

Men's Sexual Health Clinic- 'addressing rural healthcare marginalisation'

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Background/Purpose:

In rural areas health care is often unattainable due to the inability to provide services and/or health professionals within niche fields. With a newly established Nurse Practitioner led sexual health service it was optimal time to cultivate a men's sexual health clinic. The aim to initiate sexual healthcare delivery to an often-marginalised cohort, removing stigmatisation whilst ensuring a positive shift in men obtaining sexual healthcare.

Approach:

Sexual health assessments were delivered to clients, within dedicated appointments. Clients did not have to wait which safeguarded accessibility. Education, support/guidance, prescribing and referral pathways were delivered within a holistic manner.

Funding from CERSH enabled the service to develop, using various modes of promotion and awareness. Stakeholders were supported within the rural town, guaranteeing a conscious effort was being made reaching potential clients. Being the only facility offering Monkeypox vaccinations, it was essential that the community were aware.

Outcomes/Impact:

17 men accessed with service within a 10-week trial period resulting in generating 43+ additional appointments. Data collection indicated the most effective method of advertising/awareness was via social media, radio and referral from friends and/or family with 41% for each medium.

Within the findings, 82% identified as male and 18% as transgender, 59% of presentations were for sexual health. 12% of the presentations were Non-Medicare clients. Approximately 65% STI screens were completed with 36% positive results resulting in 100% treatment being achieved.

Innovation and Significance:

The diversity of the clinic was illustrated with ages ranging from 18-77 years. Outcomes being; the need for opportunistic STI screening, contraception support, and the critical need for gender diversity provision in rural towns. The development of a transgender support clinic, which is currently being established.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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