

# Embedding early medication abortion in sexual and reproductive health care through an empowerment-based model of care at the Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) - A primary health care service in Kings Cross, Sydney

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KRC has been offering early medical abortion (EMA) since November 2021 as a standard part of reproductive healthcare.

We believe KRC is one of the few public sexual health clinics in NSW to have integrated EMA services. Implementation of abortion services through collaborative practice and multi-disciplinary team (MDT) care is a safe and achievable goal for all services working within the sexual and reproductive health sphere.

Since the initial launch of EMA services in November 2021, KRC has become a highly accessed service for socially vulnerable pregnant people. To date, fifty-four people have accessed EMA at KRC across a variety of vulnerable populations, with a further seventeen people referred to another service for a variety of reasons.

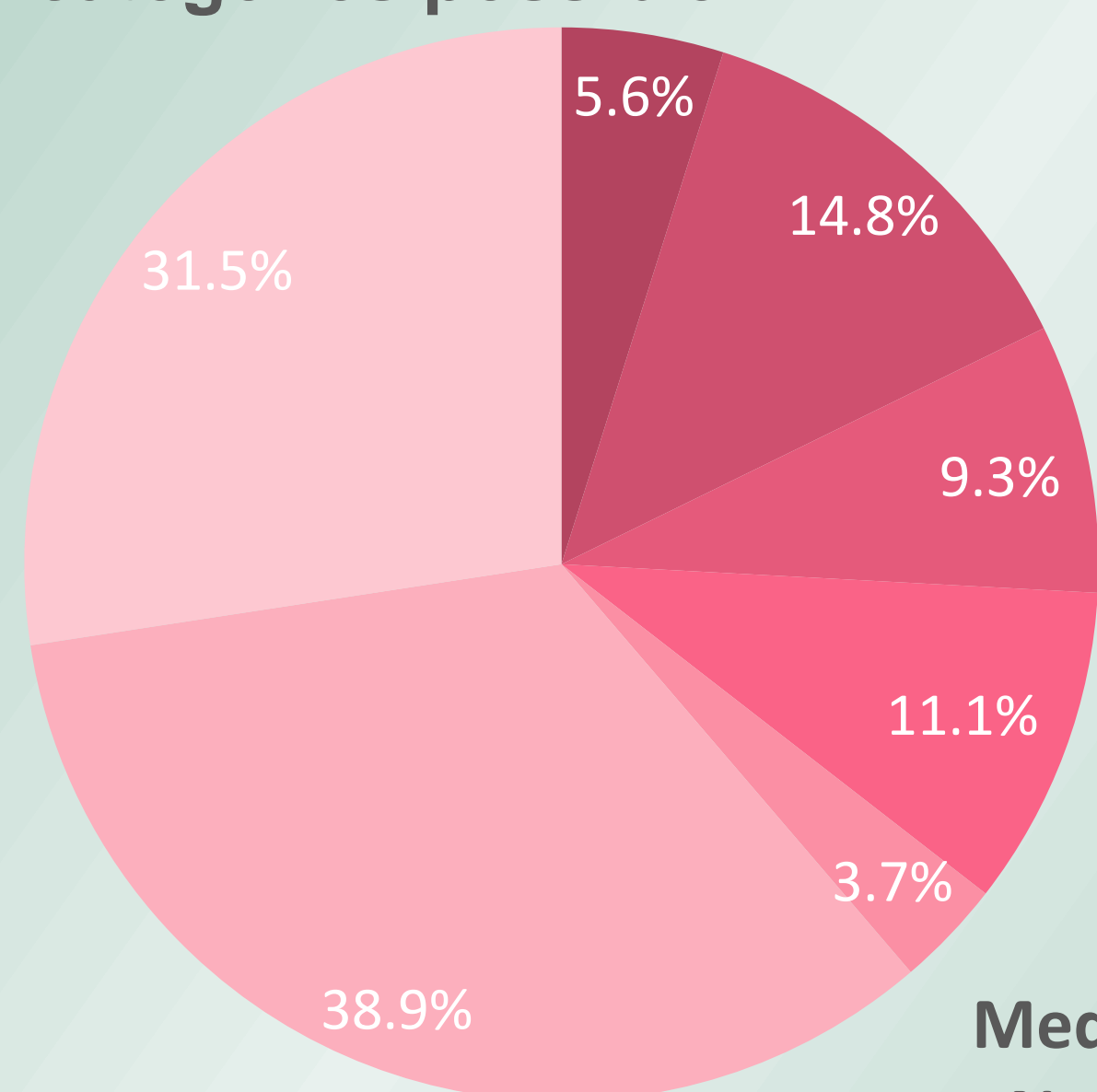
This includes people with financial disadvantage, without Medicare, people experiencing homelessness, people from Aboriginal and culturally diverse backgrounds and at-risk youth. The clinic has received overwhelmingly positive feedback with a large majority of people reporting relief and feeling well within themselves following EMA

The MDT has been able to nest abortion care within dedicated booked clinics as well as catering to walk in, late notice clients through a flexible model of nurse-led, doctor-led and dual consults and efficacious handover. The model of care also puts the abortion-seeker in charge of their abortion process and decision making. In providing thorough education alongside detailed and informative resources, our service empowers the individual and actively involves them in the process.

