

ENGAGING CHINESE SPEAKING GAY MEN IN SEXUAL HEALTH PEER EDUCATION

Tim Chen and Angus Molyneux

ACON



ACON'S PEER EDUCATION

- ACON has been successfully running peer education workshops that specifically target same sex attracted men for 30 years.
- Primary focus on encouraging safe sex behaviours and practices, linking men into sexual health services, keeping men up-to-date on the latest developments in sexual health, reducing HIV stigma and providing a connection to community.



START MAKING SENSE

- 6 week workshop (one night per week for 6 weeks) facilitated by trained peers.
- Topics covered include identity, coming out, sexuality, family, friendships, relationships, community and HIV/STIs.
- Workshop has great engagement from those proficient in English (both Australian born and overseas born).
- However, it's delivery in English is a barrier to increasing sexual health knowledge for those who are not fluent.



ACON'S ASIAN GAY MEN'S PROJECT

ConversAsians

- A bi-monthly support group for gay men from Asian backgrounds at ACON.
- A safe space to meet new people, share stories and discuss relevant issues.
- Designed for and led by Asian gay men.



SocialisAsians

- More informal monthly social group to collaborate and support Asian gay men.
- To connect online or organise events and meet-ups
- Open to all members of ConversAsians and their allies from all backgrounds.



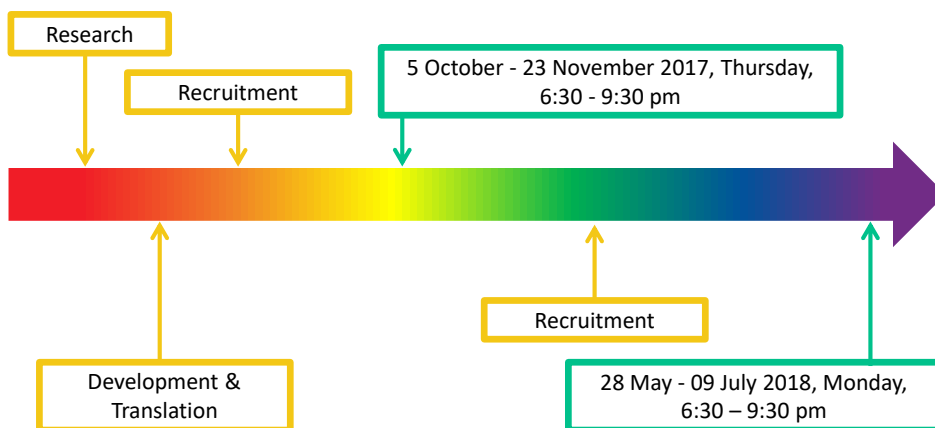
CHINESE GAY MEN

- Half stayed have been here more than 5 years (more permanent/established); nearly 40% have been here less than 2 years (more recently arrived)
- Less PrEP knowledge about its current availability (53.6% readily available now, 22.3% will be available in the future, 24% never heard of it).
- Spending more of their spare time with their ethnic community (31.5% spending 'a lot', 37% spending 'some')
- Fewer sources of HIV/STI information
- Participants stated that visa uncertainty, Medicare ineligibility, racism and isolation affect the ability to negotiate safe sex and access services.

Source: Asian Gay Men's Survey (2016)



TIMELINE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ROLLOUT



TRANSLATION

- **Translating content proved difficult...**
- The English workshop included many colloquialisms that were hard to translate in Chinese context
- Aware of different terms in different Chinese contexts: HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis, window period, genital warts
- Activities, materials and information handouts were all translated
- Participants were also taught sexual health information in English to prepare them to navigate public health system in English

EN	CHINESE	EN
1. A short conversation	简短对话	None
2. A close jet with a bunch of guys.	与一群哥们儿搭飞机	None
3. Sneaking into a condom you are wearing without you know it.	内裤里塞东西	None
4. Having your clothes covered, stolen.	被偷, 衣服被偷走	None
5. You and your partner deciding not to share your sex toys with each other.	你和伴侣决定不共用玩具	None
6. Licking someone else's eyes.	舔别人的眼睛	None
7. Licking someone else's watch you work at.	舔同事手表	None
8. Sucking your partner's toes without a condom.	舔伴侣脚趾上安全套的脚	None
9. Putting an someone else's	把东西放别人身上	None
10. Watching a porn video while working with your partner.	和伴侣工作时看色情片	None
11. Watching a porn video while working with your partner.	和伴侣一起看色情片一起打飞机	None
12. Licking a friend's pubic hair and balls.	舔朋友的阴毛和蛋蛋	None
13. Licking someone's dick.	舔别人的阴茎	None
14. Wiping your partner in all and rolling round on top of each other.	和伴侣全身滚来滚去	None
15. Wiping your partner's cock with cream licking him clean.	把伴侣的鸡上涂满润滑剂舔干净	None
16. Teasing someone and coming on it.	对某人身上打飞机射在他	None
17. Someone else's watch.	别人的手表	None



