

International Students' Perspective of an online Sexual and Reproductive Health Hub

Authors:

Stratten M¹, Vu G², Devkota A³, Basheer E⁴

¹Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, NSW, Australia, ²Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service, Sydney Local Health District, Australia, ³Western Sydney Local Health District, NSW, Australia, ⁴NSW STI Programs Unit, Sydney, Australia.

Background:

International students are a priority population in the NSW HIV Strategy. Research shows they face challenges in accessing evidence-based and culturally responsive sexual and reproductive health information and experience poorer sexual and reproductive health outcomes than their domestic counterparts. To combat this, the International Student Health Hub was co-designed with stakeholders and students to promote trustworthy sexual and reproductive health information and referral links. A pilot evaluation was conducted to obtain students' feedback on the design, content, navigation and promotion of the site one year post launch.

Methods:

The site's development was informed by a consultation with 186 NSW-based international students. Of the 186 participants, 30 students agreed to be contacted for further follow up. Pilot evaluation participants were recruited from this student group (n=30) with nine participants completing an online survey and three engaging in a semi-structured interview conducted by cultural support workers. A small group of researchers, health professionals and international students used descriptive and thematic data analysis.

Results:

Participants provided feedback across five key areas; design, content, tone, navigation and promotion. Overall, participants provided positive feedback on their experience of first visiting the site and the design of the site with seven out of nine participants positively responding to the site's design. The site's information was identified as appropriate and presented in a culturally safe way with eight out of nine participants liking the content and tone. The inclusion of a blog was suggested to "*share things that students are going through*".

Conclusion:

There is significant value in the co-design of a 'one-stop' sexual and reproductive health hub for international students. A robust evaluation of promotion and impact of the Hub will be conducted this year.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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