

HOW 'EQUITABLE ACCESS' IS CONCEPTUALISED BY KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE AUSTRALIAN HIV RESPONSE

Christy Newman

In this presentation, Christy will review key social research insights regarding access to PrEP in Australia, as a new tool in the combination prevention response to HIV in Australia. She will report on a pilot study conducted with key stakeholders on the rationale for and complexities of achieving equitable access to PrEP across Australia. Interviews were conducted between May and September 2017 with 20 expert informants spanning national and state-based jurisdictions and populations, government, non-government and higher education organisations, and policy, advocacy, clinical, health promotion and research roles. The creative but uneven implementation of PrEP access schemes in Australia offers a unique opportunity to reflect on how the notion of equitable access to a prevention technology is conceptualised by those who are contributing to national and local activities in the prevention of HIV, and to harvest new ideas on how we can ensure that access programs achieve both epidemiological and equity outcomes.