

Benefits and outcomes of co-locating a targeted Trans and Gender Diverse Health Centre with a MSM Sexual Health Service

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PRONTO!

EQUINOX
GENDER DIVERSE HEALTH CENTRE



Acknowledgements



Equinox Services



General Practice:
 All GP services
 Sexual Health / PrEP
 Hormone initiation and management

Mental Health:
 Counselling
 AOD Care Recovery Coordination
 Targeted Psychological Support (ATAPS)

Referral into other VAC Services:
 Family and Intimate Partner Violence
 Alcohol and Drug Services
 Counselling
 HIV Services

Equinox Clients



- Currently over 450 registered patients
- First 12 month audit of 286 clients revealed:
 - 37% Trans feminine
 - 32% Trans masculine
 - 29% Non binary
 - Median age 26 years (range 16 years – 73 years)
 - 41% unemployed / low income
 - 13.6% had experienced previous / current homelessness
 - 24.5% smokers
 - 10.8% experienced previous sexual abuse, assault or rape
 - 13.6% previous suicide attempt
 - 60% diagnosed Depression Disorder
 - 45.1% diagnosed Anxiety Disorder

Clinical audit 2017 conducted by Ms Olivia Ooi, in collaboration with the Dept of Medicine, Austin Health and University of Melbourne Medical School

PRONTO! Services



- Peer Rapid HIV testing done by gay, bi and queer MSM
- Peer STI testing (Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis)
- TGD Peer Rapid HIV / STI Testing Clinic
- PrEP - Self importing and PrEP X Clinical Trial
- STI treatment

PRONTO! Clients



Since 2013

- 6,672 individuals have been rapid HIV tested at PRONTO!
- 2,195 STI Screens performed
- 370 clients prescribed PrEP for self importing or through PrEP X Clinical Trial
- 63 clients diagnosed HIV Positive
- 98% male identified



Logistics



- Equinox services operate between 9am and 3.30pm
- PRONTO! services operate from 3.30pm – 8pm
- Redesign of waiting room décor to make less gender specific and more welcoming to TGD people
- Bathrooms changed to unisex
- Reversible community noticeboard to provide relevant information to the communities accessing each service
- Data projector installed to promote service specific health promotion and training



How did co-location happen?



- VAC Strategic Plan (2012-2017) calls for expanding service provision to include addressing the broader health needs of the LGBTI community
- VAC Trans Health Project Worker (Jeremy Wiggins) engaged to develop ideas and support all VAC services in providing trans affirmative services
- Pronto! Rapid HIV testing service site was operating evenings only and unoccupied during the day
- Meeting between PRONTO! Manager Peter Locke and Dr Pauline Cundill in late November 2015 identified the potential for establishing a TGD health centre on the site
- VAC endorsed and supported the idea and after 3 months of planning and minor renovations, Equinox opened GP services on February 22nd 2016



How did co-location happen?



- VAC Trans Advisory Group (TAG) formed in February 2016 to provide input and service co-design support
- PRONTO! begins offering PrEP to Gay/MSM community in February 2016
- PrEPX Clinical Trial commenced in July 2016, PRONTO! and Equinox provided 20 places reserved specifically for TGD clients
- Counselling, Care Recovery Coordination, Targeted Psychological Support Services introduced to support Equinox clients
- PRONTO! commences Peer Rapid Testing clinic for TGD clients fortnightly
- Equinox attained AGPAL General Practice Accreditation in October 2017



Funding



- PRONTO! funded by DHHS for 4 years
- Equinox GP services are funded via Medicare billing
- Counselling and CRC services are funded via the VAC counselling program/DHHS
- Targeted Psychological Support services are funded via PHN funding

Community Co-Design

Equinox community co-designed with Trans Advisory Group (TAG)

PRONTO! clients asked about impact of co-location during focus group evaluations, prior to Equinox starting. Positive response.

Ongoing community consultations and evaluation processes



Outcomes

- 18 TGD clients registered on the PrEP X clinical trial
- Introduction of TGD Peer Rapid HIV testing clinic through PRONTO! service
- Increase participation of TGD clients accessing PRONTO! rapid HIV and STI testing services – 24%
- Development and distribution of STI testing cultural guidelines for services working with the TGD community
- Launch of the Informed Consent Model.



Client experience



"It doesn't feel like a clinic"

"You can hold your head up, smile, and look around instead of shrinking away"

"I never thought a medical place could feel like this"

"The staff get it, the staff live it"

"You don't waste your time educating them"

"Makes me feel confident and in control"

"I'm not treated like I'm dumb or have a disease to be ashamed of"

"Equinox saved me"

"I wouldn't be alive without Equinox"

"Every week I get stronger and I am so different now than when I first walked in"

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On behalf of VAC

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