







Trust, Access, and Innovation: On-Site Prevention at the Point of Risk

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which WAAC operates as a service. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging, and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, waters, and community.



Acknowledgement of Lived Experience

We acknowledge and thank the people living with HIV who have participated in our services and research. Our fight against HIV and our prevention efforts are indebted to people living with HIV both past and present, whose courage and advocacy continue to drive innovation in care and prevention.

Disclosure of interests

WAAC is funded by the WA Department of Health.

No grants were received in the development of this project.

The challenge

High-risk behaviour + low prevention uptake = missed opportunities

- Sex-on-premises venues (SOPVs) represent higher risk environments.
- A 2020 systematic review (largely pre-PrEP studies) found a pooled estimate for HIV prevalence at Australian SOPVs to be 2.3% (95% CI 1.6–2.9%).¹
- Qualitative research involving Australian SOPV patrons found reticence to disclose sexual practices to health staff, and a tendency to underestimate individual risk profiles.²
- Anecdotal data from WAAC suggested that significant numbers of SOPV clients were not on PrEP.
- In 2024, several HIV and mpox notifications in WA were linked to SOPVs.

1. Ooi, C., Kong, F. Y. S., Lewis, D. A., & Hocking, J. S. (2020). Prevalence of sexually transmissible infections and HIV in men attending sex-on-premises venues in australia: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *Sexual Health (Online)*, 17(2), 135-148.
2. Ooi C, Lewis DA, Newman CE. Engaging hard-to-reach men-who-have-sex-with-men with sexual health screening: Qualitative interviews in an Australian sex-on-premises-venue and sexual health service. *Perspect Sex Reprod Health*. 2022 Sep;54(3):116-124

Our response

Scale-up of clinical SOPV outreach

Where:

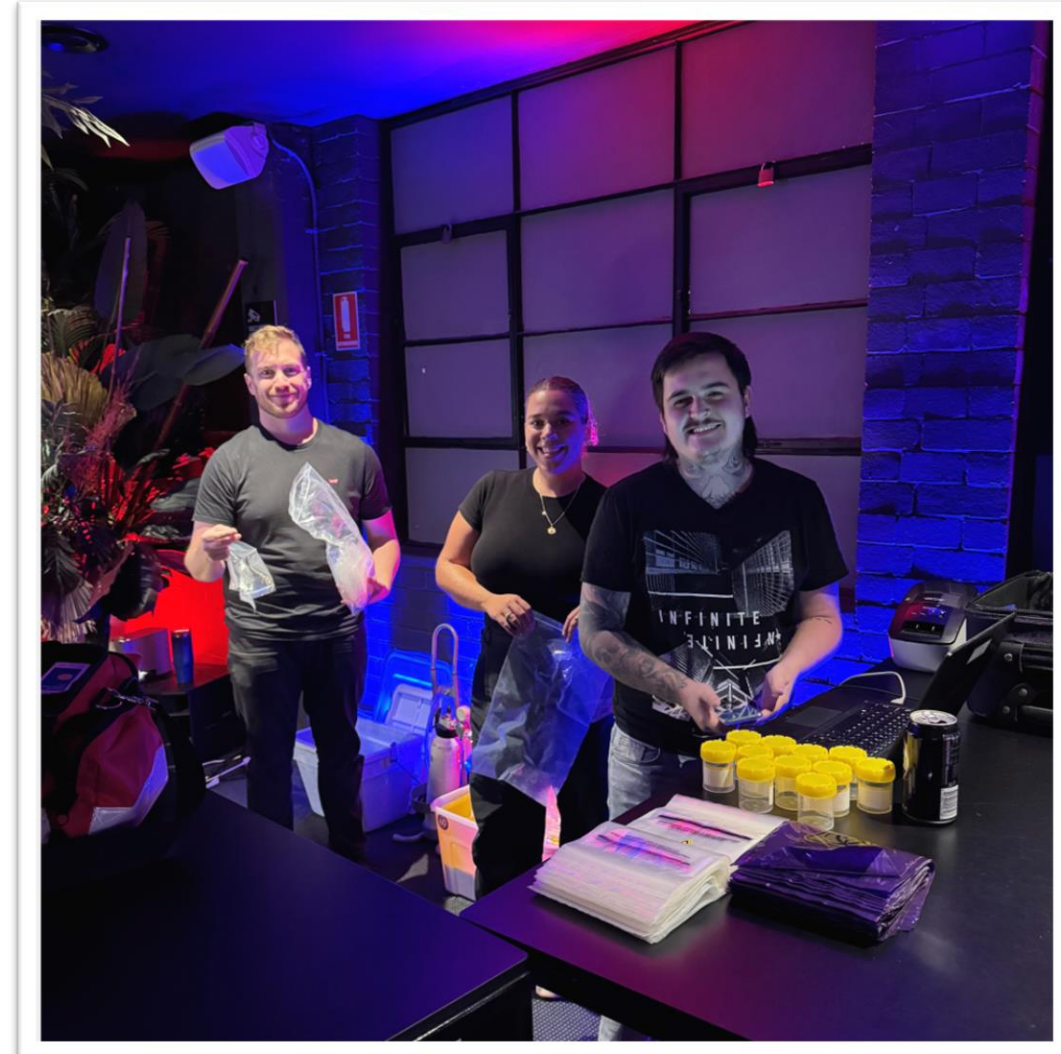
- Perth Steam Works (communal 'bar' area)
- No clinical setting stigma

