

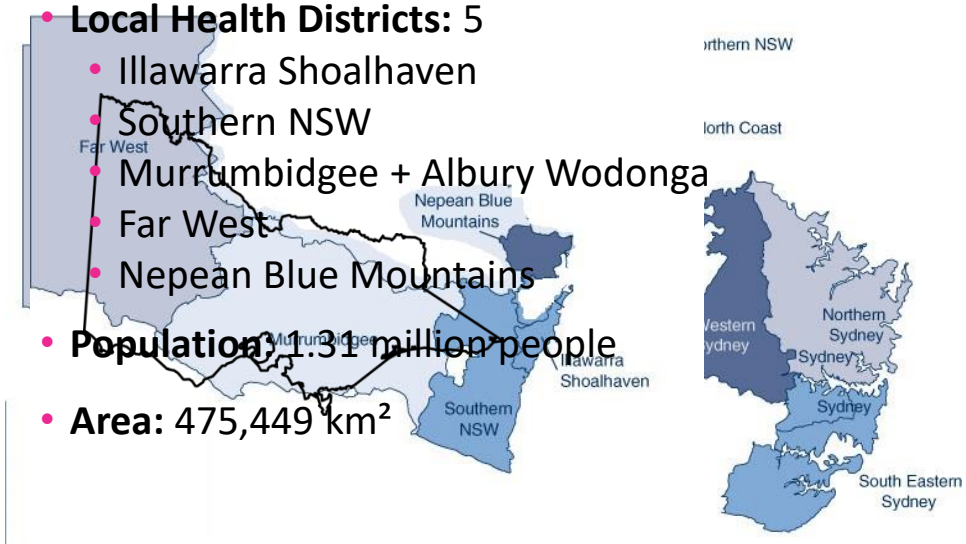
ASHM - 2017

**“...IF YOU GET TESTED AND YOU ARE POSITIVE DOES THAT MEAN IM GOING TO BASICALLY DIE?”**

**IMPROVING HIV AND  
SEXUAL HEALTH  
LITERACY AMONG GAY &  
BISEXUAL MEN USING  
HOOK UP APP OUTREACH  
IN REGIONAL NSW.**

**JOHN CASEY AND TEDDY COOK – ACON REGIONAL OUTREACH**

## THE SPRAWL

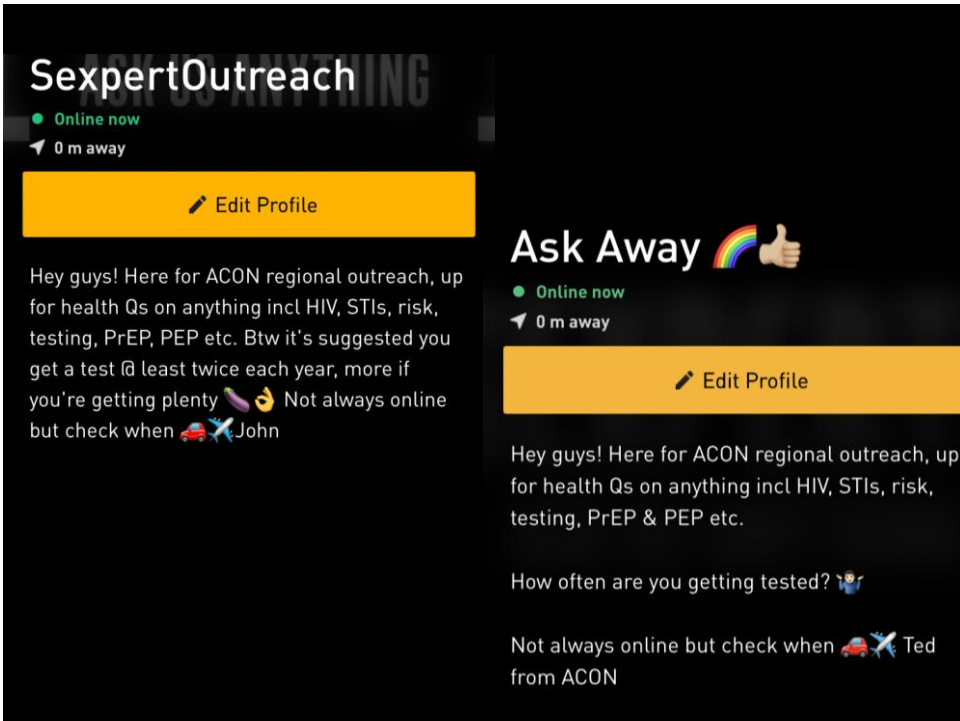


## WHY GRINDR OUTREACH?

ACON's Regional Outreach team is well connected to communities from Wollongong to Albury, Wagga to Broken Hill

...But where are the guys?





