



On-Site, On-Demand: A Responsive Model for HIV and STI Prevention for MSM Communities

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which WAAC operates in Perth, and the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region where this conference takes place. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging, and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, waters, and community.



Acknowledgement of Lived Experience

We acknowledge and thank the people living with HIV who have participated in our services and research. Our fight against HIV and our prevention efforts are indebted to people living with HIV both past and present, whose courage and advocacy continue to drive innovation in care and prevention.

The challenge

High-risk behaviour + low prevention uptake = missed opportunities

- Sex-on-premises venues (SOPVs) represent higher risk environments.
- A 2020 systematic review (largely pre-PrEP studies) found a pooled estimate for HIV prevalence at Australian SOPVs to be 2.3% (95% CI 1.6–2.9%).¹
- Qualitative research involving Australian SOPV patrons found reticence to disclose sexual practices to health staff, and a tendency to underestimate individual risk profiles.²
- Anecdotal data from WAAC suggested that significant numbers of SOPV clients were not on PrEP.
- In 2024, several HIV and mpox notifications in WA were linked to SOPVs.

1. Ooi, C., Kong, F. Y. S., Lewis, D. A., & Hocking, J. S. (2020). Prevalence of sexually transmissible infections and HIV in men attending sex-on-premises venues in australia: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *Sexual Health (Online)*, 17(2), 135-148.

2. Ooi C, Lewis DA, Newman CE. Engaging hard-to-reach men-who-have-sex-with-men with sexual health screening: Qualitative interviews in an Australian sex-on-premises-venue and sexual health service. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health*. 2022 Sep;54(3):116-124

Our response

Scale-up of clinical SOPV outreach

Where:

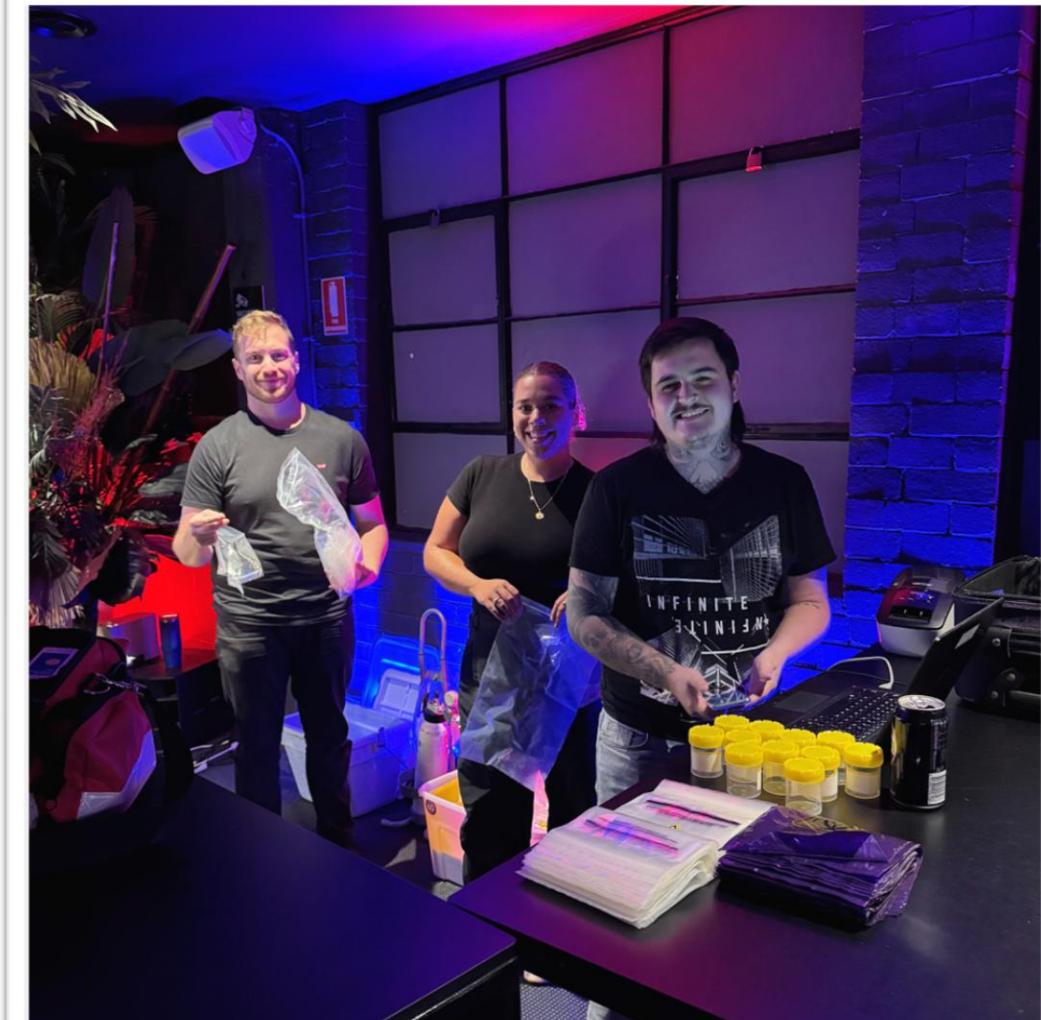
- Perth Steam Works (communal 'bar' area)
- No clinical setting stigma

