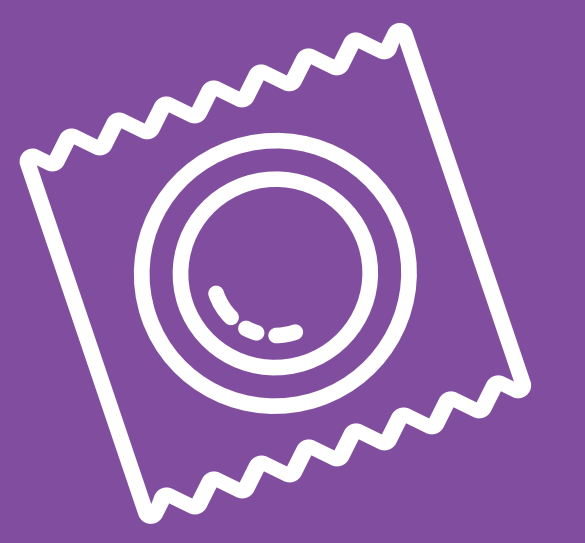


# Free condoms? Yes please!



A state-wide online condom access program for services working with young people in NSW



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## Background

The diverse geography of NSW makes access to condoms difficult for some young people.

When it comes to sourcing free condoms, young people often need to access local youth centres, sexual health clinics and some community organisations that supply them. However, free condoms may not be available in all areas of need..

Where condoms are not freely available, some young people purchase them from local supermarkets, pharmacies, convenience stores, petrol stations and specialty condom websites but many report cost and associated stigma as

## Access to Condoms

A statewide condom dissemination program

The NSW Play Safe Programs Access to Condoms Project aims to promote and monitor the distribution of free condoms to youth services and other organisations who work with young people in priority settings identified in the NSW STI Strategy 2022-2026.

Access to Condoms is part of the broader Play Safe Program mission to strengthen workforce capacities to prevent and reduce transmission and adverse impacts (morbidity, mortality, stigma and discrimination) of STIs among young people aged 15-29 years in New South Wales.

NSW-based services that work with young people are able to order 144 Play Safe branded condoms per month through an online ordering form on the Play Safe Pro website.

Do you work in NSW and want free condoms for young people at your service?



## Program themes

### 1. There is a high need for free condoms within services in rural and regional NSW Local Health Districts

- Rural and regional LHDs in NSW engage in the program at higher rates than NSW metropolitan Local Health Districts
- This may reflect greater need for local access to free condoms for young people as well as increased promotion by rural and regional LHDs to promote the project

To date: **132,336** condoms disseminated to rural & regional youth related services  
**99,216** condoms disseminated to metropolitan youth related services

Local Health Districts - Condom packs ordered	FY '19-20	FY '20-21	FY '21-22	FY '22-23	Totals
<b>Metropolitan Local Health Districts</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>689</b>
Nepean Blue Mountains LHD	3	30	17	26	76
Northern Sydney LHD	5	8	11	38	62
South Eastern Sydney LHD	13	70	33	49	165
Sydney LHD	17	53	62	109	241
South Western Sydney LHD	4	32	24	32	92
Western Sydney LHD	7	17	11	18	53
<b>Rural &amp; Regional NSW Local Health Districts</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>919</b>
Central Coast LHD	2	25	16	25	68
Far West LHD	7	9	8	8	32
Hunter New England LHD	22	72	49	77	220
Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD	33	104	74	64	275
Murrumbidgee LHD	6	38	4	21	69
Mid North Coast LHD	15	18	6	22	61
Northern NSW LHD	12	25	13	19	69
Southern NSW LHD	8	27	21	20	76
Western NSW LHD	11	11	11	16	49
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>1608</b>

