

2005

Themes

1. Access to health services from consumer and/or provider perspectives.
2. The health of bisexual women and/or lesbians who are over 40.
3. The sexual health of bisexual women and/or lesbians.

Recipients

1. Peta Cox – Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT

“Welcome to the digital revolution: reviewing and reinvigorating”

A safer sex website for Australian women who have sex with women had been launched by the Sexual Health and Family Planning Service of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in late 2004. The ‘welcome to the digital revolution’ project (WTTDR) would enable the Sexual Health and Family Planning Service of the ACT to perform a critical peer-based review of the resource and to alter the resource in accordance with their findings.

The final report was submitted in November 2007. There were 74 participants in the on-line survey and 17 interview participants with backgrounds in social work, peer support and health education, general practice and sexual health.

The website was improved based on findings of the evaluation

Conference papers presented:

Cox, P. (2007). Learning to say yes- moving beyond victim/perpetrator dichotomies in sexual assault education. Let's Talk About Sex: Young Women's Gathering. Sydney, Australian Reproductive Health Alliance.

Cox, P. and A. Constable (2007). Safer Sex - When Condoms Don't Work. Let's Talk About Sex - Young Women's Gathering. Sydney, Australian Reproductive Healthcare Alliance.

Cox, P. and S. May (2007). Dykes, Dams and other Daydreams. Health In Difference: 6th National LGBT Health Conference. Brisbane, Queensland Association for Healthy Communities.

Journal article published in a peer reviewed journal:

Cox Peta, McNair Ruth. Risk reduction as an accepted framework for safer-sex promotion among women who have sex with women. *Sexual Health* 2009; 6 (1): 15-18.

2. Jenny Kelly – Mother and Child Health, La Trobe University, Melbourne

“Lesbians Are Mothers Too: An Exploratory Study of Lesbians’ Experiences of Maternity Care in Victorian Public Hospitals from 2000 – 2005.”

Aims:

- To identify and document the unique experiences lesbians encounter during their interactions with the Victorian public health system throughout their pregnancy and postnatally; by collecting 100 questionnaires and interviewing 20 women.
- To produce an educational resource for health providers in an attempt to provide more lesbian sensitive maternity care to lesbians accessing the public health system.

Project completed Jan 2009

Study Outcomes:

- Three papers based on this research have been presented at national conferences
- The Chief Investigator has written a chapter on maternity care for same-sex attracted women for the Women’s Hospital, Childbirth Educator’s manual (‘Rainbow Families’ currently in press). This book will be available for other hospitals and services to purchase at a reduced price.
- The 2007 Victorian and South Australian ‘Healthy Mothers Healthy Families Survey’ included a question asking about sexual identity. This is the first time such a question has been asked in the Survey of Recent Mothers population based survey.
- A minimum of two papers will be written and submitted to peer reviewed journals.

Conference Presentations:

Kelly, J & Brown S (2006) *Lesbians Talking Maternity Care*. Paper presented at the Rainbow Families 3 Conference, Melbourne, Australia

Kelly, J & Brown S (2007) *Lesbian Mothers, Midwives and Maternity Care*. Paper presented at the 15th Biennial Australian College of Midwives National Conference, Canberra, September.

Kelly, J (2008) *Lesbians’ Experiences of Maternity Care in Victoria*. Paper presented at the National Association Childbirth Educators Inc. 11th Biennial National Conference, Melbourne, September.