



# **The Sexual Health of Homeless Young People:**

*The benefits of health services in a co-located setting*

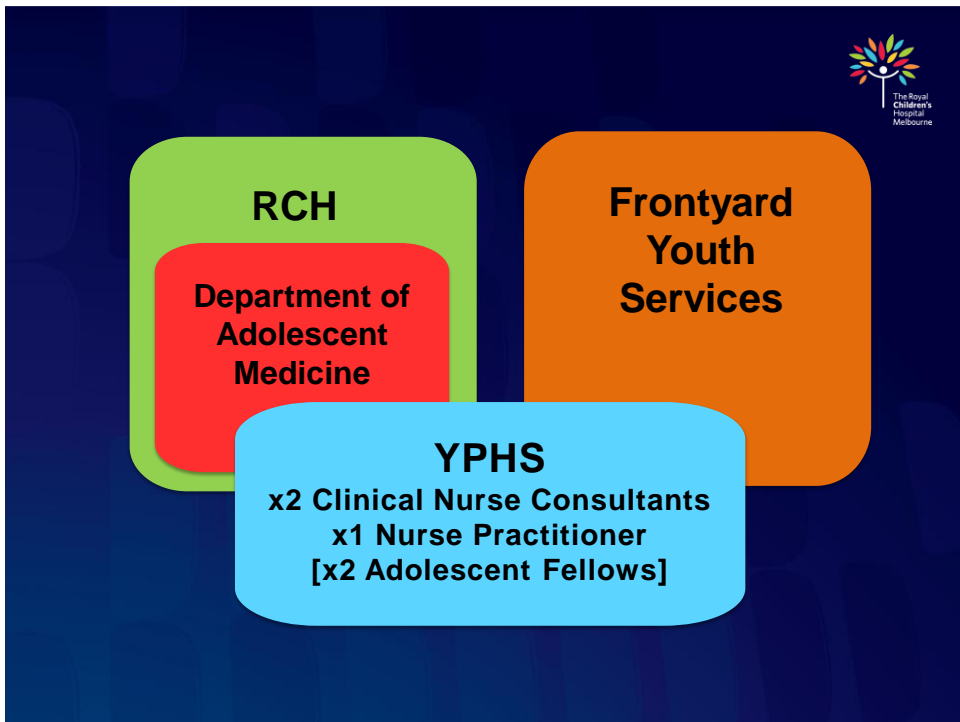


**Stuart Cook - Clinical Nurse Consultant**



## **Acknowledgement of country**

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting today, the Ngunnawal people, and pay my respects to elders past and present.



## Scope of Homelessness

Victorian Census statistics (2011) –  
**6135** people 12 - 24 years are homeless:

- 3850\* are aged 19-24
- 2285\* are aged 12-18

\*Total Victorian homeless 22,000

Most common accommodation\*:

- Overcrowded accommodation
- Supported accommodation e.g. refuge
- Couch surfing
- Streets/squats

\*12-18 year olds



## Referral pathway



Frontyard intake tool

- Allows **young people** to self identify issues impacting their lives
- Allows **staff** to identify referral pathways

If risk factors are identified, young people are offered a referral to YPHS

## How we work



### Referral to services:

- *specialist* e.g. community mental health, Sexual health services
- *co-located* e.g. legal team
- *tertiary* e.g. Emergency, TOP & Maternal services

## Barriers to healthcare



*Homeless young people are less likely to access primary healthcare and more likely to access emergency departments*

1. Accessibility
2. Concerns for confidentiality
3. Embarrassment about health disclosure

## Chlamydia screening at YPHS 2014 -16



	Male	Female	Total
Numbers screened	315	325	640
Positive cases	34 (10.79%)	35 (10.76%)	<b>69</b> <b>(10.78%)</b>
Treated at YPHS	31 (94%)	27(90%)	58(94%)
Treated - external	1(3%)	3(10%)	4(6%)
<b>Treated Total</b>	<b>32(94%)</b>	<b>30(86%)</b>	<b>62(90%)</b>

## Summary



- A co-location model provides opportunities to engage vulnerable young people around sexual health
- YPHS' high rate of return for treatment is enhanced by co-located setting
- Advanced Practice Nurses play a vital role in providing screening, follow-up and treatment of STI's in a co-located, primary health care setting



Thank you to my colleagues Christine Parrott, Jac Smith & Dot Henning for their assistance



There are no disclosures of interest pertaining to this presentation