

SEARCHing for Choice

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Background/Purpose:

- Access to reproductive health choices is limited in rural and remote NSW. Since abortion was legalised in 2019, there has been very little increase in availability of reproductive health services and choice for women.
- In 2020, the NSW Ministry of Health funded Family Planning Australia to develop/implement the Sustainable and Equitable Access to Reproductive Choice (SEARCH) - a primary health care capacity building project in rural and remote in NSW

Approach:

- A service model comprising of 3 levels was designed.
- A range of supports developed -on-line resource hub with policies and procedures, financial modelling, community of practice,
- Partners identified.
- Education delivered - pregnancy choices, long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), medical abortion (MTO)
- Services delivered
- Evaluation commencing

Outcomes/Impact:

- There are currently 9 partners, including 5 Aboriginal Medical Services
- 1877 LARC insertions, 584 MTO prescriptions, 689 pregnancy choices counselling
- 130 staff trained.

Development Activities

- Rural GP Conference (NSW Rural Doctors Network and Rural Doctors' Association of NSW)
- GP Women's Health Information Day in Dubbo
- A range of potential partners now engaged.

Innovation and Significance:

- Primary health care providers are willing and able to provide LARC and medical abortion consultation and prescription when there is training and support available.
- Women in rural and remote NSW will access services when they are provided in their local area.
- Building and maintaining relationships with potential providers is key to them agreeing to be MTO prescribers.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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