



Young Deadly Free:
A youth peer education program for young people living in remote and very remote communities

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Young Deadly Free Peer Education Program

Pilot Period

- 2017 – 2019

Program Aim

- Increase awareness and promote prevention of STIs and BBVs
- Increase uptake of STI and BBV testing
- Help foster healthy relationships among Aboriginal young people
















Target Group

- 16 – 29 year olds
- Remote and very remote communities



The Program Sites

Locations

-  Bidyadanga WA
-  Broome WA
-  Carnarvon WA
-  Leonora WA
-  Warburton WA
-  Wiluna
-  Katherine NT
-  Minyerri NT
-  Tennant Creek NT
-  Alice Springs
-  Charleville QLD
-  Cherbourg QLD
-  Mareeba QLD
-  Ceduna SA
-  Port Lincoln SA



Youth Peer Education Program

Regional Coordinators

- Implemented program in each state and territory
- Recruited and trained young people as peer educators
- Evaluation data collection

Peer Educators

- Aged between 16 – 29 years
- Completed 15 hours of peer educator training
- Delivered 3 community education sessions to small groups of young people
- Provided with toolkit and ongoing support from Regional Coordinator



Evaluation of Youth Peer Education Program

Evaluation Objective

- Examine uptake, reach, and impact of the youth peer education program for Aboriginal people aged 16 – 29 years

Evaluation Tools

- Knowledge survey
- Interviews and focus groups

Evaluation Target Group

- Youth peer educators who deliver community education sessions
- Young people attending the community education sessions



Uptake and Reach of Youth Peer Education Program

Peer Educators

- N = 97
- 52 males; 45 females
- Mean age 21 years

Young People

- N = 426





Impact of Youth Peer Education Program

Knowledge Survey Findings

- Completed surveys
 - Pre surveys, $n = 174$
 - Post surveys, $n = 172$
- Knowledge domain
 - Demonstrated knowledge gains from pre to post survey
 - Limited knowledge post survey for gonorrhoea and trichomonas
 - No obvious difference between male and female responses
 - Respondents aged 23 years and older had highest proportion of correct responses

