

Sex, Drugs and Worker Roles

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Background/Purpose:

Many people at risk of poorer sexual health (SH) outcomes do not access traditional sexual health services. Identifying other 'touch points' in the health system such as Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services provides opportunities to engage with these people. AOD workers required educational resources to support them to address SH matters with clients. The Sex, Drugs and Worker Roles project developed educational products and resources for AOD workers, designed to build on their pre-existing skills and enhance confidence in basic SH assessment and brief interventions.

Approach:

A project advisory group received guidance on the need for, and direction of, training and eLearning resources via a literature review, scoping survey, and an online SH/AOD forum.

The resulting Sex and Drugs Toolkit contains three free eLearning modules (covering foundational concepts, understanding sexually transmissible infections, and interventions), explainer videos, and downloadable resources designed to enhance AOD workers' confidence to talk about SH with clients.

Outcomes/Impact:

Between 30/11/2022 and 17/3/2023 the toolkit had 757 unique views. eLearning modules 1, 2, and 3 had been completed by 135, 79, and 71 people, respectively. Learners were asked to rate each module on several measures (scored 1–5). Average overall ratings were very positive (between 4.41 (SD = 0.58) and 4.65 (SD = 0.48)). Qualitative responses also indicated positive feedback.

Innovation and Significance:

The Sex and Drugs Toolkit is the only publicly available training resource in Australia focusing on the intersection between SH and substance use. The training draws upon skills and competencies already core to AOD practice, and articulates how these can be applied to help meet SH wellbeing needs across a variety of service settings.

By building capacity within the AOD sector, clients who face barriers in accessing mainstream services can be better supported with their SH concerns.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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