

PRACTICE BASED TEMPLATE

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LIVING WITH HIV AND INJECTING DRUGS: A HEALTH LITERACY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Authors:

BRENT CLIFTON¹, insert other names here

¹ *National Association of People Living with HIV Australia (NAPWHA), Sydney, Australia*

Background/Purpose:

People living with HIV (PLHIV) experience stigma and discrimination greater than their HIV-negative peers, impacting on health and quality of life. People who inject drugs (PWID) are among the most stigmatised groups and are disproportionately affected by HIV and blood borne viruses. NAPWHA, with support from AIVL has undertaken a community consultation to understand the dual experience of living with HIV and injecting drugs as part of the Health Literacy Framework Project, which provides insights about diverse populations of PLHIV in Australia.

Approach:

Utilising NAPWHA's Health Literacy Framework, a desktop literature review was conducted, and an advisory peer-group established. The group met to discuss the issues faced, established a process of engagement and recruitment, utilising peer networks. Community consultations were conducted by videoconference and a summary of the findings will be produced into a report, with recommendations for health promotion engagement for PLHIV-WID.

Outcomes/Impact:

A diverse range of participants were interviewed, and preliminary findings show that peer networks are trusted sources of health-related information and support. Doctors are trusted regarding issues of HIV health; however, participants are less likely to discuss their injecting practice in these settings. Participants also demonstrate high levels of health literacy with regard to their HIV and are well aware of the concept of U=U, however, less is known about U=U in injecting settings, specifically how it relates to blood-to-blood contact.

Innovation and Significance:

Analysis of the community consultations is ongoing, and recommendations forthcoming with the production of a community report. However, the process to date has provided NAPWHA with valuable learnings about how to engage with PLHIV-WID and an opportunity for staff to learn from this process.

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Disclosure of Interest Statement (example):

NAPWHA has received funding for The Health Literacy Framework Project from ViiV healthcare Australia.