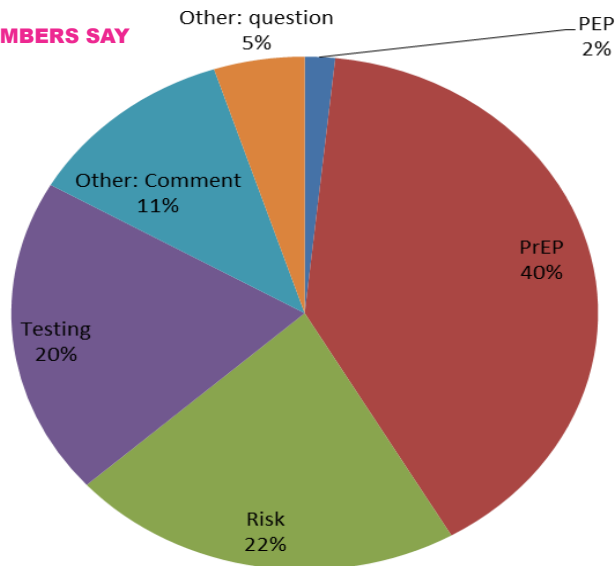
**WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY**

<b>Grindr Outreach Responses</b>	
PEP	1
PrEP	24
Risk	13
Testing	12
Other: Comment	7
Other: question	3
NFR/L2F	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>



**Breakdown of Responses**

**WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY**



**WHAT THE GUYS SAY - PREP**

***What does on prep mean please I am a bit dumb I suppose, thank you.***

**Response:** “Hey, you’re not a dumb I at all ☺ PrEP is the use of antiretroviral drugs, taken by HIV negative people to prevent HIV infection. PrEP is an acronym that stands for pre exposure prophylaxis. Unlike post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) which is taken after a potential exposure to HIV, PrEP is taken on an ongoing basis and it provides protection against HIV. Studies around the world have show that if PrEP is taken daily, it prevents HIV by more than 98%.”

***Thanks very much for clearing that up for me, its great that you come on sites like this to help guys that have question. Thanks again.***

**WHAT THE GUYS SAY - PREP**

***Hey mate how are you? I have a question about Prep if that’s ok? How do you access prep in [location] and what are the costs?***

**Response:** “You can access PrEP through the [location] by enrolling into the EPIC NSW Study. The study is criteria based so you have be assessed as ‘high risk’ and provides about two years of free PrEP. <http://epic-nswstudy.org.au/>”

***And what are the costs outside of the trial?***

**R:** “There are a couple of ways to get it. The best and cheapest outside of the trial is to check out the PrEP Access Now website [prepaccesnow.com](http://prepaccesnow.com) which compares prices for personal importation. They also have a discount system set up for people on low incomes.

***Great, thank you.***



**WHAT THE GUYS SAY – RISK (PART 1)**

***I was kinda nervous I caught it last year in July because I kiss a guy and gave him head for a minute no ejaculation and I think I stressed myself out enough to cause strange symptoms but after reading and clarifying I'm felling a lot better about it now and I know I should get tested but I'm way to nervous because if I did have it it would ruin my life and career.***

**WHAT THE GUYS SAY – RISK (PART 2)**

**Response:** “Righto. Well just to clear a few things up for you 1) while HIV is transmitted through things like blood and semen, it can't be transmitted through spit (so you can't catch HIV from kissing) 2) it's incredibly uncommon to get HIV from a blowjob. One of the only cases I've heard of, the guy had throat surgery the week before. Otherwise, it's pretty much impossible to get it from a bj”

***Oh mate that makes me feel so much better really appreciate it***

R: “I will say though that it's still really important to get tested and not let fear get in the way. There are still a bunch of other nasty sex souvenirs you may have gotten, that you won't know about until you get tested. And ignoring a test doesn't make STIs go away. Only a test will help with that. Plus you can actually do some damage to your health (not to mention pass it on to others)”

***Yeah cheers bro I will 😊 really appreciate it***



**WHAT THE GUYS SAY - TESTING**

## *Can u test me?*

Response: “Hey there mate, where do you live? Head to your closest sexual health clinic ([location] I reckon) for a full sexual health screen. The phone number is [contact].”

