



multicultural health
& support service

ISANA 2017 International Students & Sexual Health

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Acknowledgements

- Deakin University
- Dr Georgia Babatsikos
- International Student Sexual Health Network
- Curtin University



international students and sexual health



- high rates of unplanned pregnancy
- STI & HIV rates indicate low level awareness of sexual health- Australian context
- international students have received little or no sexual and reproductive health education in their countries of origin
- institutional racism- accessing services



Why?



- first encounter as an individual-away from home-culture/religion
- explore/express their sexuality-SSA
- delayed youth experiences-
- increased risk of exposure & transmission
- experience isolation, homesickness, racism, housing, financial issues-



International Student Sexual Health Network Evaluation Summary

- This evaluation was conducted in conjunction with Curtin University, as they also have a similar network (Corrected: COPAHM – **Community of Practice for Action in HIV and Mobility**), which they wanted to evaluate.
- A mixed methods questionnaire containing closed ended (quantitative) and open ended (qualitative) questions was developed online working with Curtin University using Qualtrics. Ethics approval was gained through Deakin University and then Curtin University.



State representation

State	Response rate	Percentage (%)
Victoria	10	71.43
New South Wales	0	0.00
Queensland	3	21.43
Tasmania	0	0.00
South Australia	0	0.00
Western Australia	0	0.00
Northern Territory	0	0.00
Australian Capital Territory	0	0.00
Nationally	2	14.29
Total	14	100



Members

Organisation	Response rate	Percentage (%)
Non-Governmental Organisation	5	35.71
Governmental Organisation	1	7.14
University	3	21.43
Research Institution (non-university)	1	7.14
General Practice, primary care or tertiary care	3	21.43
Community group	0	0.00
Other (please specify)	1	7.14
Totals	14	100



Reason for joining

Field#	Response rate	Percentage (%)
To have contact with others working on the sexual health of international students in my geographic area	8	57.14
To have contact with others working on the sexual health of international students nationally	11	78.57
To collaborate with others on the sexual health of international students	12	85.71
To stay informed of current activities on the sexual health of international students	11	78.57
To learn about the latest research on this topic	9	64.29
To share what your organisation is doing on this topic	8	57.14
To inform future decisions and action on the sexual health of international students	10	71.43
Totals	14	100



Discussion

- recommendations includes:
- leadership roles within the network,
- TOR
- gaining a paid position to coordinate the network.
- Utilizing the online platform for further information sharing and collaboration on research, practice and policy issues
- Establishing new and expanding existing partnerships to be able to collaborate on specific research, practice, and policy/advocacy issues.



Discussion

- Using experts within the network to cross-train on key related issues.
- Finding opportunities to share what members of the network are doing with regard to the sexual health of international students in Australia in order to facilitate further specific collaboration.



Barriers: international students

- Cultural perceptions, taboos and myths related to HBV
- Normalisation of HBV in people's lives
- Lack of knowledge and access to relevant services
- Lack of knowledge about the management of HBV
- Pre-existing condition/private health insurance



Barriers:

- Medicare ineligibility
- Most health services are not culturally appropriate, with complicated referral pathways
- Inadequate support services
- Lack of resources for international students communities on HBV
- Unclear and confusing information provided by health professionals



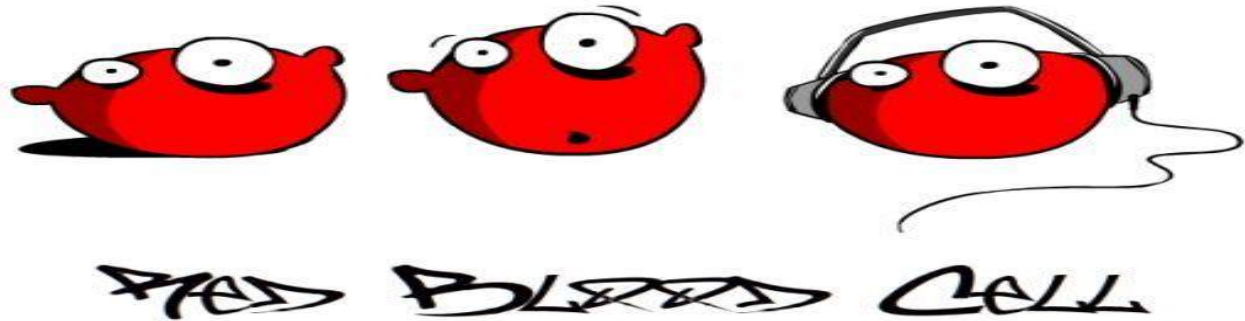
international students and BBV/STIs

- international students info seeking behaviours-talk to peers and family networks, home country websites
- pre-arrival info targets decision makers in the households-parents-



What needs to happen?

- leadership, direction and accountability
- PR immigration re: Hep B status
- coordinated integrated approach
- mandatory sex-education
- Support for service navigation and linkage



What needs to happen?

- information dissemination : sexual health & healthy relationships,
- legal & social information: consent, sexual rights, gender inequity
- culturally competent service responses

