



## Evaluation Report – Youth Week 2013



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## Executive summary

In 2013, Youth Week was held from 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of April. The theme for the week was: **“Be Active, Be Happy, Be You”** with a particular focus on sexual health. A number of activities were held across NSW as part of the event including a state-wide Youth Forum at NSW Parliament House and local concerts, festivals and sporting events. Local Health District Staff (including representatives from Planning Family NSW and YFoundations) were available to support some Local Government Areas with events. In addition Youth Community Grants were made available on application and a number of specially branded resources were provided to Local Councils to support Youth Week activities.

This report documents an overview of activities that occurred during Youth Week 2013. It also includes the results of four separate components of an evaluation to measure satisfaction with the outcomes of Youth Week 2013 as well as the effectiveness of including sexual health in NSW Youth Week activities. Data is included from four sources: A satisfaction survey conducted about the Youth Forum at Parliament House; in-depth interviews with key informants involved with the implementation of Youth Week 2013 across NSW; a short quantitative survey that was sent out to all members of the Sexual Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) Working Group and an Acquittal Survey Form from NSW Office of Communities. Specific recommendations are provided at the conclusion of each evaluation component distilled from the feedback provided from participants. A summary of recommendations for the entire evaluation process has been included at the end of this Executive summary.

Overall the vast majority of those surveyed across the evaluation components provided positive feedback about their experience of Youth Week 2013 and the focus of it being on sexual health. The quality of the qualitative and quantitative feedback data demonstrates an encouraging level of engagement in the Youth Week project by Local Government Agencies (LGAs) and provides useful insights for improving the way the project is supported in the future.

The Youth Forum at NSW Parliament House was nominated as one of the most successful outcomes of Youth Week 2013. The Forum was popular on a number of levels; firstly because it provided networking opportunities by bringing young people and those working with youth in from different parts of NSW. Secondly hosting the event at Parliament House and having Ministerial involvement gave it prestige and state-wide significance and thirdly the event’s engagement of young people.

It was apparent that the Forum had resulted in building stronger partnerships and led to further collaboration between youth and sexual health services across some LHDs. The Forum also served to provide young people with a voice that was heard by politicians and policy makers. One of the many outcomes of the Forum is that the sexual health of young people has been included in the NSW State Health Plan 2030 and that young people have been involved with the redevelopment of the NSW Health sexual health website for young people.

While the inclusion of youth run sessions during the Forum was seen as important, it would seem that the training provided to peer leaders requires some attention. Two hours was not perceived as adequate enough to provide young people with the skills and experience required to effectively lead sessions.

Each Local Health District (LHD) was represented at the Youth Forum and a total 81 young people attended the day. Responses from those attending the Forum were overwhelmingly positive indicating a high degree of satisfaction among participants that their voices had been heard, their opinions and

ideas listened to and expressing optimism that this would result in positive change. In relation to those who were unable to send a young person to represent them, the barriers most often reported were in relation to geographical isolation/travel issues and scheduling of the Forum conflicting with school attendance requirements such as exams.

Comprehensive coordination between stakeholders and good communication, specifically with an identified sexual health worker appears to be a key indicator for those having a positive experience throughout Youth Week.

Another key indicator of the success of Youth Week 2013 was the reach of the project particularly into rural areas of NSW. The opportunity to partner the existing Sexual Health Week with the State-wide Youth Week via the relationship with the NSW Office of Communities provided the HIV/AIDS and Related Programs (HARP) and the sexual health promotion sector with an ideal platform to develop a sound health promotion practice model at a population health level. The extended reach and state-wide scope of the project meant that more young people across NSW were exposed to sexual health messages than had previously. In preceding years only those in Greater Sydney, Illawarra Shoalhaven and the Central Coast had been reached by the health promotion intervention. Further, the new model provided the ideal platform for addressing all the principles of the Ottawa Charter.

