Why disability is a public health issue?

Professor Anne Kavanagh
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While 15% of the world’s population have a disability, they have largely been ignored by public health research, practice and policy. The health of people with disabilities is poorer than non-disabled people across most health outcomes, including those unrelated to their impairment. Emerging evidence suggests that much of their poorer health is due to their poorer living conditions including higher levels of poverty, poorer housing conditions, unemployment, low income and discrimination.

In this presentation, Anne will draw on their research on disability, socio-economic disadvantage and health to argue that people with disabilities should be considered a ‘vulnerable’ population group who are at risk of poor health outcomes because they experience concentrated disadvantage. She will conclude by describing how public health can contribute to improving the health of people with disabilities.

Professor Kavanagh is Head of the Gender and Women’s Health in the Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. She is a social epidemiologist and an international expert in health inequities. Her research on health inequities focuses on how gender, disability, housing, employment and the built environment shape health outcomes.

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12.30 - 1.30 pm, Seminar Room 515
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ALL WELCOME