

Providing Youth Sexual Health Education in Western Australia During COVID-19

Authors:

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Background/purpose:

COVID-19 presented unique challenges for young people in accessing sexual health services (in particular STI testing) and traditional youth services. There was an increase in young people's engagement with social media and online technologies compared to traditional services. Youth support services faced unique challenges in supporting the needs of their clients and required education and information on how to support the sexual health of young people during this pandemic.

Approach:

The YEP Project, which typically provides sexual health education for young people and the youth sector via face to face to workshops adapted to provide responsive sexual health content to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was important that we provided sexual health information through mediums and channels that were accessible to a diverse array of young people. A particular emphasis was given to young people experiencing disadvantage, those from marginalised communities, and those with disabilities.

Outcomes/impact:

- 6 social media campaigns in six months with over 100,000 views:
 - Trans Day of Visibility
 - Socially Distant STI Testing
 - IDAHoBIT
 - World Day for Cultural Diversity
 - International Menstruation Day
 - Men's Health Week
- 11 downloadable resources
- 35 new videos, totalling over 50,000 views
- 5 youth webinars
- 4 sector webinars. Topics including:
 - STI's & BBV's
 - IDAHoBIT
 - Contraception & Pregnancy Prevention
 - Dating Online, Sexting & Porn

High uptake from regional and remote Western Australia

Innovation and significance:

YEP utilises a youth peer model to inform its content development and creation. Significant emphasis during this period was placed on trends and emerging concerns young people had and how these could be addressed through mediums that were also trending.

Disclosure Statement:

Nothing to disclose.