

## **IS IT IN YET? : INCREASING ACCESS FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL WOMEN TO ETONOGESTREL IMPLANTS IN A REGIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE.**

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**Background/Purpose:** Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) secured support from the Victorian Government enabling the establishment of the first Regional community-based Sexual and Reproductive Health Hub.

The Hub Doctors provide medical abortions.

Timely access to etonogestrel implant was identified as a barrier for the region due to Doctor availability. Acknowledging this need, University of Melbourne's, Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health and Family Planning Victoria facilitated a regional training for Nurse initiated Implant insertion and removal.

**Approach:** Four nurses completed the training and the practical component building skills, knowledge and confidence in implant insertion and removal procedures.

Two of the nurses currently facilitate the Nurse Led medical abortion consultations prior the Doctor's visit for prescription, providing targeted evidence-based education regarding options for post abortion contraception.

The training influenced service delivery expanding the hub services to include nurse delivered etonogestrel implants.

**Outcomes/Impact:** This approach reduced barriers for women to access etonogestrel implants whilst built the skills and knowledge of the workforce to ultimately empower women to have choices and make informed decisions.

Fear of the insertion procedure for an implant presents a significant barrier to young women electing this option. Nurses providing the informed targeted education and inserting Implants, increases the acceptability.

This successful engagement of young women attending the Hub for abortion care by the nurses increases the post medical abortion contraceptive consultation.

A common response from young women post procedure: "is it in yet?"

**Innovation and Significance:** The BCHS Hub's support of expanded nursing practice where Doctor's are employed, demonstrates investment in providing patient centred care.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** NIL