

Developing Accessible Sexual Health Resources

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Background/Purpose:

People with disabilities (PWD) experience unfair stereotypes and information gatekeeping when it comes to sexuality and sexual health topics. They are often excluded from sexual health messaging and information because of complex language, assumed knowledge, inaccessible platforms and minimal representation. These barriers influence PWD having little support or access to the education that they need and deserve. This increases their likelihood of harmful sexual encounters, delayed sexual health testing and having reduced understanding of their sexual rights.

Approach:

This presentation will be a practical break down of how to develop accessible sexual health resources. Using SECCA resource examples, it will explore ways to do this through language, pictures, platform and layout. This will enhance attendee's knowledge around using these elements in practice to make information more inclusive and accessible.

Outcomes/Impact:

Sexual health experts and advocates would benefit from incorporating key accessibility elements into their work. Of note, accessibility elements for PWD are also applicable for people who are young, speak English as a second language, have low literacy skills, or who learn better with assistive images. This presentation will help attendees feel more confident, capable and knowledgeable to create inclusive resources. It aims to build their understanding and passion as to why this is a critical element to include in their health promotion practices generally rather than as a specialised circumstance.

Innovation and Significance:

SECCA is one of few organisations in Australia creating Easy English, multi-platform sexual health and sexuality information for PWD. Through both state and nationally based projects, SECCA have cultivated a unique process and style for developing inclusive resources. Knowledge sharing and representation of sexual health for PWD is rare at conferences such as this so it is highly significant and practical.

Disclosure of Interest Statement (example):

SECCA has no conflict of interest to disclose.