

Nurses Take Pride – A Nurse-Led WorldPride Clinic, Sydney 2023

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Background/Purpose:

WorldPride is the largest global event promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer issues. An estimated 500 000 attendees were expected at WorldPride Sydney in early 2023, with the majority residing or staying within the South Eastern Sydney or Sydney Local Health District areas.

Our services identified a need to scale up access to sexual health and HIV testing, access to condoms, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and sterile injecting equipment. The scale up aimed to address anticipated increases in sexual activity and visitors seeking sexual health services.

Approach:

A pop-up, Nurse-Led Prevention Hub model was established. The duration covered the early arrival of visitors and follow-up after the official WorldPride closing.

The key components were a sexual health Nurse Practitioner (NP) clinic for assessment, testing and management; free access to PrEP and PEP; upskilling of non-sexual health trained nurses; and community peers, provided by a local community organisation, supporting engagement and providing information on prevention, harm reduction and accessing support.

Outcomes/Impact:

Between 30/1/2023 to 18/3/2023, there were 224 occasions of service provided. Client journey and clinical processes were implemented. The scope of practice for nurses was expanded to provide safe and effective risk assessments. The Nurse-Led model provided holistic consultations including sexual health assessment, testing, prescribing of biomedical HIV prevention and referral.

Innovation and significance:

The Nurse-Led model of care, with peers supporting service engagement, provided timely access to high level, client focused clinical assessment and HIV prevention. The utilisation of an NP to develop client journey processes and training with ongoing support for registered nurses demonstrates the value of Nurse-Led clinics and NPs to service development. This model of care is transferable to future events requiring scale up of services and supports the expansion of nursing roles to improve client care.