What:

- 2-hour sessions every Thursday night
 - STI and BBV testing (long-standing service)
 - Vaccinations (since mpox outbreak)
 - Onsite PrEP, PrEP as PEP and DoxyPEP prescribing (since Dec 2024)

How:

- Brief, focused consultations respecting venue context
- No appointment needed - walk-in accessibility
- Staffed by 2 RNs, 1 GP, 1 admin and 1 volunteer EN





PERTH STEAM WORKS
CAN'T HOST? WE CAN

900 NEWS

Facilitators of success

Characteristics of our model

- No Medicare required
- Free service
- Anonymity respected
- Trusted, familiar space reducing stigma and access barriers
- Real-time prevention at point-of-risk
- Opportunistic interventions when motivation is highest
- Direct linkage to M Clinic for ongoing care
- Sex-positive and inclusive care

The numbers

January-June 2025 snapshot

- **Number of service hours:** 48
- **Number of clients seen:** 552
- **Number of PrEP scripts:** 131
- **Number of HIV PEP scripts** 5
- **Number of doxy-PEP scripts:** 134
- **Number of mpox vaccinations:** 160
- **Number of tests conducted:** 2,369
 - FVU (NG/CT PCR) 457
 - Throat Swab (NG/CT PCR) 462
 - Rectal Swab (NG/CT PCR) 452
 - Vaginal Swab (NG/CT PCR) 5
 - Bloods – HIV & Syphilis 425
 - Bloods – Hepatitis A/B/C 251
 - PrEP Tests (UEC, UPCR, UACR) 160



What this means

- **For Communities:** More accessible, stigma-free care
- **For Providers:** Challenges the idea of populations being ‘hard-to-reach’; provides a workable model for outreach
- **For Policy:** Evidence for funding community-based approaches



On-Site PreP, PEP , Doxy PeP improve access

- Daily Midday to Midnight (04:00am Fri/Sat)
- Approx x300 discrete customers (operators impression)
- Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Prescriber
- Local late night Pharmacy



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95-95-95
going after the 5%

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FIFO PrEP



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Disclosure of interests

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Find out more

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More information:

<https://www.perthsteamworks.com.au/sexual-health>

Check out our poster:



GETTINGSTEAMY

PEER-LED, NURSE-DELIVERED STI TESTING IN A PERTH SEX-ON-PREMISES VENUE

BACKGROUND:

IN THE LATE 1990S, WAAC, IN COLLABORATION WITH DR. LEWIS MARSHALL, LAUNCHED AN OUTREACH TESTING CLINIC TO DIRECTLY RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF GAY AND BISexual MEN DURING A PERIOD OF PROFOUND HIV STIGMA AND HEIGHTENED RISK.

FIRST ESTABLISHED AT BEAUFORT 555 AND LATER RELOCATED TO PERTH STEAM WORKS IN 2008, THE PROGRAM WAS INTENTIONALLY SHAPED AS A PEER-INFORMED, COMMUNITY-EMBEDDED SERVICE – ONE THAT PRIORITISED DIGNITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND TRUST AT A TIME WHEN STIGMA KEPT MANY FROM SEEKING CARE.

APPROACH:

THE OUTREACH CLINIC WAS BUILT ON A COMMUNITY-LED MODEL THAT PLACED TRUST AT THE HEART OF SEXUAL HEALTH. WAAC HIRED PEER COMMUNITY WORKERS AND NURSES WHO IDENTIFIED AS GAY TO ENSURE THE SERVICE REFLECTED THE COMMUNITY.

THE OVERWHELMING COMMUNITY RESPONSE REINFORCED THE URGENT NEED FOR A SERVICE THAT MET MEN WHERE THEY WERE, WITHOUT JUDGEMENT OR STIGMA. THE CLINIC CREATED A VITAL LINK TO WAAC'S M CLINIC, WHICH HAS SINCE BECOME THE CENTRAL HUB FOR SEXUAL HEALTH CARE AMONG GAY AND BISexual MEN IN PERTH.

SNAPSHOT OF OUTCOMES
(FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2025)

Category	Value
CLIENTS SEEN	552
OCCASIONS OF SERVICE	867
TESTS COMPLETED	2,369
PREP PRESCRIPTIONS	131
DOXY-PEP PRESCRIPTIONS	134
MPX VACCINATIONS	131

IMPACT

THE OUTREACH CLINIC AT PERTH STEAM WORKS HAS BROKEN DOWN STIGMA AND BARRIERS TO CARE BY EMBEDDING PEER WORKERS AND GAY-IDENTIFYING NURSES DIRECTLY INTO COMMUNITY SPACES. THIS MODEL HAS BUILT TRUST, NORMALISED SEXUAL HEALTH TESTING, AND ENABLED EARLIER DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF HIV, STIs, AND BBVs. ITS IMPACT EXTENDS BEYOND CLINICAL OUTCOMES, FOSTERING DIGNITY, SAFETY, AND BELONGING FOR GAY AND BISexual MEN IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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