

Bridging the Gap: Strengthening Primary Care to Support Adolescent SRH literacy in a Post-Social Media Era

Presenter information:

Presenter 1:

Name: Dr Anisa Assifi

Organization: Monash University/SPHERE CRE

Position: Research Fellow

50-word Biography / summary of expertise:

Dr Anisa Assifi is a Research Fellow and early-career public health researcher with an interest in sexual and reproductive health (SRH), particularly in abortion, adolescent health and the role of primary care. Her research is currently focused on adolescents and the delivery of SRH in community pharmacy.

Presenter 2:

Name: Dr Olena Ivanova

Organization: Monash University/SPHERE CRE

Position: Senior Research Fellow

50-word Biography / summary of expertise:

Dr Olena Ivanova, is a global sexual and reproductive health (SRH) researcher, working at SPHERE CRE as Senior Research Fellow. Her research focuses on addressing SRH needs of populations facing barriers to services and information, including adolescents, through inclusive and innovative solutions.

Presenter 3: Ms Jenna Perkin (Youth co-presenter)

Name: Jenna Perkin

Organization:

Position: PhD Candidate

50-word Biography / summary of expertise:

Jenna is a PhD Candidate in the Department of General Practice at Monash University. Her research explores young people's access to medication abortion services in Australian general practice settings. Through her research, she aims to improve access to medication abortion for younger populations and contribute to more equitable reproductive healthcare.

Background/ Overview of Workshop:

With the introduction of Australia's social media age restrictions, adolescents face a significant loss of access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, particularly information that is timely, inclusive, and youth-led. This workshop explores how primary care can play a critical role in bridging this gap and ensuring equitable access to SRH education and services for young people.

Drawing on recent research and youth perspectives, the session will examine the unintended consequences of digital exclusion and the limitations of traditional SRH education. Participants will engage in interactive discussions and co-design activities to identify practical strategies for strengthening primary care responses. This includes embedding SRH prompts into routine consultations, improving youth-

friendly training for clinicians, and establishing referral pathways between schools and health services.

The workshop will explore how primary care can evolve to meet the changing needs of adolescents in a digitally restricted environment, and how health professionals can be supported to deliver inclusive, developmentally appropriate care. Participants will also discuss potential evidence-based digital health interventions that can be integrated into primary care settings to support SRH literacy and decision-making.

Target Audience:

- Young people (12 – 25 years)
- Community / youth workers
- Health professionals
- Researchers

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the impact of social media restrictions on adolescent SRH access.
- Identify barriers and opportunities within primary care to support adolescent SRH.
- Apply youth-informed strategies to improve SRH literacy and service delivery.
- Explore models for integrating SRH education into routine primary care interactions.

Duration of workshop:

- 60 minutes

Will this workshop be co-presented with young people?

- Yes

Disclosure of Interest Statement (example):

Nothing to disclose