

# Justice where you live

Workshop with the 4Rs Network and  
Economic Justice Australia



National Community Legal Centres Conference  
Ngunawal Country – Canberra  
2–5 September 2025



**Community Legal Centres**  
Australia



# Acknowledgement of Country

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# Presenters



Judy Harrison - 4Rs Network

Taylah Bell - Economic Justice Australia

Katherine Boyle - Welfare Rights Centre NSW

Allienttia Weldon-Oti - Welfare Rights Centre NSW

James Farrell - Basic Rights Queensland

Brianna Bell - Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service NT

Corina Martin OAM - Aboriginal Family Legal Services WA

Catherine Eagle - Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service WA

Siobhan Mackay - Women's Legal Service Tasmania





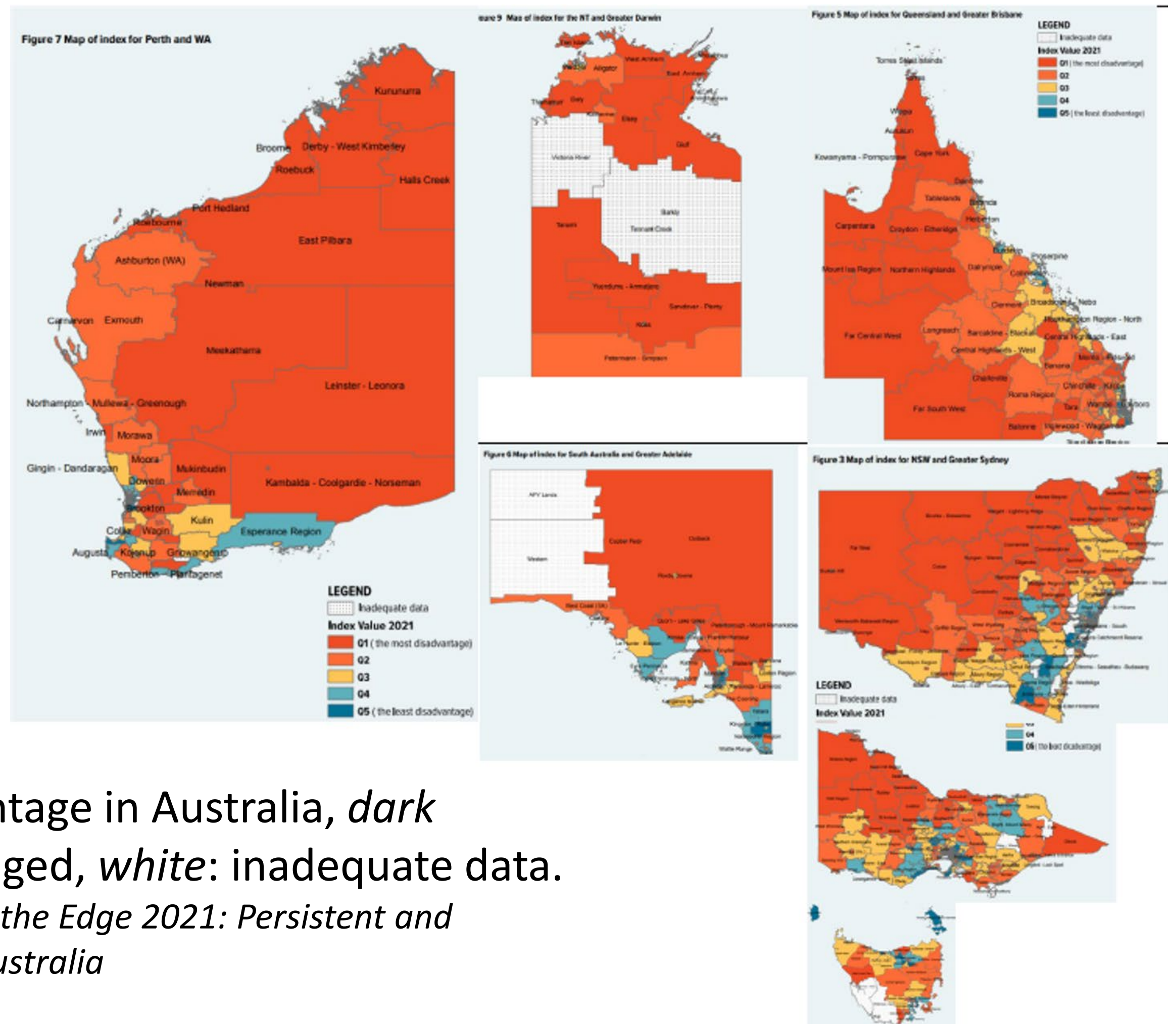


Image: Areas of disadvantage in Australia, *dark orange*: most disadvantaged, *white*: inadequate data.  
 Compilation from *Dropping Off the Edge 2021: Persistent and multilayered disadvantage in Australia*

# SESSION OUTLINE

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1. Setting the scene
2. Institutional discrimination by duty bearers against people/s and communities in 4Rs Australia
3. Intersecting inequalities: 4Rs and other inequalities
4. Exploring metro normativity / urban normativity
5. Call to action



# 1. Setting the scene

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Theoretical foundations

