



# Inequality

A difference between two or more things

Involves comparison only – can be:

Quantitative: e.g. height 180cm vs 160cm

Qualitative: e.g. eyes blue or brown



# Inequity

An inequality that is:

- o unfair
- o often preventable

Involves comparison and a value judgment

Usually has its origins in the way we organise society:  
'social inequity'

Often associated with other inequities





SYDNEY

# Social Determinants of Health

“the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.”

World Health Organization



# Social Determinants of Health and health equity

Not the same but intimately related

Social Determinants of Health cause health inequities

... and can create equity

Social Determinants of Health will still exist when there are no health inequities



# WHO Commission's recommendations

1. Improve daily living conditions
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources
3. Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action



# Improve daily living conditions





# Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources

1. Health equity in all policies and programs
2. Fair financing – taxation, programs, international aid
3. Market responsibility – health impact of economic policies; state provision of essential services
4. Gender equity
5. Political empowerment – participative democracy
6. Good global governance – UN & WHO leadership in tackling social determinants



# Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action

1. Have enough evidence to act now
2. Generate and share new evidence
3. Health equity monitoring systems – local, national, global
4. Training in social determinants of health – for policy makers, health professionals, public, private sector, WHO





# Papal social justice encyclicals

Rerum Novarum, Leo XIII 1891

Quadragesimo Anno, Pius XI 1931

Mater and Magistra, John XXIII 1961

Centesimus Annus, John Paul II 1991







# Professor Anna Yeatman, Whitlam Institute

The Question for Our Times: Institutional Design for a Free Society, February 2017

It is urgent that we reclaim the social democratic project but this time and as an eco-social democracy. We cannot sustain the modern fantasy of the progressive control of nature that was built into the older forms of social democracy. We have to develop the social democratic relational understanding of freedom so that it includes our connection with other species and the biosphere we share with them. We cannot sustain the greedy consumerism that neoliberalism has taught us.

We have no time to lose.



Act Justly,  
Love mercy,  
Walk humbly with your God

The prophet Micah

