

ACHIEVING THE MEANINGFUL INCLUSION OF TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE POPULATIONS IN CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

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Introduction:

Concerted efforts are being directed towards increasing participation in cervical cancer screening in New South Wales as one of the objectives of the Cancer Institute NSW's Cancer Plan 2016. Changes to the National Cervical Screening Program were implemented in late 2017 with the introduction of the Cervical Screening Test, and with an increased focus on engaging those who are less likely to participate in screening. However, screening services remain mostly focused on engaging cisgender women, with far less attention paid to the needs of trans and gender diverse individuals with a cervix.

Methods:

We provide insights into how key stakeholders are conceptualising both the need for, and means of, including trans and gender diverse people in cervical cancer screening in Australia. We will report key findings from a thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews with various informants, including sexual health clinicians, policymakers, researchers, and advocates in gender diversity.

Results:

Key informants hold diverse views on the priorities and principles which underpin existing and potential approaches to cervical cancer screening. Drawing on both public health and political discourses, they recognise that existing approaches do not always engage trans and diverse people well, but also see structural barriers to the provision and access of cervical screening services similar to other marginalised populations. Important lessons were gained through observing one example of a clinical and advocacy innovation – namely, *CheckOUT* – a sexual health clinic providing cervical screening for LGBTIQ people.

Conclusions:

The provision of cervical cancer screening is undergoing rapid changes in Australia, with greater attention being paid to issues of gender diversity and inclusivity. However, our findings suggest a range of intersecting logistical and social elements need to be considered, if trans and gender diverse people are going to be meaningfully – and successfully – engaged within screening services, both in the short- and long-term.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

We have no disclosures of interest to declare.