Is headspace the right place to conduct sexual health screening?

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Introduction

 A collaborative and innovative pilot outreach project was developed between headspace and Clinic 16 with the aim of increasing chlamydia screening of young people in Northern Sydney Local Health District (LHD), NSW

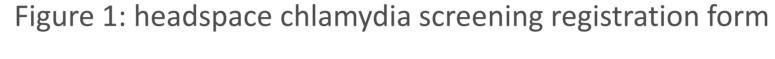


- headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds
- headspace promotes young people's wellbeing in the four areas of mental health, physical health, work and study support and alcohol and other drug services
- the young people who attend headspace often have psychological, financial and/or physical vulnerabilities and may be at higher risk of contracting chlamydia
- headspace Chatswood and headspace Brookvale are located in Northern Sydney LHD



•Clinic 16, Northern Sydney Sexual Health, is a publicly funded sexual health service in Northern Sydney LHD

•Clinic 16 provides specialist sexual health medical, nursing, counselling and other allied health services, and is prioritised for specific populations including young people



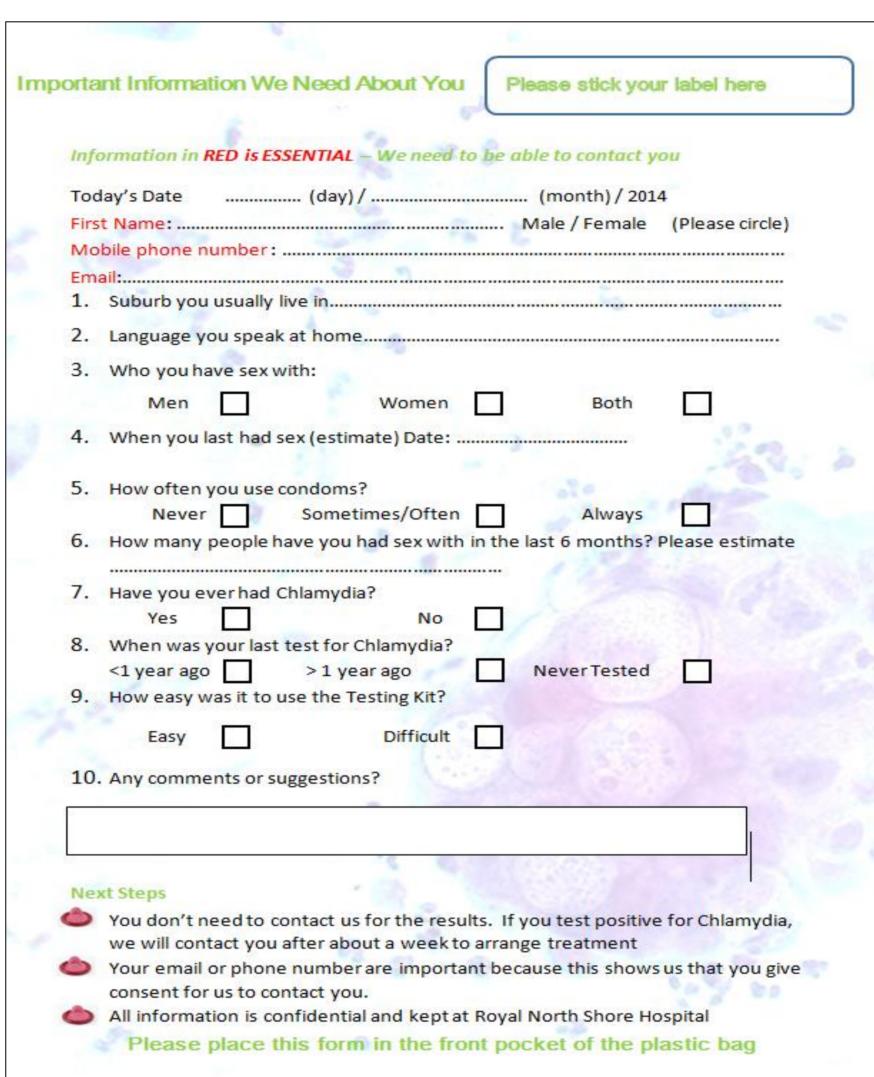


Figure 2: CNC Youth Health at headspace Chatswood



Methods

- all clients attending headspace Brookvale and headspace Chatswood 1st March 2014 to 30th September 2016 were offered chlamydia testing
- clients were required to complete a registration form (fig 1) and provide a urine sample
- samples were collected weekly from headspace centres and taken to Clinic 16 where they were registered and delivered to the local pathology laboratory for testing
- results were followed up by Clinic 16
- symptomatic clients seen at headspace centres were referred directly to Clinic 16 or to a GP for a full STI screen
- clients requiring contraception were referred to a GP or family planning clinic

Results

- 59 samples were registered and tested for chlamydia between 1st March 2014 and 30th September 2016
- 1 sample tested positive for chlamydia
- completion of the registration form was inconsistent
- many forms were returned with one or more missing fields

Conclusions

- this represents a viable screening pathway for asymptomatic clients at headspace
- the registration form has been subsequently simplified based on feedback from headspace clients and staff
- other strategies to increase uptake of this novel screening pathway will be explored in consultation with headspace Brookvale and headspace Chatswood clients and staff



