

TALKING TO MIGRANT AND REFUGEE YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT SEXUAL HEALTH IN GENERAL PRACTICE

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Background: Young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds are an important but often complex group to target with sexual health information and care. While general practitioners (GPs) are the service providers most often accessed by young people in Australia, little is known about the views and experiences of young people from diverse cultural and language backgrounds in accessing GPs for sexual and reproductive health matters.

Methods: This presentation will present key findings pertaining to general practice services from a larger doctoral project in which 27 self-identified migrant and refugee young people were interviewed between late 2016 and 2017. Semi-structured first interviews (n=27; 16 female, 11 male) and follow-up interviews (n=9; 6 female, 3 male) were conducted with young people aged 16-24 years, all living in Sydney.

Results: General practice was identified as the most commonly known and accessed health service for this group. However, while all had seen a GP for general health issues, many expressed strong concerns about asking for advice and care relating to sexual and reproductive health. For those with a regular 'family doctor', this was associated with fears regarding confidentiality or being judged, while those attending a more 'anonymous', group-practice GP raised other issues, including being rushed through the appointment or not listened to.

Conclusion: General practice is clearly an important setting for all young people to access essential health information and care, however those young people from diverse cultural and language backgrounds may be receiving fragmented care by seeing different doctors for different aspects of health, or not seeing anyone at all for their sexual and reproductive health. There is an urgent need for general practices to better engage this group and enhance their own approach to talking about sexual and reproductive health and communicating confidentiality and trustworthiness.

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We have no disclosures of interest to declare.