields searched:

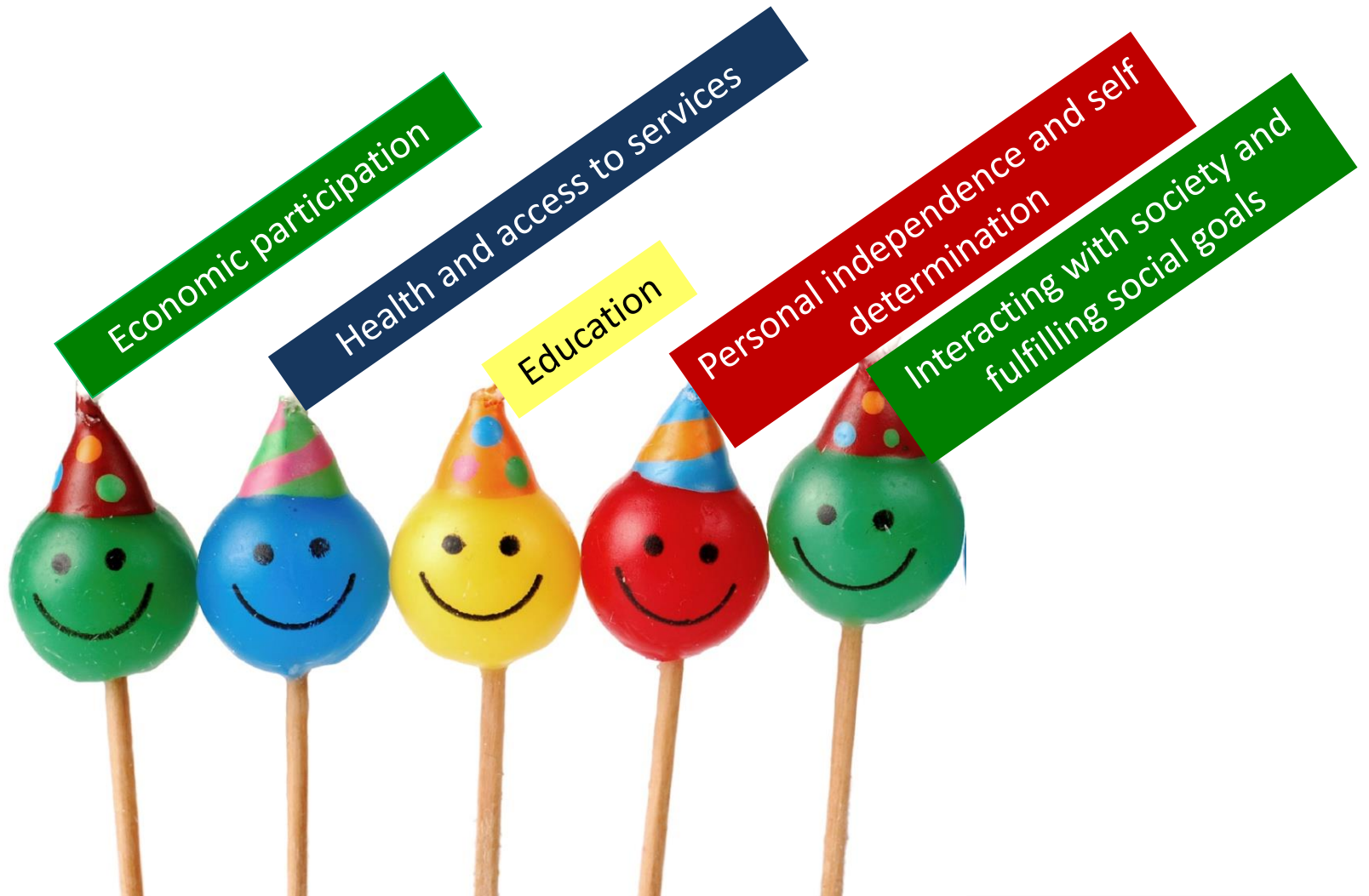
- Social inclusion and government policy
- Social inclusion and disability policy

Findings

The Australian Monitoring and Reporting Framework for Social Inclusion

- Participation (working; learning; social participation; and political and civic participation)
- Resources (material/economic; health and disability; education and skills; social resources; community and institutional resources; housing; and personal safety)
- Multiple and entrenched disadvantage