Impact of Youth Peer Education Program

Knowledge Survey Findings

- Health service domain

- 73.0% pre survey
- 87.2% post survey

} Sought STI and BBV advice from local Aboriginal Medical Service

- 78.8% pre survey
- 76.4% post survey

} Visited local Aboriginal Medical Service for last STI or BBV test

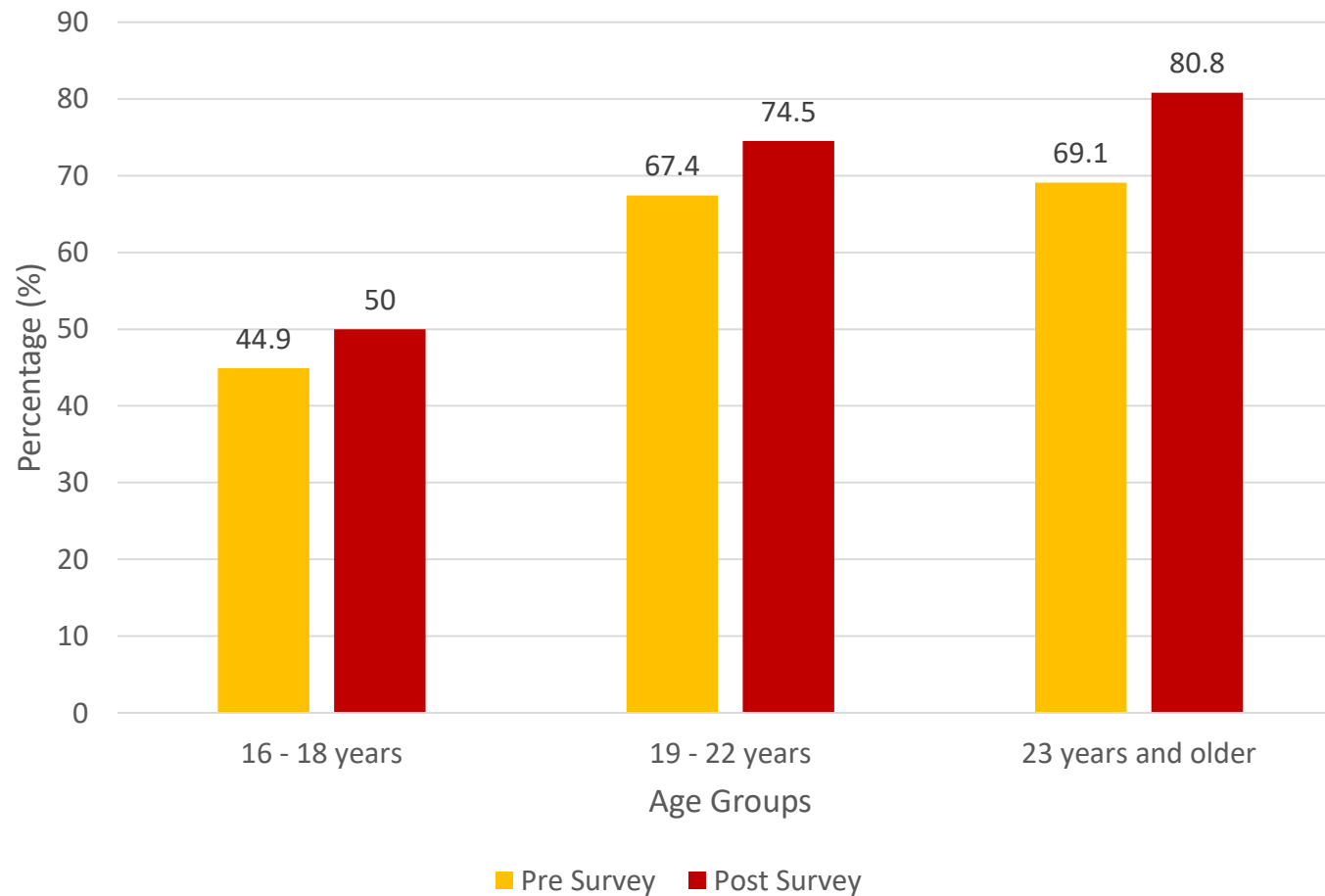


Impact of Youth Peer Education Program

Knowledge Survey Findings

- STI testing
 - 59.2% (pre) & 64.5% (post) had been tested for a STI
 - Marginal differences between males and females
 - Significant differences among age groups
- BBV testing
 - 13.8% (pre) & 23.3% (post) tested for HIV
 - 14.9% (pre) & 25.0% (post) tested for hepatitis C
 - 20.7% (pre) & 30.8% (post) tested for hepatitis B