A small selection of those surveyed had some reservations about incorporating Sexual Health Week into Youth Week. While concerns related to the project losing its grass roots focus were expressed, it is apparent that the changes in delivery in 2013 ultimately accomplished a broader reach of the sexual health message to young people in NSW. In this respect the effectiveness of including sexual health in NSW Youth Week activities can be considered a success.

The evaluation did find some areas for improvement for the implementation of Youth Week next year. It was apparent that human resource implications (such as staff sickness, vacancies and leave) did affect the roll out of the project in 2013. Appropriate planning, realistic timetabling and governance and decision making processes on the SHAC Executive Committee were all raised as issues in the evaluation and are part and parcel of developing innovative population health interventions.

The SHAC survey results also suggested some mixed outcomes with regard to achieving the Youth Week 2013 objectives. Whereas as sixty percent of respondents were positive about the project meeting its first two objectives – increasing young people's knowledge of sexual health and STIs and their capacity to communicate and negotiate about sexual health with their peers, community and decision makers; there was a significant proportion of the group who felt these objectives hadn't been met.

Participant responses relating to achieving objectives three and four relating to increasing STI testing by young people and the capacity of LGA staff across NSW to support sexual health were even more confusing to interpret. This suggests they had not been adequately met or perhaps they were not even measurable.

The Youth Grants initiative was also identified as one area for improvement for 2014. Almost half those surveyed in the key informant interviews and SHAC Working Group perceived that the process seemed rushed and that there was a lack of clarity about the aims and objectives. Participants also noted there was also confusion about the role of young people within the Grants process. A few respondents were also critical about less money being made available this year.

Many of the issues raised in the four components of the Youth Week Evaluation are not unique to new health promotion partnerships. Essentially, concerns raised by participants relate mainly to logistical and planning issues, which can be easily addressed with clearer roles of governance and improved

communication to stakeholders. Adjustment to change and the building of partnerships takes time and commitment from all key agencies and associated personnel.

In areas where investment had been made in partnerships and there was uptake in the available support and resources, significant health promotion outcomes were achieved. Reorientating Sexual Health Week into Youth Week clearly increased the level of investment from regional areas in NSW and enabled enhanced partnerships between sexual health agencies and youth services. This resulted in improved delivery of key sexual health messages to a broader range of young people in NSW.

## Recommendations

The key recommendations to emerge from each of the evaluation components are as follows:

### **1. Continue to include sexual health as a component of Youth Week**

The vast majority of those interviewed, including LGA staff, Health promotion staff and young people felt that including sexual health week into Youth Week had been a success. Notably the partnership with the NSW Office of Communities extended the reach and health promotion outcomes of the project, especially into rural NSW.

### **2. Conduct more Youth Forum's or networking opportunities**

As noted in all the evaluation components, the Youth Forum at NSW Parliament House was a notable highlight of Youth Week 2013. Although perhaps it is not feasible to conduct one every year, consideration should be given to hosting regional or bi-yearly forums that prioritise sexual health. This will provide the opportunity for young people and youth and sexual services to network and may be enhanced by holding smaller forums in regional/rural areas, with the potential for video link-up with the forum held in Sydney.

### **3. Revise the objectives of Youth Week 2014 so that they can be effectively measured**

It is clear that some of the objectives of Youth Week 2013 were either not met or able to be measured. In this respect careful attention should be paid next year to revising the objectives and ensuring they are also able to be measured effectively.

### **4. Clarify and adjust the Grants application process**

One of the most prevalent criticisms of Youth Week 2013 was about the implementation of Community Grants process. In this respect it is advisable to revisit the grants process and develop clearer aims and objectives and improve guidelines for the involvement of young people. Consideration should also be given to providing more lead time to apply and execute grants and perhaps make a larger pool of funding available in 2014.

### **5. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the two SHAC groups**

The roles and responsibilities of the two SHAC groups seemed at times confusing to those involved with the implementation of Youth Week 2013. In this respect consideration should be given to revising the roles and responsibilities of the two groups which would provide clarity on governance and decision making processes.

