

Understanding how Aboriginal people living with HIV want to receive their care

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Background:

Aboriginal engagement with health systems is affected by historical and intergenerational trauma, stigma, discrimination and competing priorities. Aboriginal people living with HIV may have different needs, preferences, and barriers to overcome when accessing HIV care than others in the community. Currently no research exists on what are the preferred models of care Aboriginal people living with HIV would find most culturally appropriate.

Methods:

An Aboriginal Research Reference Group was established and consulted to ensure the interview guide and flyer were culturally appropriate and would accurately capture the perspectives of participants. Aboriginal people living with HIV were invited to participate in yarning sessions, with study promotion at Public Sexual Health Clinics in Illawarra and Greater Sydney in New South Wales (NSW). This research was Indigenous-led and conducted utilising a Yarning methodology. Participants were remunerated for their time and knowledge.

Results:

A total of 15 participants were recruited 11 participants were male, 2 participants were female and 2 participants identified as transgender women. 7 participants were from Greater Sydney, 7 participants were from Illawarra and 1 participant was from a regional area of NSW.

Thematic analysis has been undertaken to identify preferred models of care for Aboriginal people living with HIV. Preliminary findings include the importance of feeling a connection to clinicians or services, feelings of a reduction in care quality and connection due to reduced frequency of appointments since diagnosis, a desire for more Aboriginal staff to be involved in their care and better access or awareness to a variety of supports.

Conclusion:

Understanding the preferred models of HIV care for Aboriginal people in urban and regional settings in NSW can inform HIV care providers in their development of service provision, supports and resources.

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