Human rights framework

Intersectionality

Principled allyship

Practical effects

**WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF ANY KIND,**  
such as RACE, COLOUR, SEX, LANGUAGE,  
RELIGION, POLITICAL OR OTHER OPINION,  
NATIONAL OR SOCIAL ORIGIN, PROPERTY,  
BIRTH OR OTHER STATUS





## Structural Forces

- Colonisation (historic and ongoing)
- Patriarchy
- Social, political and economic marginalisation
- Media and Stereotyping
- Institutions and structures that harm rather than heal (e.g. health, justice, child protection)
- Lack of recognition and representation

## Types of Discrimination

- Racism
- Sexism
- Ableism
- Classism
- Ageism
- Homophobia
- Transphobia
- Economic, political and social exclusion
- Geographic based discrimination (urban vs. remote)
- Physical, emotional and spiritual violence
- Lateral violence
- Linguistic discrimination (characteristics of speech, including first languages, accent, size of vocabulary and syntax)
- Colourism

## Aspects of Identity

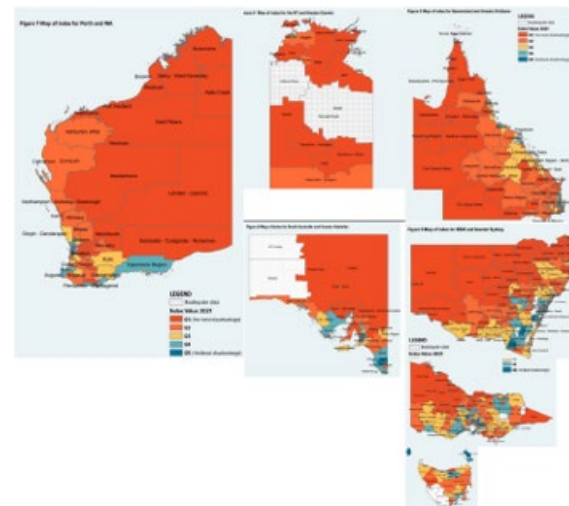
- Language group/ family group/ Nation/ Mob/ Clan/ Tribe/ Community
- Kinship location
- Totem, Skin, Moiety, Name
- Intercultural knowledges and skills (navigating multiple worlds)
- First language(s)
- Family status
- Community and family roles and responsibilities
- Political beliefs
- Geographic location
- Spiritual and religious beliefs
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic status
- Kupai Omasker and traditional adoption