### **6. Continue to improve communication and coordination**

Where LGAs were provided adequate information in advance and knew what was on offer in terms of resources, and had contact with a sexual health service there appears to have been significantly better engagement and involvement in the event.

**7. Emphasise the variety of sexual health information mechanisms offered throughout Youth Week**

Highlighting the variety of sexual health information resources and supports that are available throughout Youth Week can increase the confidence of LGAs running events and engaging young people.

**8. Consider a more targeted/tailored campaign given the age range**

Concerns outlined in relation to the broad age range covered by Youth Week and the appropriateness of sexual health messages may be addressed by tailoring resources/support to assist LGAs and their individual profiles of young people in their area.

**9. Continue condom access in the future**

Resources such as condoms and condom tins were popular amongst those surveyed and should continue to be available in future years. The involvement of young people in the development of these resources is advisable.

**10. Increase quality of training provided to Peer Leaders (facilitators)**

If peer leaders are used in Youth Week activities and/or forums it is important that they receive effective education and skills-based training. In-lieu of comments provided by key informant's consideration should be given to improving the length and quality of the Yfoundations training that was provided to peer leaders in 2013.

## Chapter 1: Overview of Youth Week Activities 2013

### 1. Introduction

In late August 2013, Annie Bleeker was appointed by the Sexual Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) to complete the Evaluation for Youth Week 2013 which was commenced by Norman Booker in April 2013. The aim of the review is to evaluate the effectiveness of the inclusion of sexual health in NSW Youth Week activities and to provide recommendations to the Sexual Health Advisory Committee based on the findings of the review.

This report contains four separate chapters:

Chapter one provides an overview of Youth Week activities including findings from Norman Booker's evaluation of the Youth Week Forum at Parliament house (see also **Appendix 1 - Forum Participation Feedback Report**).

Chapter two contains an analysis of the key themes to emerge from seven in-depth interviews which were conducted with key informants involved with the implementation of Youth Week 2013.

Chapter three provides an analysis of data which was collated from a short quantitative survey that sent out to all members of the Sexual Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) Working Group.

Chapter four reports on the data collected from an Acquittal Form Survey from NSW Office of Communities which was sent to all Local Government Areas (LGAs) following Youth Week 2013.

All four evaluation components have been reported on separately and overall comments, conclusions and recommendations related to the key findings of each evaluation is discussed within the chapter. The Executive Summary provides an overview and recommendations relating to the entire evaluation of Youth Week 2013.

This evaluation report also contains contributions from Norman Booker (who evaluated the Youth Forum Parliament House) and Dr Susan Hudson who conducted the qualitative analysis from the NSW Office of Communities Acquittal Form Survey.

#### 1.1 Background

Youth Week began as a NSW Government initiative in 1989, and has since grown to become a national week of events and activities focussing on issues of importance to young people and celebrating young people's contribution and achievements.

Youth Week in NSW is organised and managed at a local level by young people with the support of a local-level Youth Week coordinator in each of the 152 local government areas (LGAs) in NSW. A state-level Youth Week Young Peoples Advisory Committee (YPAC) oversees the state-level coordination of Youth Week.

Youth week partners with a range of organisations that address issues young people identify as areas of concern, these include, mental health, young drivers and work place safety. Each partner is offered different strategies of engagement often dictated by the amount of sponsorship money spent. Partners have the right to distribute resources to every council across the state.

In late 2011 the NSW STI Programs Unit (STIPU) was approached by the NSW Office of Communities (OOC) with a partnership proposal from NSW Youth Week to include sexual health messaging in Youth Week 2012. The proposal suggested that STIPU and the existing Sexual Health Week Advisory Committee (SHWAC) develop a partnership with the Youth Week secretariat in the Office of Communities to utilise Youth Week in NSW to better inform young people of sexual health and related issues, in line with the NSW PDHPE Years 7 to 10 curriculum.