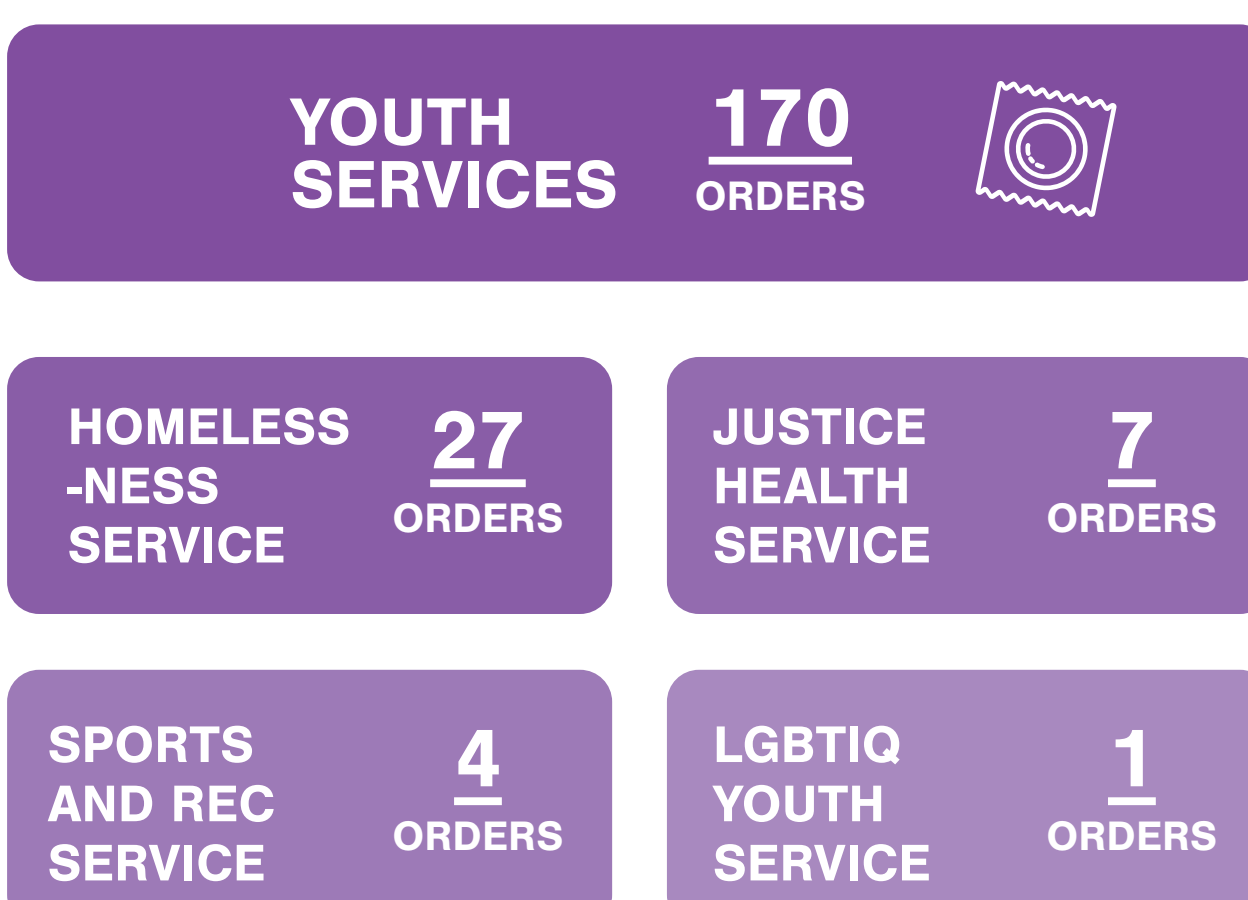
### 2. Health related services are the largest consumer of the project

- Health related service engage in the project 30% more than education and youth services
- Primary care health services including medical centers and sexual health clinics were most actively engaged
- Further promotion needs to be done with multicultural and alcohol and other drug health services to increase uptake



### 3. Greater promotion and work towards increasing condom promotion with youth homelessness and youth justice health services is needed

- Only 4% of orders are from the youth justice health services and 16% are from youth homelessness services
- Targeted promotion is needed to encourage these services to utilise the ordering platform
- There is great opportunity to provide condoms to young people as they leave the corrections service and justice health has the capacity to facilitate this



### 4. Education services have capacity and opportunity to provide condoms to diverse groups of young people

- Education services, particularly universities and high schools, consistently order condoms to distribute to students (169 orders)
- There is significant opportunity to develop targeted promotion for university clubs and student groups to order sexual health resources
- Future efforts should focus on engaging TAFEs and international student services, including student accommodation