What:

- 2-hour sessions every Thursday night
 - STI and BBV testing (long-standing service)
 - Vaccinations (since mpox outbreak)
 - Onsite PrEP, PrEP as PEP and DoxyPEP prescribing (since Dec 2024)

How:

- Brief, focused consultations respecting venue context
- No appointment needed - walk-in accessibility
- Staffed by 2 RNs, 1 GP, 1 admin and 1 volunteer EN





Facilitators of success


Characteristics of our model

- No Medicare required
- Free service
- Anonymity respected
- Trusted, familiar space reducing stigma and access barriers
- Real-time prevention at point-of-risk
- Opportunistic interventions when motivation is highest
- Direct linkage to M Clinic for ongoing care
- Sex-positive and inclusive care



Unspoken facilitators of success

Characteristics of our organisation's leadership

- Governance teams that are open-minded and forward-thinking
 - Staff professionalism and adaptability in complex environments
 - Executive trust and support for innovation
 - A Medical Director who leads by example — a practising GP who understands the work, challenges stigma, and builds trust through presence and care
 - A leader who champions nurses, ensuring they are skilled, supported, and empowered to deliver care confidently
 - Infection control, consent, and confidentiality maintained
 - Pride and normalisation of sexual health within community spaces
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The numbers

January-June 2025 snapshot

- Number of service hours: 48
- Number of clients seen: 552
- Number of PrEP scripts: 131
- Number of HIV PEP scripts: 5
- Number of doxy-PEP scripts: 134
- Number of mpox vaccinations: 160
- Number of tests conducted: 2369
 - FVU (NG/CT PCR): 457
 - Throat Swab (NG/CT PCR): 462
 - Rectal Swab (NG/CT PCR): 452
 - Vaginal Swab (NG/CT PCR): 5
 - Bloods – HIV & Syphilis: 425
 - Bloods – Hepatitis A/B/C: 251
 - PrEP Tests (UEC, UPCR, UACR): 160






What this means

- **For Communities:** More accessible, stigma-free care
- **For Providers:** Challenges the idea of populations being 'hard-to-reach', provides a workable model for outreach
- **For Policy:** Evidence for funding community-based approaches

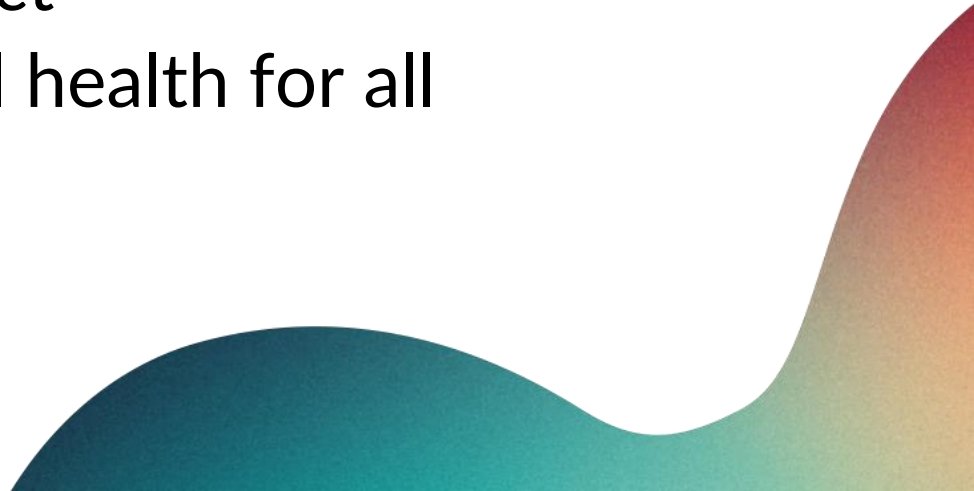


Improving access to On-Site PrEP, PEP, DoxyPEP – as envisioned by Dr McCabe

- Daily Midday to Midnight (04:00am Fri/Sat)
 - Approx x300 discrete customers(operator's impression)
 - Nurse Practitioner
 - Nurse Prescriber
 - Local late-night Pharmacy
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Our People, Our Legacy: **Nearly Two Decades of Community Trust**

- Nurses and peers — the heart of this outreach since the mid-2000s
 - From a small testing table to a trusted community service
 - Built through consistency, trust, and respect
 - A legacy of advocacy, inclusion, and sexual health for all
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Find out more

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<https://www.perthsteamworks.com.au/sexual-health>