Proportion of young people tested for a STI pre and post survey per age group





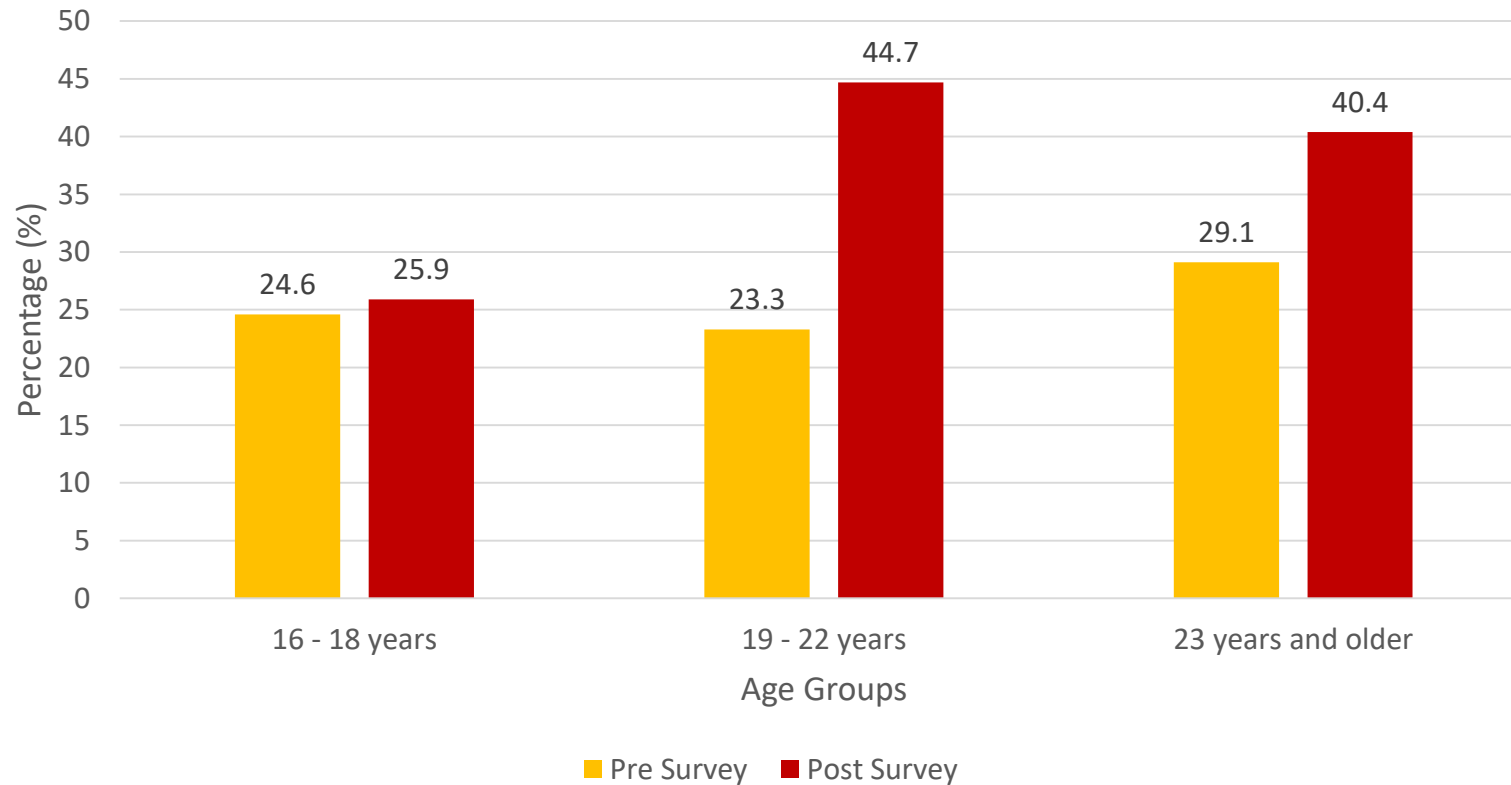
Impact of Youth Peer Education Program

Knowledge Survey Findings

- Behavioural intentions domain
 - 26.4% (pre) & 36.6% (post) intended to test for a STI or BBV
 - Negligible difference between males and females
 - Significant difference among the age groups in post survey

