

Including Trans People in Research

Video Transcript

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Narrator: Have you heard the word transgender before? You may have seen it defined in a few different ways. Let me give you the simple version. Transgender is an umbrella term that describes people whose gender differs from what was presumed for them at birth and covers a large range of genders, including trans man, trans woman, non-binary, genderqueer, Sistergirl, Brotherboy, and more. Being trans is a natural part of human diversity. Trans people have existed for a long time, including in Indigenous communities, but we're often not counted when it counts the most; in research and in data. There's no right or wrong way to be trans, and no one trans experience. We have a diverse range of intersectional identities and experiences, and experience marginalisation in areas of life such as health, employment, education and housing. So, collecting data and information about the trans community is important. Let's look at why.

Text on screen: First question, have you experienced harassment or discrimination as a gender-diverse person?

Dr Camelia Rose Walker: Yes. [laughs] I mean, um.

Bridget: I don't think I know any gender-diverse person who hasn't experienced harassment or discrimination.

Dr Camelia Rose Walker: I regularly get harassed on the street by people.

Fin: Ogling and the leering.

Ty: You shouldn't exist or that you don't exist.

Ricki: He was kindly enough, wrote on the referral sheet, "Please refer to Ricki, not Rick. My patient is trans woman." The nurse came to call me for my appointment and called my male name. My heart sank.

Text on screen: What does it feel like when research questions aren't trans-inclusive?

Dr Camelia Rose Walker: Being excluded in data collection, it doesn't feel good.

Ty: I have to put a gender that I'm not. I have to put a name that is not my name.

Fin: It made me feel like I was being deceitful.

Ty: Basically, I'm lying on everything that I have to fill out. I guess, if that was reversed and cis people were lying on forms, like, that's like fraud.

Dr Camelia Rose Walker: It is quite a stressful time and it can be really overwhelming. Um, yeah.

Narrator: So, how can we collect data that's meaningful? It's easy. When conducting population research or assessing trends in the delivery of programmes and services, ask these two simple questions: "How do you describe your gender?" and, "At birth you were recorded as." Using this approach allows for data from people of all genders to be accounted for and analysed appropriately. Being counted in something like data doesn't go unnoticed either.

Ty: I think it would be a massive win all 'round. People are going to be getting accurate data.

Fin: So easy to do just two boxes on a form.

Dr Camelia Rose Walker: We will suddenly be able to know how different conditions affect trans people.

Bridget: Actually make sure that interventions are effective, that policy is effective.

Ricki: Adequate health services and developing appropriate care spaces.

Ty: I think it's a huge win for a very small change.

Fin: To improve the lives of many. There's no reason not to.

END TRANSCRIPT