

Providing antenatal care to marginalised women at the Kirketon Road Centre (KRC), an integrated primary health care service in Kings Cross, Sydney

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Background/Purpose:

KRC aims to meet the health and social welfare needs of 'at risk' youth, people who inject drugs and sex workers. Pregnant women who engage with KRC have complex needs, are often homeless and have a substance use disorder. Many have had children removed from their care and have been in out of home care themselves. These pregnant women often lack social support, and their networks encourage instability.

Approach:

Women attend for antenatal care and case management and form an holistic health relationship that extends beyond the birth of their child. Typically these women do not engage with conventional hospital-based antenatal services. Our flexibility and no cost service increases accessibility to testing required during pregnancy and important treatment (e.g., late latent syphilis). Our community outreach program reaches women who cannot or do not want to engage with the fixed-site service. Integral to the model are strong relationships with services in our area health district such as the Chemical Use in Pregnancy program and direct referral pathways to the Royal Hospital for Women, and to the Malabar Midwives for Aboriginal women.

Outcomes/Impact:

This group of women experience a range of complex issues both systemic and personal during a time in one's life where stability is paramount. Recommendations include timely access to treatment services and housing, consistency amongst service providers and appropriate access to domestic violence and trauma counselling as required.

Innovation and Significance:

KRCs model of care is able reach and provide much needed antenatal care, substance use disorder treatment, early medical abortion and contraception to marginalised and at risk women with substance use disorder. This is achieved through a flexible and non-judgmental approach to health care delivery, in partnership with relevant community and tertiary based services.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: Nil