

## **Title: An opportunity not to be missed: STI testing in self-reported health checks among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (GOANNA Survey 2)**

O'Dwyer M<sup>1</sup>; Elliott S<sup>1,2</sup>; Dyson E<sup>1</sup>; Bryant J<sup>3</sup>; Wand H<sup>4</sup>; Pitts M<sup>5</sup>; Kaldor J<sup>4</sup>; Donovan B<sup>4</sup>, Barzi F<sup>1</sup>; Ward J<sup>1,2,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Queensland Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, <sup>2</sup>South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, <sup>3</sup>Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW, <sup>4</sup>Kirby Institute UNSW, <sup>5</sup>Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, Latrobe University, <sup>6</sup>Baker IDI Alice Springs

**Background:** Regular testing is key to addressing the burden of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) which are reported disproportionately among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We examined STI testing during self-reported health checks in participants of GOANNA 2: a national cross-sectional survey.

**Methods:** 1,343 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (16-29 years) participated in the sexual health survey at community events (2017-2020). Pearson's chi-squared was used to test for associations among participants self-reporting health checks in the last year.

**Results:** Two thirds of participants self-reported a 'full health check up' in the last year: 66% at an Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) and 32% at a General Practice (GP). Of those with previous sexual experience (n=676), 67% were offered a STI test during the visit. Whether they were offered a STI test differed significantly according to sex (males: 60% and females: 72%, p=0.002), age group (16-19: 53%, 20-24: 73% and 25-29 years: 75%, p<0.001), relationship status (single: 64%, in a relationship but not living together: 69%, living with partner: 75%, p=0.03) and health service type (AMS: 72%, GP: 61%, p=0.005). Among those offered a STI test during their health check (n=454), 71% (n=324) self-report having had a STI test and 43% (n=193) self-report a HIV test in the previous year.

**Conclusion:** Sexually active teenagers, males and those not living with a partner were less likely to be offered STI testing when attending for a health check, despite clinical guidelines recommendations. Health checks provide an opportunity for STI testing, including HIV testing, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young peoples which should not be missed.

### **Disclosure of Interest:**

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