By offering EMA within our sexual and reproductive health service, we are additionally afforded the ability to provide further healthcare in populations that may not otherwise access the healthcare system. This includes but is not limited to health education, vaccinations, STI screening and management, and contraception implementation.

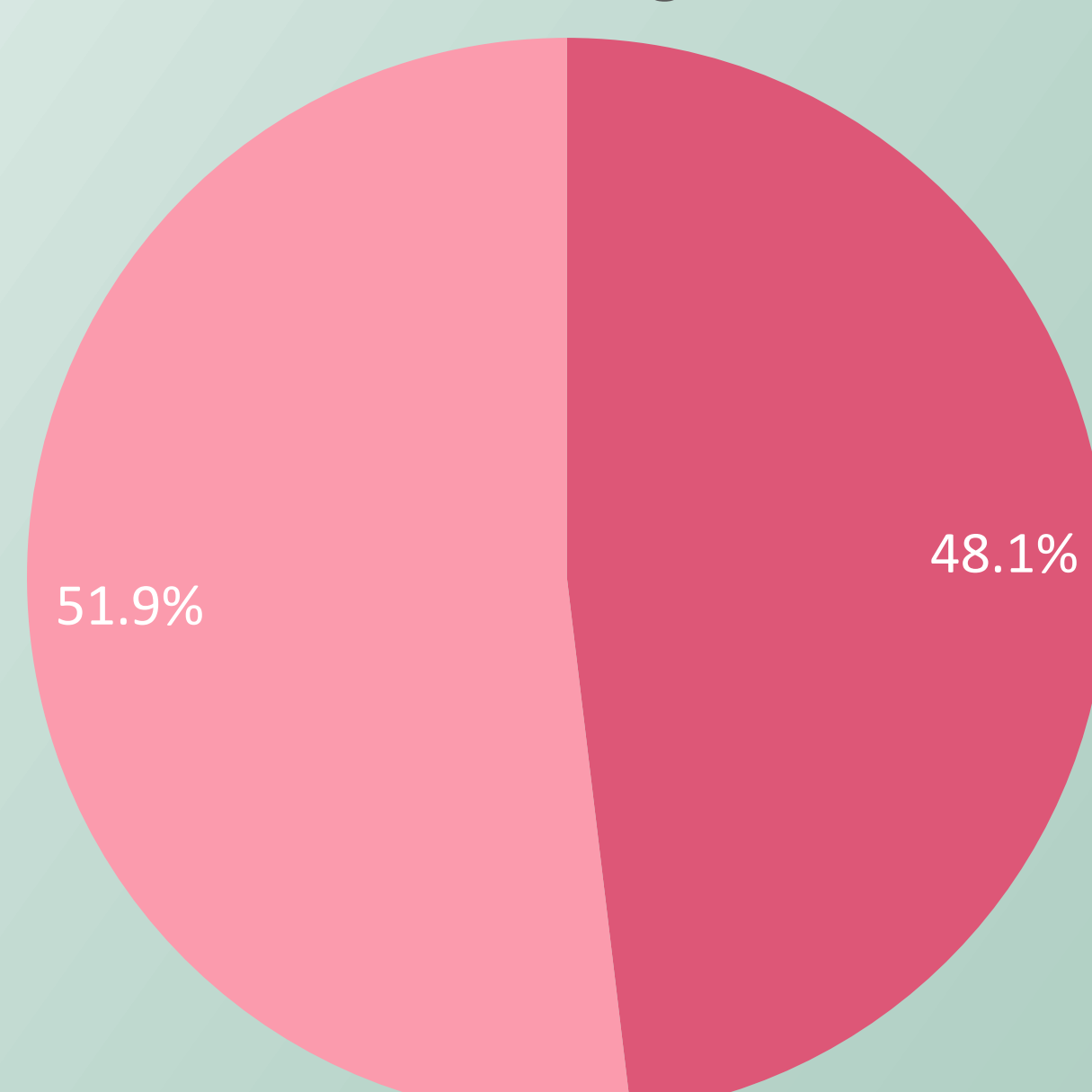
Target group (n=54)  
Nov 2021 - Aug 2023  
Multiple categories possible

