

## **Shaking up Primary Care: Encouraging young people to ask for sexual health checks at their GP**

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### **Background/Purpose:**

Young people experience higher rates of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and lower screening rates than the general population in Australia, however, many report barriers to accessing STI testing and care.

Play Safe Program's Primary Care Program led the development of sector-informed resources to support young peoples' access to sexual healthcare within primary care and foster agency among young people to ask for STI checks.

### **Approach:**

The Primary Care Program convened a statewide working group of stakeholders from non-government organisations and Local Health Districts. The working group engaged with a Youth Advisory Council to develop sector-informed resources for GPs, youth workers and young people to facilitate positive sexual health experiences for young people both accessing and within primary care settings.

### **Outcomes/Impact:**

Three resources (two factsheets and one primary care youth friendly checklist) were identified as priority resources by stakeholders including GPs, youth workers and young people, and have been developed and designed to be distributed to the target audiences. Resources were distributed through a targeted approach including at the General Practice Conference and Exhibition (GPCE), digitally via eDMs and primary care networks and through youth interagencies. The resources are also hosted on the Play Safe Pro website and available for all consumers.

### **Innovation and Significance:**

This is an innovative approach that engaged the target audiences to develop sector-informed resources that fosters agency among young people to proactively integrate sexual health tests and care as part of routine primary care visits. Previously, work in this sector has focused on GP practices themselves and working with GPs to initiate conversations about sexual health with young people in a safe and supportive primary care environment.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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