The existing Sexual Health Week Advisory Committee (SHWAC) consisted of representatives from Local Health District (LHD) HARP Units Health Promotion Teams, YFoundations and Family Planning NSW (FPNSW). This advisory group has overseen Sexual Health Week which has been held every year for the past six years. Sexual Health Week had been limited in its reach across the state. In previous years, Sexual Health week had been held each September.

The SHWAC agreed to some involvement of sexual health messages in Youth Week which included developing a range of social marketing strategies. The involvement was limited as there was a commitment to run Sexual health week in September the same year and the funding was restricted.

The activities included in Youth Week 2012 were access to co-branding Sexual Health on the Youth Week NSW poster, website and Facebook page: the development of a range of sexual health information resources distributed to Local Government Areas (LGAs) across NSW that could be utilised in partnership with LHDs at events and activities with young people across Youth Week.

In November 2012 the SHWAC had a final meeting following Sexual Health Week 2012. It was agreed at this meeting to merge 2013 Sexual Health Week into Youth Week 2013 in order to have more buy-in to Youth Week. The agreement was to pilot this for the remaining two years of the three year partnership with Office of Communities.

Due to the tight time frames required to bring Sexual Health Week forward to April 2013 to align with NSW Youth Week and limited human resources in several LHD HARP Unit Health Promotion Teams the group agreed a smaller Sexual Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) be formed and undertake the preliminary planning for Youth Week events. The other partner HARP Health Promotion teams would be asked for a representative to be part of the SHAC Working Group in February 2013.

The smaller SHAC Executive group consisted of STIPU, FPNSW, YFoundations and two HARP Health Promotion Managers who provided the Chair and Secretariat. The bigger SHAC Working Group was extended to include a representative from every HARP Unit Health Promotion team, except Hunter New England LHD and The Greater Western NSW LHDs who declined the offer to be represented.

## 1.2 Youth Week Activities

Youth Week picks a theme each year and the Office of Communities ensure that the sponsors reflect the theme. In 2013, Youth Week was held across the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of April. The theme for the week in 2013 was sexual health and the slogan was: **“Be Active, Be Happy, Be You”**.

The sexual health component of Youth Week NSW was coordinated in 2013 by the SHAC, with support from other members of the whole-of-Government youth policy and programs work unit located in the Office of Communities, in the Department of Education and Communities. A state-level Youth Week Young Peoples Advisory Committee (YPAC) also oversaw and supported the state-level coordination of Youth Week. All formal communication with the Local Government Agencies (LGAs) was managed by the NSW Youth Week coordinator.

The aim of Youth Week 2013 was to increase awareness of sexual health issues and promote healthy sexual choices among young people aged 12-25 years.

The objectives were to increase:

1. Young peoples' knowledge of sexual health and STIs
2. The capacity of young people to communicate and negotiate about sexual health with peers, community and decision makers
3. STI testing by young people across NSW
4. The capacity of LGA staff across NSW to support sexual health

In order to address these objectives a range of strategies were planned and delivered by the partners of the SHAC working committee during youth week and beyond. These strategies are detailed further below.

### **Youth Forum at NSW Parliament house**

The major focus of the sexual health component of Youth Week 2013 was having a Youth Forum at NSW Parliament House. The Forum was open to every LGA across the state to send a young person. This provided a supportive environment for young people to develop their personal skills in the area of sexual health. The objective was for these young people to have their voices heard and to up skill in the area of sexual health knowledge. These young people were provided with resources and training that would support them in addressing areas of sexual health with their peers when they returned to their own communities.

The NSW Office of Communities (OOC) organised and paid for all of the young people to travel and attend the Forum. If they were under sixteen years of age the OOC provided a chaperone at no cost. OOC also organised the venue, catering, media and inviting relevant Ministers to attend.

The SHAC in consultation with the YAC and YPAC designed the day's content and program. The SHAC also organised training for the peer facilitators and sourced the panel members for the Q and A session.

The Forum was titled "Addressing the rise in STIs" of the 153 LGAs in NSW, 81 were represented by a young person. Regional, remote and urban NSW were all well represented. There was also a HARP Health Promotion Officer from each LHD in NSW. YFoundations and FPNSW provided support for the two LHDs that did not have HARP Health Promoters present at the Forum.