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Person who sex works
- Homeless / unstable housing
- At risk youth
- Person who injects drugs
- Financial disadvantage
- Other



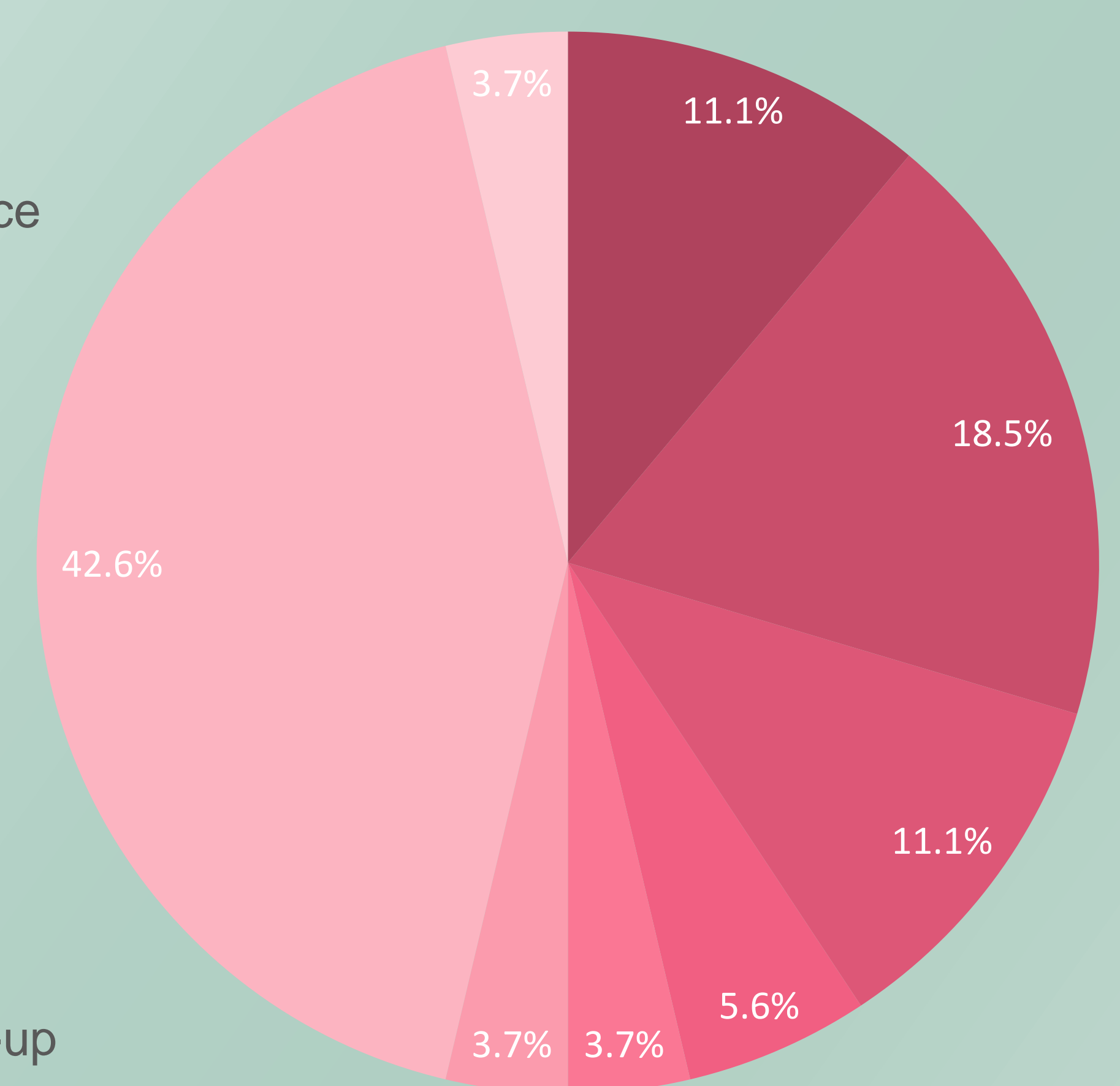
Medicare status (n=54)  
Nov 2021 - Aug 2023

- Medicare eligible
- Medicare ineligible



Contraception method initiated following EMA (n=54)  
Nov 2021 - Aug 2023

- Combined oral contraceptive pill
- Implanon
- Intrauterine device
- DMPA
- Vasectomy
- Condoms
- Other / None (including follow-up with GP or other service)



KRC's EMA model of care has provided many people from marginalized groups with access to safe, affordable, and supported abortion services. The demand of the service has contributed to the formation of a dedicated bi-weekly nurse-led, nurse/doctor system which is unique within community sexual health services.