

Collaborate & Connect: Designing Intersectional Health Engagement with Young People

Authors:

Spongberg-Ross I^{1,2}, Brown A¹, Harnett E²

¹Health Consumers NSW, ²Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare

Background:

Young people are often tokenised within, or entirely excluded from, the development of healthcare engagement processes. This can lead to ineffective engagement approaches, and thus services that don't meet young people's needs. This is particularly true for young people with complex needs and intersectional experiences. The Walking the Talk project (WTT) focused on what young people want out of youth health engagement, leading to the development of our Youth Engagement Guide. Further, our current project, 'Collaborate & Connect: Designing Health Engagement with First Nations Young People' (C&C), aims to build knowledge and resources for mainstream healthcare to better engage with First Nations young people in co-design.

Approach:

WTT and C&C are fundamentally a platform for young people to share their experiences, discuss ideas, and let us know what they want and need out of engagement, including direct feedback about our engagement with them throughout the project. Through workshops, feedback loops, and effective communication we collaborate meaningfully with young people throughout the project process and beyond.

Outcome:

The findings from WTT led to the development of our Youth Engagement Guide, with five key necessities for youth engagement including an intersectional lens. Additionally, feedback on WTT included the need for similar work focused on First Nations young people, which led to the development of C&C. Findings of C&C will be known by October 2024.

Innovation and Significance:

These projects are crucial additions to existing youth engagement work as they are developed alongside young people themselves. This is particularly integral for C&C, as the pool of work regarding engagement with First Nations young people as a specific demographic is currently very small. This is even more true for co-designed works. Outcomes will be guided by First Nations young people themselves, paving the way for mainstream services to engage optimally with this demographic.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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