**WHAT THE GUYS SAY - TESTING**

## *Hello. I wanted to ask you a question. What's involved in a STI test?*

**Response:** “Hey, great question. If you go see the sexual health nurse she will start off by asking some questions about the kind of sex you’re having to find out what you need to be tested for.

If you’re getting a full test you’ll get swabs of your throat and arse (you can do that one yourself), some pee in a cup and some blood taken. Around here you’ve got the option of seeing the nurse in [locations].”




### WHAT WE THINK IT SAYS

- PrEP is helping to drive interest and mobilisation
- Guys are talking about their sexual health on hook up apps
- Community connection for gay men in regional areas happens on Grindr
- Health literacy can be quite low, meaning:
  - »risk is overinflated
  - »testing is feared

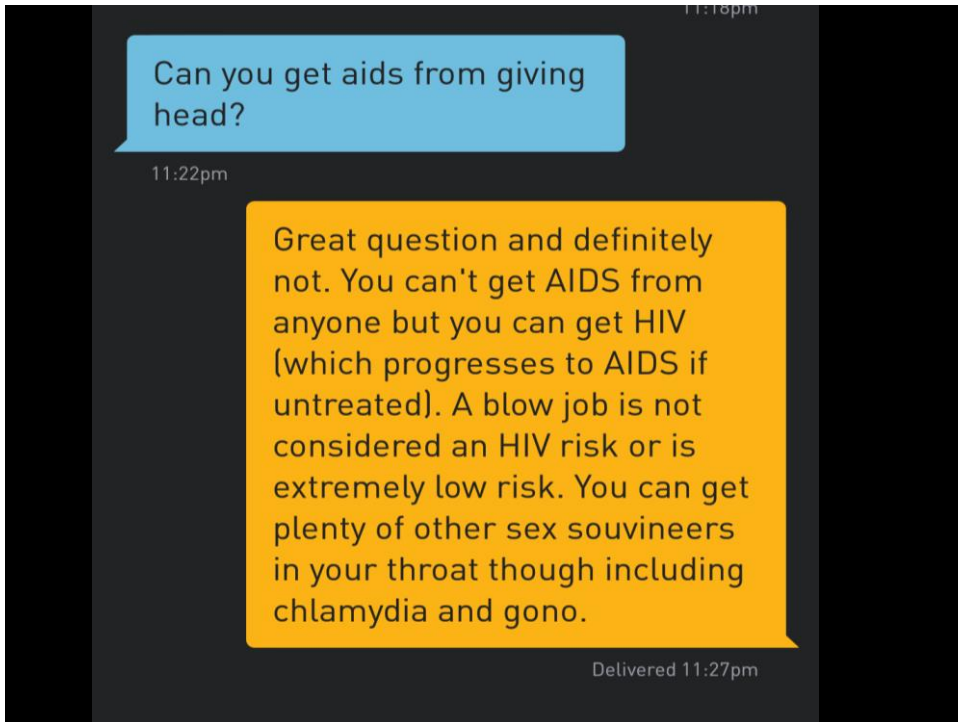


### WHERE TO FROM HERE

- How to maintain connection?
- Is a  enough? Facebook?
- How do we best engage volunteers to keep the outreach sustainable when we're not in town?
- Could we extend to other virtual spaces?
- **Squirt, BBRT etc**







#### REGIONAL OUTREACH CONTACT



W: [www.acon.org.au](http://www.acon.org.au)

FB: [www.facebook.com/ACONSouthernNSW](https://www.facebook.com/ACONSouthernNSW)

E: [regionaloutreach@acon.org.au](mailto:regionaloutreach@acon.org.au)

Ph: 02 9206 2114