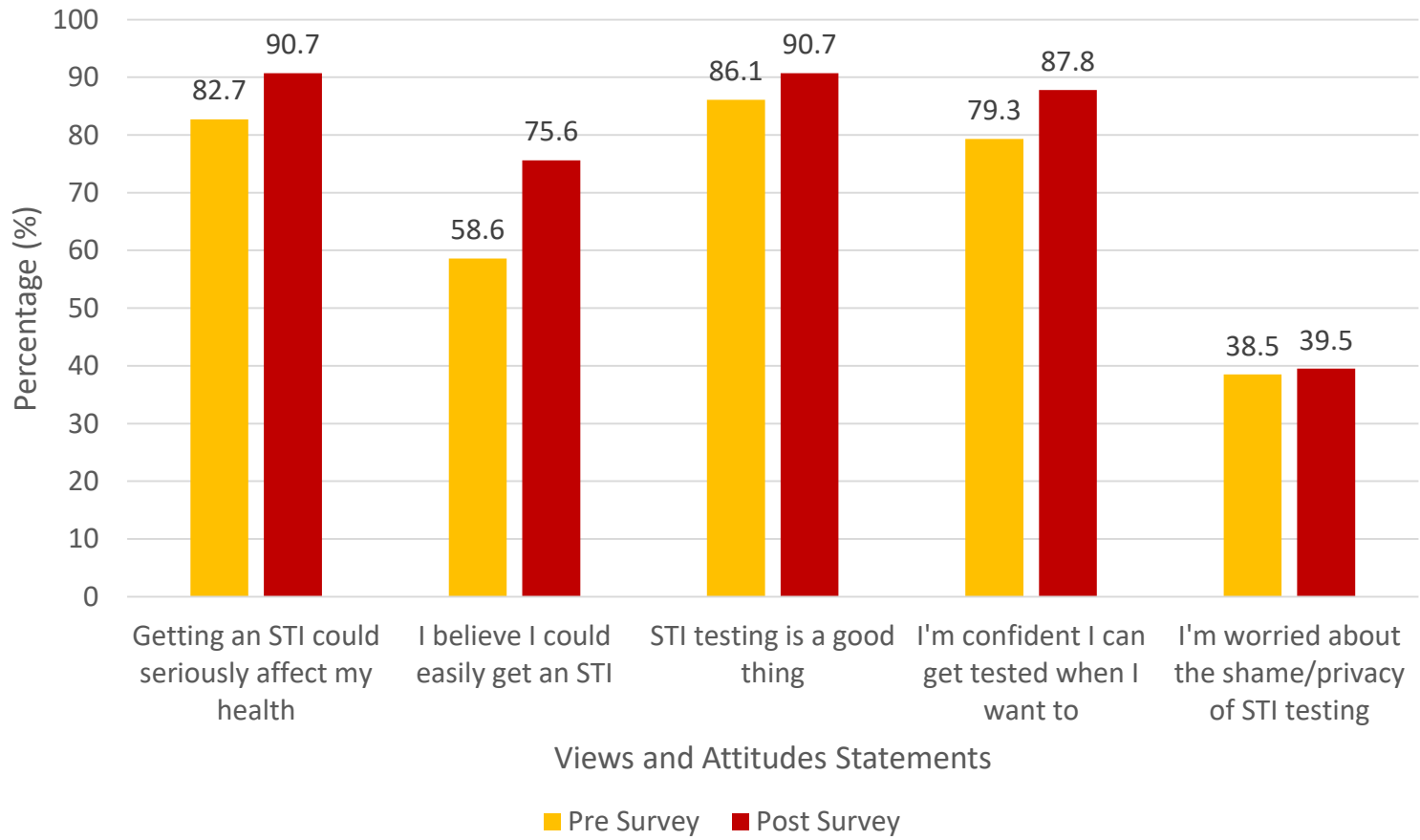


Proportion of young people intending to test for a STI or BBV in the next 3 months, per age group