RECRUITMENT

Promotion was done online, through social networks, workshops and brochures



START MAKING SENSE
MANDARIN

时段:
连续6周每周1次
6 sessions over 6 weeks

时间:
晚上6:30 - 9:30
6:30pm - 9:30pm

地点:
ACON, 4/4 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills

联系:
info@acon.org.au

同志101, 免费提供给18-30岁青年同志 (包括跨性别) 的中文工作坊。你可以在此认识新朋友同时学到身份认同、性取向、出租、交友、恋爱、同志社群, 还能了解如何 (实践) 帮助、性健康以及保持健康等。
Start Making Sense Mandarin is a free workshop for young same-sex attracted (gays) (trans inclusive) aged 18-30 who speak Mandarin. It's an opportunity to meet other guys and learn about identity, sexuality, coming out, family, friends, relationships and the gay community. You'll also learn about HIV, sexual health, and staying healthy.



INTAKE

- 10-15 minute phone call
- Conducted in Mandarin
- Information gathered includes:
 - Country of birth
 - Testing
 - HIV status
 - Hepatitis C status
 - Reasons for wanting to participate
 - Sexuality and coming out
 - Connections in communities
 - Contact details



Session	Summary	
Session One (Week 1) 'Being Gay'	Introduction, Expectations, Being gay/bisexual	Most attendance/on time
Session Two (Week 2) 'Coming Out'	Coming Out, Attitudes towards HIV	
Session Three (Week 3) 'Positive Speaking'	Positive Speaker, Drugs	Engaged
Session Four (Week 4) 'Getting It'	Sexual practices, HIV Risks, Negotiated Communication Strategies	Useful but less engaging
Session 5 (Week 5) 'Safe Relationships'	Relationships, Negotiated Safety Agreements	
Session 6 (Week 6) 'Community Stories'	Community Panel Speakers, Workshop Evaluation, Information on Future Services	Lower attendance



WORKSHOPS WELL RECEIVED

2017	Q1 (K)	Q2 (K)	Q3 (k)
	8	9	8
	8	8	10
	9	9	10
	10	8	9
	9	9	10
	10	7	8
Avg	9.00	8.33	9.17

2018	Q1 (K)	Q2 (K)	Q3 (k)
	9	9	10
	8	8	8
	8	7	8
	9	9	9
	10	10	10
	10	10	10
	10	10	10
Avg	9.14	9.00	9.43

Question Code

Question 1 (Q1)

I am satisfied with the workshop.

Question 2 (Q2)

The workshop was of value to me.

Question 3 (Q3)

I would recommend this workshop to others.



FEEDBACK

I like knowing this hands-on knowledge about HIV infections and STIs information. I only learnt them from books before.

This is a friendly environment, chatting with peers [Chinese gay men].

6 weeks is too long for most people, maybe can be changed to 3-4 weeks.

I like the HIV part

I like various topics, different views and opinions in the workshop.

Too much coverage about HIV related topics.

We hope that we can have more information for Asian parents.

How do I join more gay activities in Sydney?



ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

- Recruitment difficulties
- Ask more nuanced questions during intake process specific to issues such as migration status, employment.
- Lack of updated and engaging in-language resources
- After four weeks, less participants. Shorten to 4 weeks, in line with ACON's other workshops.
- Further engagement - peer facilitator training, social events, ACON's other projects.
- Establish a working/consultation group from previous participants and new members to review the manual, create resources from scratch and edit as appropriate.



CONCLUSIONS

- Asian gay men are not a homogenous group and as such tailored interventions are required to adequately address individual community needs.
- Culturally and linguistically targeted health promotion is important in removing barriers to accessing information and services.
- In an increasingly divergent epidemic, meaningful engagement with target populations is essential.



THANK YOU

Tim Chen

tchen@acon.org.au

02 9206 2080

Angus Molyneux

amolyneux@acon.org.au

02 9206 2077