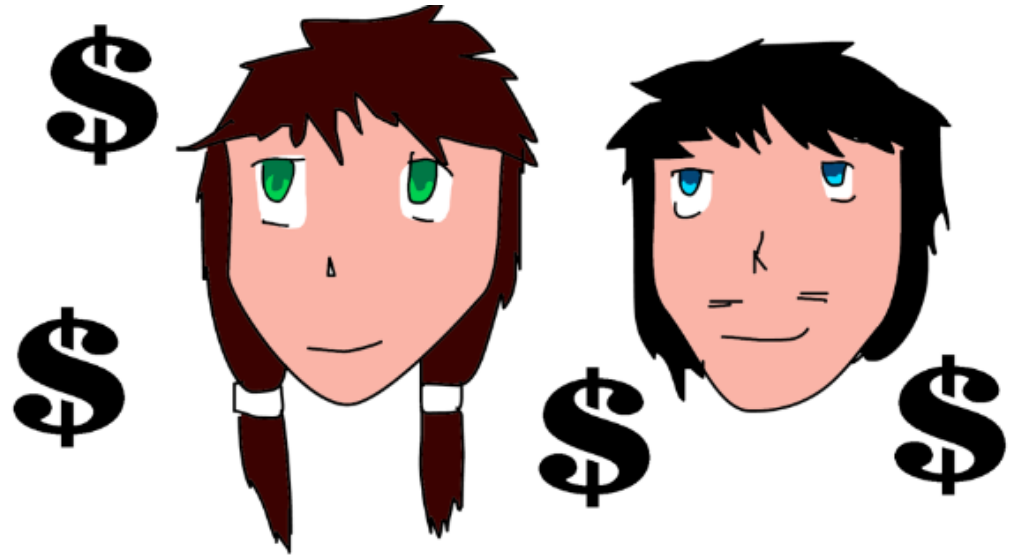
Findings – the five faces of social inclusion



Findings – the five faces of social inclusion

Economic participation

- Employment
- Economic self-sufficiency
- Most effective and efficient use of public resources



Findings – the five faces of social inclusion

Health and access to services

- Health and disability
- Community resources
- Housing
- Social accommodation



Findings – the five faces of social inclusion

Education

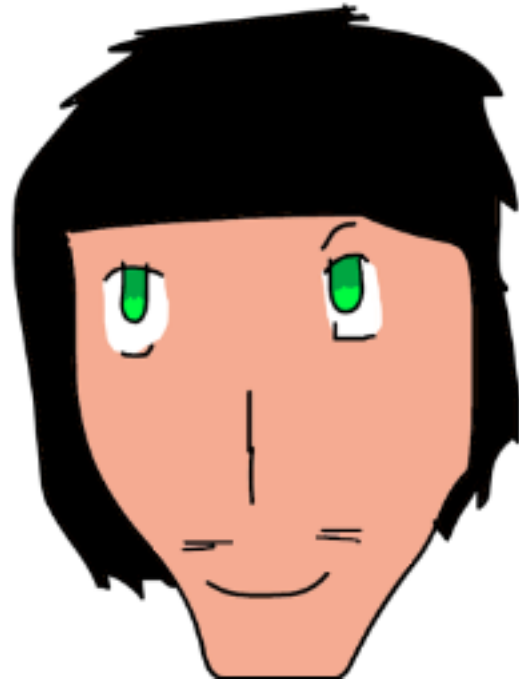
- Education
- Skills



Findings – the five faces of social inclusion

Personal independence and self-determination

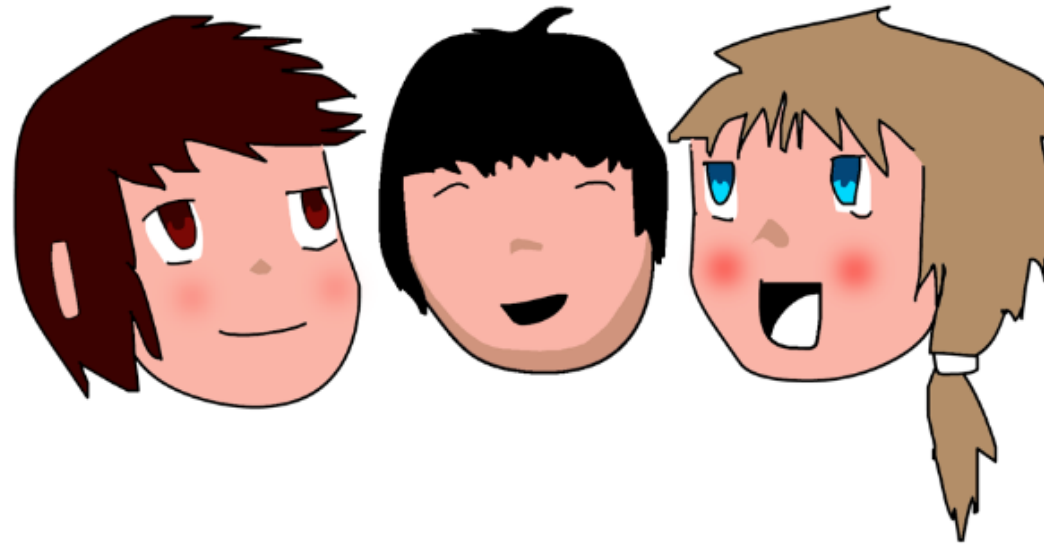
- Choice
- Wellbeing
- Independence



Findings – the five faces of social inclusion

Interacting with society and fulfilling social roles

- Role functioning and engagement
- Political and civic participation
- Perceived social inclusion
- Social participation
- Acceptance
- Social networks
- Behaviour
- Social resources



Implications for practice

- There is more to social inclusion than purely economic participation
- There are a number of domains to consider
- The framework presented can assist in selecting and developing measures of social inclusion for benchmarking service performance
- First Voice have used the framework to assist them in selecting measures that cover all of the domains of social inclusion

Acknowledgments

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