

Social inclusion and exclusion of culturally diverse communities: strategies and experiences

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Social inclusion and mobility: an issues paper

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ABSTRACT (max 250 words - 252 words)

This paper discusses social inclusion in relation to mobility in Australia.

Mobility - the capacity of people to move around readily - is associated with the nature of the 'place' that is more than a mere physical site. A place gets its meaning from its relative location, accessibility and legibility. The flows of people moving and the ongoing process of change can affect the sense of being an 'insider' or an 'outsider' in a place.

This paper examines the consequences of mobility being geographically-constructed in relation to geo-spatial disparities in many elements of our social structure. In combination, some elements can compound the social exclusion experienced by groups or individuals. This is graphically expressed in Dodson and Sipe's mapping of their VAMPIRE Index (Vulnerability Assessment of Mortgage, Petrol and Interest RatEs)(2007). This visual presentation, as electoral geography, is effective in provoking debate about public policy and social change.

If we are to be seeking policy-without-silos for a new low-carbon economy and society, then we need to examine how transport-related social exclusion can be resolved through public policy.

The paper considers the new Federal transport policy that has introduced social inclusion as a policy objective within the overall policy intent of making a 'new beginning' in governance and in reforming transport's institutional frameworks. The paper makes some comparison to equivalent British policy analysis of transport and social inclusion. It also refers to understandings about 'place' to show how the topic of mobility connects to the conference themes of affordable housing, employment, education and training.

