

## Technology to improve health indicators and reach young rural South Australians

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This presentation will provide the process and the lessons learned in establishing a website to reach young South Australians and provide them with information and access to STI testing. Young people are particularly at risk of contracting and transmitting Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea. The evidence has led to the identification that young people aged 15-29 years of age are one of the four key priority populations for the purposes of developing an on line Chlamydia testing program.

In the range of health performance indicators, the health status of Australians have 10 focus areas—Incidence of: heart attacks; cancer; sexually transmitted infections and blood borne viruses; end stage kidney disease; injury and poisoning; activity limitation; self-assessed health status; psychological distress; infant mortality rate and life expectancy. Of the 10 areas there are 2 areas where the trends are of concern. This project addresses the significant concerning trend in the rising incidents of chlamydia in young people. By using technology a website was developed that enables young people across South Australia and in rural and remote areas to access STI testing without attending a general practitioner.

There are barriers to accessing of health services in rural and remote communities and this is particularly a problem for young people with sexual health issues who are not prepared to visit their local family doctor in a small country. SHine SA has developed a website for young people to access information on sexually transmissible disease and enable the young person to access a pathology test where often they would otherwise not access testing due to concerns around confidentiality.

Young people in rural and remote areas experience access issues in regard to sexual health, contraception, teenage pregnancy and support for gender questioning issues. This project has focused on STI testing for young people. Often a barrier to accessing sexual health is the concern with respect to privacy in country towns leaving young people extremely reluctant to disclose their health status concerns, this projects reduces the need to access the local doctor for a pathology request form.

This current website increases the State's response to STI testing rates by leveraging IT technology including the ability to use iPhones and Android phones in downloading pathology request forms and accessing testing without a visit to a GP.

The outcome is that young rural and remote people who would otherwise not get checked due to privacy concerns, will do so.