"Go Along Philis" Syphilis Flip Chart

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Background/Purpose:
Rates of syphilis continue to rise amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia (WA). The idea of a flipchart came from a senior Aboriginal Health Practitioner working at Derby Aboriginal Health Service requesting a better way to educate clients in the clinic and Community on the importance of syphilis prevention, testing, treatment and contact tracing. The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) developed a flipchart that was culturally and visually appealing particularly to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, along with providing vital information about syphilis.

The concept, design and development were focus-tested at each phase by Aboriginal Community Control Health Service (ACCHS) staff and young Aboriginal people who decided on the title "Go along Philis". By creating the syphilis characters Phil and Philis, the use of a narrative flow to deliver the information as a story and the incorporation of humour into the illustrations was considered highly effective in assisting conversations about a topic many regard as "shame". It was important not to water down information and images but to provide facts that enabled the reader to want to keep reading.

The flipchart was launched in October 2022. Copies are available in hard and digital form and have been widely distributed to ACCHS, Western Australian Community Health Services (WACHS), Public Health Units and other health services who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Feedback has been extremely positive, there have been over eighty (80) orders requested and over seven hundred (700) flipcharts delivered since its launch.

This is a resource that anyone can pick up and read. It does not require a health professional to impart the information. It is aimed at a younger audience and appeals because of its comedic storyline and graphic novel style imagery.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:
Nothing to Declare