

# **Embedding early medication abortion in sexual and reproductive health care through an empowerment-based model of care at the Kirketon Road Centre, a primary health care service in Kings Cross, Sydney**

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## **Background/Purpose:**

Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) has been offering early medical abortion (EMA) since November 2021 as a standard part of reproductive healthcare. We believe KRC is one of the few public sexual health clinics to have integrated EMA services. Implementation of abortion services through collaborative practice and multidisciplinary team (MDT) care is a safe and achievable goal for all services working within the sexual and reproductive health sphere.

## **Approach:**

Since the initial launch of EMA services in 2021, KRC has become a highly accessed service for socially vulnerable pregnant people. The MDT has been able to nest abortion care within dedicated booked clinics as well as catering to walk in, late notice clients through a flexible model of nurse-led, doctor-led and dual consults and efficacious handover. The model of care also puts the abortion-seeker in charge of their abortion process and decision making.

## **Outcomes/Impact:**

Since September 2021, forty-six people have accessed EMA at KRC across a variety of vulnerable populations. This includes people with financial disadvantage, without Medicare, people experiencing homelessness, people from Aboriginal and culturally diverse backgrounds and at-risk youth. The clinic has received overwhelmingly positive feedback with a large majority of people reporting relief and feeling well within themselves following EMA.

## **Innovation and Significance:**

KRC's EMA model of care has provided many people from marginalized groups with access to safe, affordable, and supported abortion services. The demand of the service has contributed to the formation of a dedicated bi-weekly nurse-led, nurse/doctor system which is unique within community sexual health services.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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