

## **Conference Theme: “Connecting to our Future”-Health Advocacy Theme**

### **Abstract**

**Title:** From participation to accountability in health care for young people.

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### **Background:**

Young people - adolescents and young adults (12-24 years) - lose out in our healthcare system. Existing systems and services designed to support young people are marred by inequality, opacity and inadequate accountability, and the obligation of health care practitioners, services and policy makers to give due weight to the views of young people in decision-making is not well understood or supported.

### **Aims:**

This paper presents findings from a youth-co-research project aiming to investigate understandings, practices and barriers to accountability to young people and to define, investigate, design and test mechanisms to support accountability to young people and to drive transformations in healthcare.

The research questions driving this project are:

- What is accountability to young people in health care?
- Who is accountable to young people in healthcare and how?
- What mechanisms can support services and professionals to be accountable to young people in ways that support their health and wellbeing?

### **Methods:**

Using a co-research (Duggan, 2021) and participatory design process (Hagen et al, 2012; Collin et al, 2017) the study focuses on the experiences and practices of young people and practitioners in NSW. The team conducted interviews and a brief online questionnaire with health care practitioners and professional staff and 2 conversation circles with young people aged 15-19 in Greater Western Sydney and regional NSW.

### **Results:**

Findings include a youth-centred definition of accountability informed by the critical issues and promising practice from youth and practitioner perspectives. We will present a proposed accountability mechanism, and recommendations for implementation and evaluation.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

Western Sydney University and Accountable Futures Collective recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentation

## **Biography of Research Team**

### **Claire Bertholli**

Claire is a disability advocate who works across youth, disability and gender equity. Claire loves to involve herself in several activism projects simultaneously, and is currently working with Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) and Accountable Futures Collective. She uses her education and practice in sociology and anthropology in tandem with her lived experience of being a wheelchair user with a physical disability to influence social and community change.

### **Jenon Castro**

Jenon holds a Bachelor of Medical Science, having done a Major in Human Anatomy and Physiology and a Sub-Major in Microbiology. He is also currently studying to complete his Master's in Diagnostic Radiography

### **Jae Charlton**

Jae is an experienced youth and disability advocate. Jae has experience leading and facilitating multiple participatory projects.

### **Andrew Kellett**

Dr Andrew Kellett is an early career academic and has worked at Western Sydney University since 2014 in a variety of teaching and research roles. He has multidisciplinary teaching experience in psychology and public health, including health psychology, youth mental health and the social determinants of health.

### **Jean Lewis**

High school graduate, currently studying a Bachelor of Social Science (majoring in Sociology). Experience with research at a high school and university level

### **Tasha Ritchie**

Tasha holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of International Relations. Tasha is the CEO of Accountable Futures Collective and has significant professional experience leading and facilitating participatory projects with young people.

### **Carrie Sullivan**

Carrie is a youth advocate. Carrie also works in the healthcare sector.

### **Phillippa Collin**

Professor Collin is an interdisciplinary social scientist researching youth experience, digital technologies, mental health and wellbeing, and social change. She has an extensive track record in child, youth-centred and intergenerational research, program design, evaluation and advocacy using realistic evaluation, program logic, participatory and co-design approaches.