

## **Sexual and reproductive health education and chlamydia screening for high school students in an out of school setting**

### **Authors:**

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### **Background/Purpose:**

The New South Wales Sexually Transmissible Infections (STI) Strategy 2022-2026 highlights young people aged under 30 years as a priority population. Young people are significantly overrepresented in chlamydia and gonorrhoea notifications across all gender and sexuality groups. Schools and other tertiary settings are recommended for both sexual and reproductive health education and STI screening.

### **Approach:**

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District has a longstanding partnership with Ulladulla High School. Each year, students transitioning into year 12 attend a 5-day life skills camp. Camp offers students an opportunity to be educated on many facets of life, including sexual and reproductive health. To this effect, health promotion officers deliver education sessions on STIs with a key focus on chlamydia, using an enacted scenario and contraception. At the completion of the sessions, students are offered the opportunity to take part in a urine test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea.

### **Outcomes/Impacts:**

In 2022, two camps occurred. During the first camp in March, 120 students attended education sessions with 91 urine screens completed. There were no positive test results. During the second camp in December, 110 students attended education sessions with 41 urine screens completed. There were 2 positive chlamydia results.

### **Innovation and significance:**

Offering students the opportunity to participate in sexual and reproductive health education sessions and urine screening for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in alternate, off school site settings is popular. All students have the opportunity to participate in screening regardless of their sexual activity status.

The geographical area of residence for these students, offers little opportunity for regular STI screening due to service barriers, mainly cost. This program allows students to engage in free and confidential screening at a time and location suitable to their needs.

It has also picked up positive chlamydia results in students who may not otherwise be screened, due to lack of symptoms, lack of STI knowledge and difficulties accessing testing and treatment services.