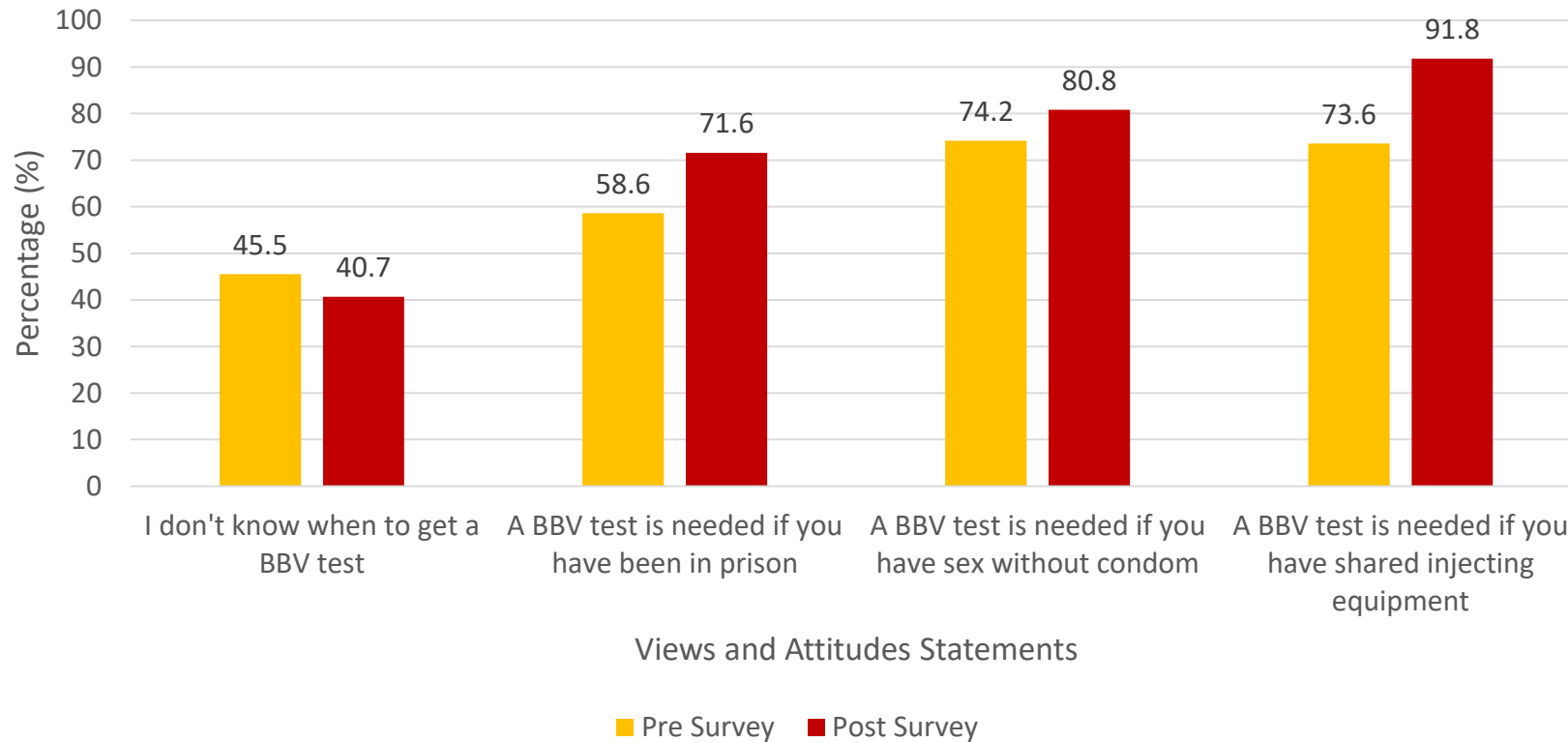


Proportion of young people agreeing with the STI views and attitudes statements





Proportion of young people agreeing with the BBV views and attitudes statements



Challenges and Future Considerations

Challenge

- Cultural barriers
 - Topic sensitivity
 - Sorry business

Future consideration

- Broader, more holistic health focus



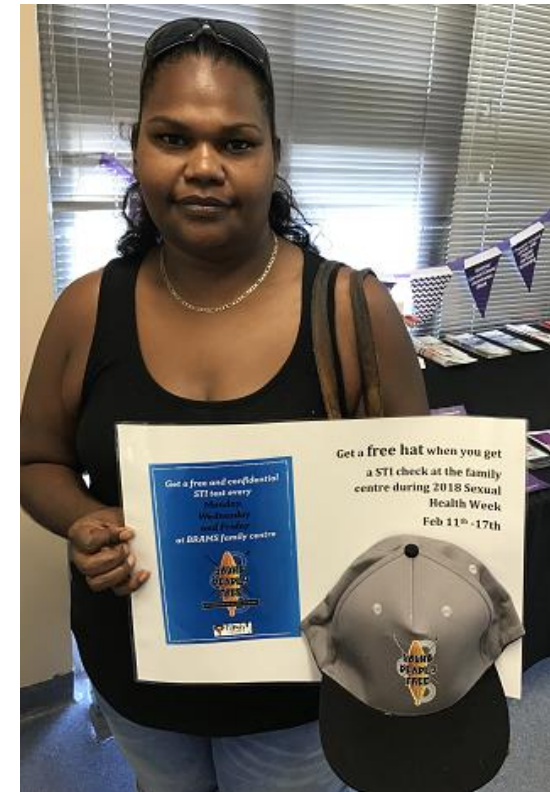
Challenges and Future Considerations

Challenge

- Recruitment and retention of peer educators
 - Small participant pool
 - Higher priority issues
 - Young people 'in demand' for other work/projects
 - Transient population
 - Unrealistic expectations

Future consideration

- Local support for peer educators
- Training in group facilitation



Challenges and Future Considerations

Challenge

- Inflexible program design, with strict participation criteria

Future consideration

- Less structured peer education program, open to people of all ages



Enquiries

Evaluation Enquiries

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