

CALD XPRESS – DEVELOPING AN STI/HIV COMPUTER ASSISTED SCREENING INTERVIEW TOOL FOR THE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE POPULATIONS OF SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY.

Naomi Hoffman, Rachel Moss, Sandhya Goundar, Ponnammah Ramasamy, Tanya Bruce & Christopher Carmody
Liverpool Sexual Health

Background: Liverpool Sexual Health is a publicly funded health service in South Western Sydney which is an area that is highly culturally diverse. There are large communities of overseas born people in the district (39.8% in Liverpool and 37.7% Bankstown). In NSW in 2017, the number of newly diagnosed HIV positive men who have sex with men (MSM) who were born overseas exceeded the number born in Australia. Several methods are employed to increase ease of access to the service for those who are from CALD backgrounds. These include the use of telephone interpreters, dedicated weekly walk in clinic with Mandarin interpreter for sex workers, a monthly presence of the Sex Worker Outreach Project (SWOP) peer worker and now the development of a multi-language computer assisted screening interview tool (CASI) for use in Xpress clinics to further assist CALD clients.

Methods: The Xpress kiosk is used widely in sexual health services for asymptomatic clients and is a free- standing kiosk which asks the user questions pertaining to their sexual history. This information is immediately available to the nurse for consultation. In an effort to increase the accessibility of the service to CALD populations, the questions of the Xpress kiosk were reviewed and translated into five key languages including Arabic, Chinese, Thai, Khmer and Vietnamese.

Upon first presentation to the service clients have their initial consultation for screening in which a full history is taken and the client, if suitable, is advised of the ability to use the Xpress kiosk for future visits.

Results: Chinese has been the most popular language for use with the CALD Xpress, especially among sex workers who visit the clinic. The CALD Xpress has also been promoted by the Chinese SWOP peer worker. The complete results by language and client risk will be published in the poster.

Conclusion: The CALD Xpress has increased accessibility to the service among CALD groups and has been found to be acceptable by these populations. We expect to see an increase in presentation for screening and frequency of screening by CALD individuals.