Condom Vending Machine Project

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Development of Project

• Partners: GLAM working group: Gannawarra Shire, Northern District Community Health Service, CERSH, young people.

• Process:
  • CERSH approached Gannawarra Shire
  • GLAM Working Group was established
  • Engaged with Councillors from Gannawarra Shire with a presentation by Associate Professor Jane Tomnay and Louise Holland from CERSH
  • Development of draft survey
  • Gannwarra Youth Council members critiqued survey for wording, meaning and duplication
  • Signed MOU between Council and CERSH
Why are STIs a problem here?

**Opportunities:**
Young people
Suspected under reporting of Chlamydia

**Barriers:**
Lack of access to 24 hour condoms
Lack of transport
Rural environment
Perceived lack of confidentiality
Limited access to testing
Why Condom Vending Machines?

**Opportunities:**
- Engaged partner organisations via established group GLAM
- CERSH to provide 4 condom vending machines and 2000 condoms
- Had been researched in other small rural Victorian communities
- Allows 24 hour access for youth – meets the needs

**Barriers:**
- Fear of vandalism
- Sources of ongoing funding and support
- Community and youth acceptability
Dissemination of survey:

Final Survey available
• Hard copy at Gannawarra Shire and Northern District Community Health Service
• Online via survey monkey link on
  • Gannawarra Shire website and facebook page.
  • NDCHS website and facebook page
  • handed out at youth sessions e.g. Kerang Tech High School Health Class Tour to NDCHS
Gannawarra Shire:
15-19 year olds = 666
20-24 year olds = 348
Total = 1014 looking for 90 participants

Final results: 210 !!!!!!!!
Online: 19 respondents
Hard copy: 191 respondents
Could have been the 4 x $30 JB Hifi Voucher
Top responses:
Internet 59%
Friends 54%
Parents 44%
Doctors 44%
Nowhere 10%
Top response:
Health education in schools 78%
Other 3 options very much the same but much lower
Top responses:

Supermarkets
Pharmacies
General Store
Friends

Challenges:
Limited trading hours
Lack of confidentiality due to work places of employment for friends/peers
Other places:
16% respondents identified Leitchville (Gannawarra Shire) or Pyramid Hill (Loddon Shire) not on survey.
Q5 Which toilet cubicle would be the best place for a condom vending machine to be located?

Answered: 143  Skipped: 67

- Male
- Female
- Unisex
Q6 What sexual health information would be good next to the condom vending machine? (Tick all applicable answers)

Answered: 203  Skipped: 7
Q7 What are the best ways for young people to find out about the condom vending machines? (Tick all applicable answers)

Answered: 201  Skipped: 9

- Facebook
- Radio message
- Schools
- Local health services
- Posters created by...
- Brochures
- Local webpage/web...
Q8 What are the best ways to advertise safe sex messages to young people? (Tick all applicable answers)

Answered: 202  Skipped: 0

- Posters created by...
- Brochures
- Local webpage/webli...
- Facebook
- Radio message
- Schools
- Local health services
- Information on or inside th...
Q9 Where would young people go to be tested for a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)?

Answered: 198  Skipped: 12

- Doctor: 85%
- Community health service: 24%
- Aboriginal health service: 3%
- Hospital: 6%
- Internet: 1%
- Nowhere: 0%
- Don't know: 0%
Recommendations from process:

• Always work in partnership locally and regionally
• In person is always better e.g. council meeting, meet with school staff, youth council
• Ask young people’s opinions from the very start of the project
• All discussion is good advertising – starting the conversation
• “Ask and you shall receive” e.g. meet with the schools
• Utilise the outcomes from the surveys to make real changes to the delivery of the project – don’t pre-empt the survey results e.g. changing the location of the Condom Vending Machine from two in Kerang to one in Kerang and one in Leitchville – genuine input into decision making.
Recommendations from the surveys:

• Schools are considered the best place to receive this information even if they do not consider this themselves
• Have the four condom vending machines distributed throughout more towns than concentrated in the three towns with/near secondary schools
• Place in unisex toilets
• Promotion next to condom vending machines – information on STIs and how to use a condom
• Word of mouth is the best way to advertise
Where to from here......

• Get the condom vending machines installed – not that easy – disabled access requirements – building surveyor approval needed
• CERSH reporting requirements, counting and restocking condoms, looking for further funding if not cost neutral
• Look to work with secondary schools more closely around sexual health and young people
• No wrong door – working with GPs and Hospitals, other agencies
• Report back to Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting (GLAM) and Council the results of the project
Thankyou