

## **A statewide online condom access program for services working with young people in NSW**

### **Authors:**

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### **Background/Purpose:**

The Access to Condoms project is aligned with the current NSW STI Strategy 2022-2026 and is part of NSW Health's Play Safe Programs. The project aims to increase equity of access to condoms for young people in NSW through building the capacity of the service providers to provide condoms and sexual health key messages to young people. Services that work with young people can order a monthly bag of 144 Play Safe branded condoms and receive them by post, as well as getting follow up support from their local NSW HIV & Related Programs Unit (HARP).

### **Approach:**

The program creates a series of promotional email campaign materials for Local Health Districts to distribute to their youth service connections, to better establish relationships with the HARP sector and to drive traffic to the online ordering tool. Monthly ordering data summaries including the volume of condoms distributed, stratified by the locations and types of services are issued to further encourage uptake, particularly in areas where access is low.

### **Outcomes/Impact:**

The total number of condom orders since program commencement in 2020, is 1,204 packs (173,376 individual condoms). To date, tertiary education services are the highest ordering group of play safe condoms with 62 orders (a 63.2% year-over-year growth), followed by secondary schools, Aboriginal services and homelessness organisations.

### **Innovation and Significance:**

The project informs strategic planning of statewide condom dissemination and identifies areas where young people may not have equitable access to free safe sex materials. A robust evaluation of the project is planned for 2023 along with the development of specific materials with targeted promotion, both directly to Local Health Districts and to underserved youth services. Current financial year data, including a gap analysis, will be presented at the conference.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

The project was funded by NSW Health.