Background

What is chlamydia?
- Chlamydia is the number one bacterial STI in Australia
- Most chlamydia infections are asymptomatic
- Negative sequelae include:
  - PID approx 30% (especially if infected more than once)
  - Chronic pelvic pain/epididymitis
  - Male and female infertility
  - Ectopic pregnancy
- 80% of those who test positive are under 30 yr
- Testing is easy - PCR urine or swab
- Treatment is easy – 1 gm of Azithromycin in one dose

Chlamydia notifications in the ACT in 2012 by age and sex (N=1283)

Results

- Screening offered August ’12 - May ’13 (10 months)
- 15,163 patients attended the WiC
- 4341 (28%) were in the target age range
- 1183 (27%) were offered screening
- 473 (40%) accepted screening
  - 11% of target population
  - 62% female
  - 57% 16-20 yr, 36% 21-25 yr, 7% 26-30 yr
  - 33 (7%) attended specifically for screening
- 28 (5.9%) positive
  - 19 (68%) female
  - 9 (32%) male

Factors associated with screening
- Female gender (292 vs. 181 p=0.0001)
- 20-24 year age group
- Attending the WiC on the weekend

Positive cases
26/28 (92.9%) attended CSHC for treatment
39 sexual partners were nominated
23 sexual partners contacted by index case or 16 by CSHC staff

Reasons given for choosing not to be screened (N=710)
- 218 respondents (46%)
  - 65% female
  - 35% 16-20 yo, 28% 21-24 yo, 37% 25-30 yo
- 95% said WiC appropriate place to be screened
- 94% comfortable with discussing chlamydia
- 94% satisfied with amount of information given

Respondents agreed to screening:
- 46% because it was offered
- 36% because interested
- 12% felt at risk
- 79% would recommend screening at WiC to a friend

Conclusions

Feasibility ✓
Satisfaction ✓

Lower than expected participation rates indicate the need for greater education among staff and patients.

These research findings have now been translated into practice and chlamydia screening is now offered routinely to young people attending the WiC.