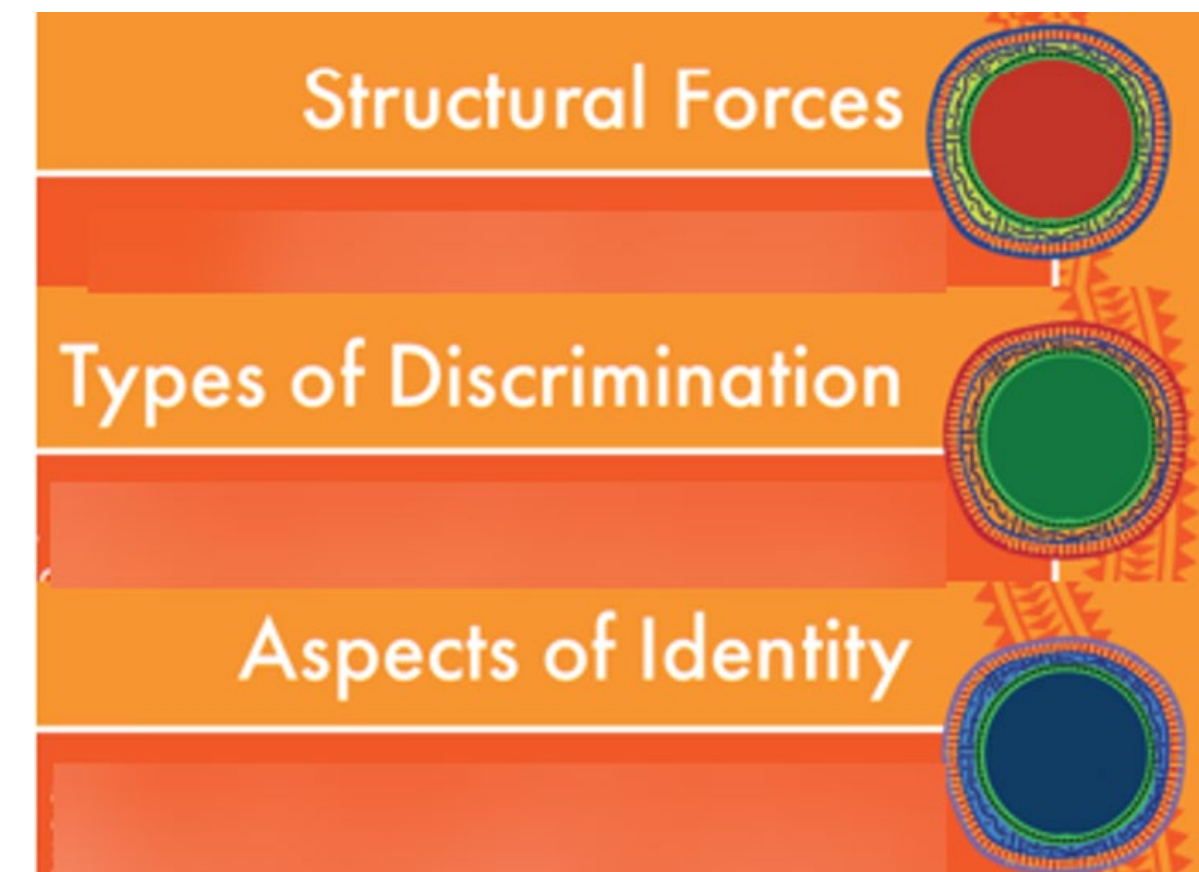
‘They are discriminated as women. They are discriminated as indigenous. And they are discriminated as rural.’

*‘Triple layers of discrimination’*

Professor Megan Davis as Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 15 Oct 2015



What is  
*‘discriminated  
as rural’?*





## 2. Institutional discrimination by duty bearers against people/s and communities in 4Rs

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# Case study: social security and 4Rs communities



Taylah Bell (EJA) with staff of Welfare Rights and Advocacy Service and Legal Aid WA at Willare on the way to Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley, WA.



Sally Cameron (EJA) with EJA Board Member Mitra Khakbaz, preparing interviews, Central Queensland.



Taylah Bell (EJA) with members of the Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group, Alice Springs, NT.



Mark Morand and Aylin Yigit (Social Security Rights Victoria) preparing to meet with staff at Mallee Community Legal Centre in Mildura, Victoria.







Taylah Bell with members of the Central Australian Womens Legal Service and the Piliyintinji-ki – Stronger Families team at Anyinginyi Health, Tennant Creek, NT.



Donna Flood and Allientia Weldon-Oti (Welfare Rights Centre NSW) with staff of Western NSW Community Legal Centre in Dubbo, NSW.



Sally Cameron (EJA) with staff of Gladstone Women's Health in Gladstone, Qld.



Taylah Bell (EJA) with staff of Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS)



# 3. Intersecting inequalities – 4Rs and other inequalities



## Aboriginal Family Legal Services

We're a not-for-profit Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation providing legal assistance and social support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing or at risk of family and domestic violence.



