

The FIFO Sexual Health Project: Insights, Innovations and Ideas for the Future

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Background/Purpose:

The FIFO Sexual Health Project was a two-year project delivered from 2021 to 2023, seeking to improve the sexual health of FIFO (fly-in fly-out) workers in WA. This project was funded to support the National STI Strategy 2018 – 2022, which identifies mobile workers as a priority population to target. There is a paucity of research available, but this population faces reduced access to STI testing and STI prevention methods, and typically work in geographical locations where STI rates are higher. The project activities were delivered collaboratively with a mining company, codesigning interventions to be relevant to the unique demographic characteristics.

Approach:

The project consisted of workforce development to health and safety staff (including mental health staff), community education and outreach, a statewide health promotion campaign, condom distribution, a confidential helpline and policy & procedure support.

Outcomes/Impact:

The delivered activities increased the knowledge, confidence and comfort of professionals supporting the wellbeing of FIFO workers, and improved the referral pathways to STI testing. FIFO workers demonstrated increased understanding of sexual health and STIs, a greater understanding of where to go for help, and an uptake in accessing safer sex methods.

Innovation and Significance:

This project was innovative and the first of its kind in Australia. We hope that the improved access to a priority population who have previously been missed in health promotion initiatives will lend itself to future opportunities to improve the sexual health of FIFO workers. We expect that our insights can be used to support the sexual health of mobile workers and Australians

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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