@welfarerightsnsw

Our work transforms lives.



Allientia Weldon-Oti,  
First Nations Access  
Officer, en route  
to Nyngan





## 4. Exploring metro / urban normativity

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‘Reframing the narrative’

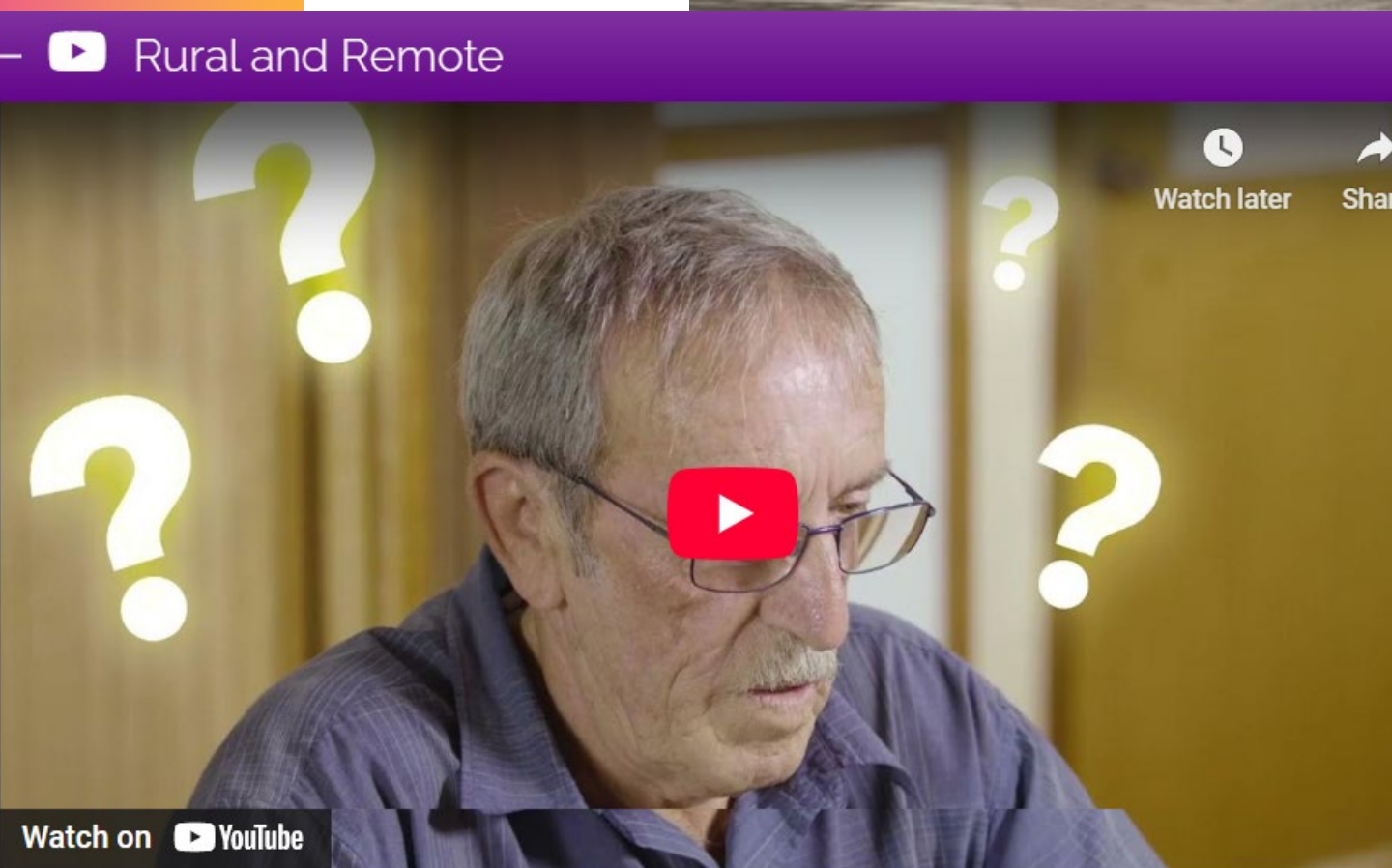
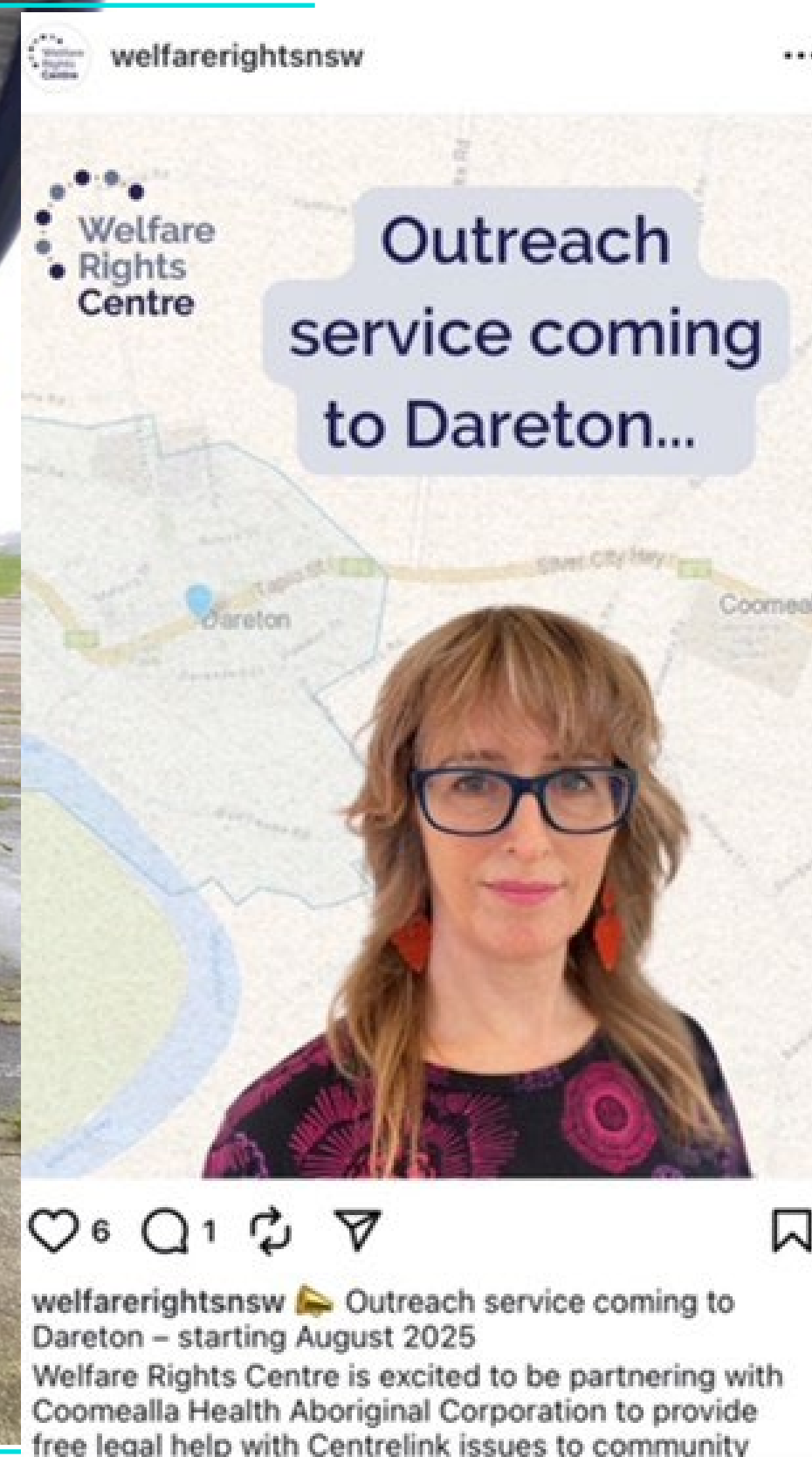
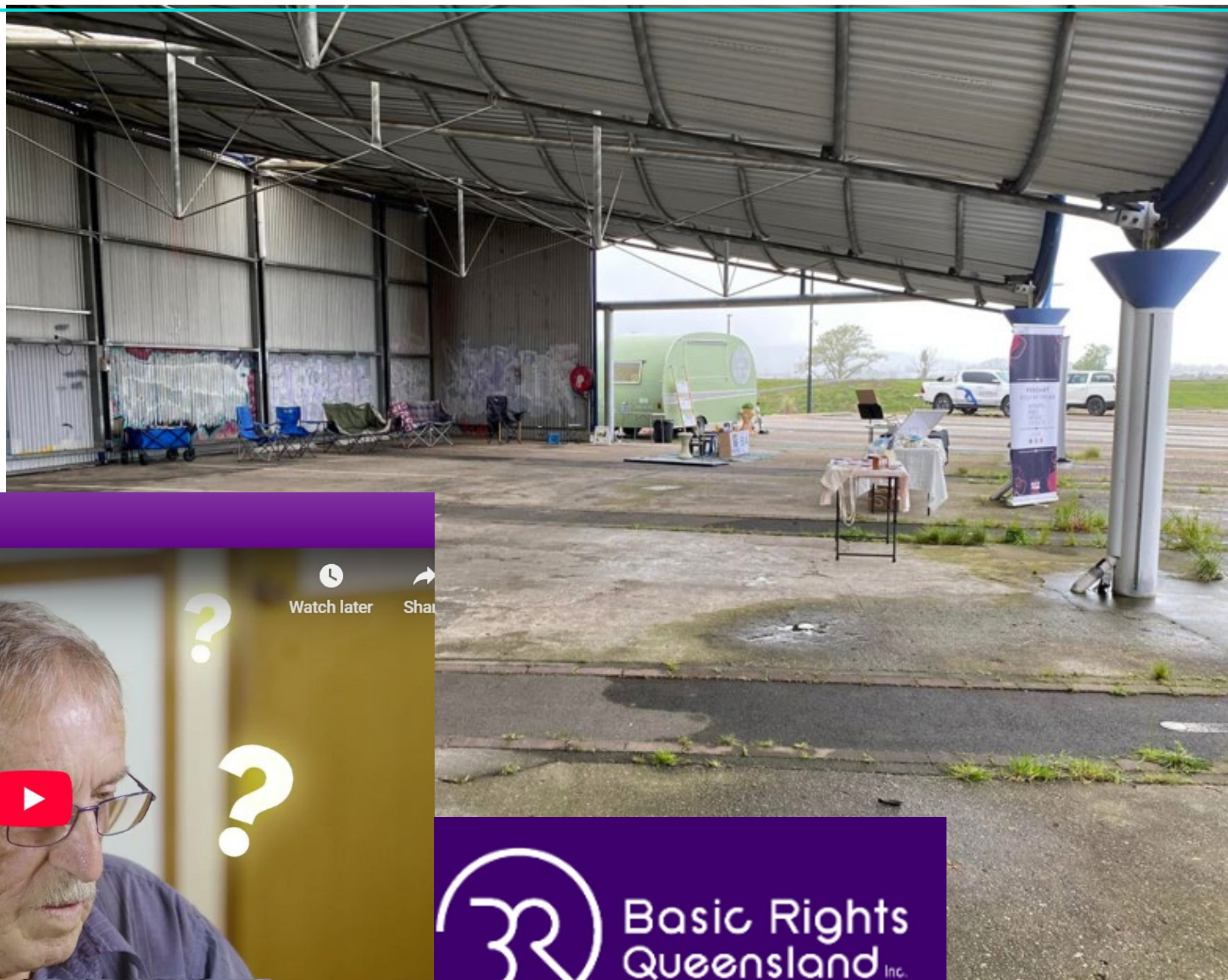
*What metro-normative arguments do you encounter in your practice, and how can we effectively counter them?*





# Exploring metro / urban normativity (cont'd)

women's  
legal  
service  
tasmania



Basic Rights Queensland is working with Bynoe Community Advancement Co-Operative Society Ltd



## 5. Call to action



- Human rights and legal rights where we live
- Solutions & resources for full geographic inclusion / coverage: where people facing disadvantage in 4Rs live
- Tuning up your arguments in support
- Contributing to geographically inclusive intersectionality
- Reflecting & calling for good practices about 4Rs inclusion



For a copy of this presentation,  
scan the QR code and head to  
EJA's website

Thank you



For info about the 4Rs Network:  
<https://clcs.org.au/4rs-network/>