The Day was facilitated by Kayla Lochner, Chair NSW Youth Week Young People's Advisory Committee and Member Youth Week Young People's Advisory Committee. Minister Dominello, Minister of Citizens and Communities launched Youth Week 2013 at the Forum at Parliament house. Dr Chris Bourne, Head of NSW STI Programs Unit launched the Forum.

The young people were engaged in two workshops and participated in a Q and A session. (See also **Appendix 2 Youth Week Forum Program**)

The first one-hour group work session ran immediately before lunch and followed the welcome and context-setting segments of the program. Eight groups of six to nine delegates from designated regional areas were guided through a series of tasks under the leadership of a peer facilitator and with a nominated scribe keeping a group record of the discussion on chart paper. The group facilitators were YAC/YPAC personnel who had been previously briefed and resourced to conduct the session. Health Promotion staff from Local Health Districts were available to assist or provide input to the groups' discussion where required.

Following introductions within the group and some initial ice-breaker activities (sexual health quick quiz and banana condom game) each group was led through a process to identify sexual health issues, needs and significant challenges for young people in the specific local area. The purpose of this task was to identify, consolidate and clarify the group's understanding of the key issues and to help participants formulate questions to raise in the panel discussion later in the program.

This process began with participants developing a profile of a typical young man or woman living in their local community, identifying generalised characteristics and behaviours, beliefs and attitudes. This was facilitated through a series of prompt questions. From this profile and drawing on their own experience, participants then asked to identify the key issues and challenges that this person may face in relation to his/her sexual health, relationships and STIs. Again prompts and stimulus questions were provided for the facilitator to encourage discussion and the free flow of ideas.

Next, the group was asked to review the list of issues and challenges raised and prioritise the most significant. From this they were asked to formulate two questions to be raised in the subsequent panel discussion. Questions were written down and volunteers chosen to be spokespeople for the groups.

The Question and Answer session was facilitated by ABC Radio National Presenter Natasha Mitchell. The panel consisted of individuals who brought varying expertise in to the area of young people and sexual health. The Q and A was an engaging and lively session, a broad range of topics were covered relating to:

- Young people's sexual health knowledge
- Their access to timely and accurate information
- The role of school, parents and community in providing sexual health education
- Ready access to sexual health services (including Medicare card availability, bulk billing and location of services).

The second workshop session was a group activity that took place after the panel discussion and capitalised on the energy and engagement generated in that session. It was again facilitated by the YAC/YPAC personnel supported by health promotion workers

Reflecting on someone who was or has been influential in their lives participants identified the qualities and attributes that person brought to the relationship. Discussions then encouraged participants to explore these qualities and the nature of the relationships.

A series of scenarios were then explored in which participants were asked to imagine a friend approaching them with a personal dilemma relating to a sensitive issue of sexual behaviour and to identify key issues raised in that dilemma and the information that would assist the person in question:

The prompt statements were:

- My partner wants to have sex but I'm not ready yet
- I know I should be using condoms but I don't like them
- Should I get tested for STIs
- I think I might be pregnant

Another activity the young people were involved in was playing the game of Chlamydiastic (sexual health training game developed by Sydney Sexual Health Clinic) which was used as an example of how to address talking about sex with young people in a fun and non-threatening manner. They were also informed that they could contact their local HARP Unit and have a health promoter to bring the game into a community setting and support the roll out and teaching of the game to other young people.

At the conclusion of the day the young people were informed about a sexual health grants program that would be open in May 2013. They were invited to apply for sexual health projects that build on what they had learnt from the Forum, that are innovative and address sexual health issues that affect young in NSW. (See also section below on Seeding Grants)

An evaluation of the Youth Forum at Parliament House was conducted by Norman Booker in May 2013. (See full report of the results of the Forum at Appendix 1.) Below is a summary of Norman Booker's conclusions of an online survey that was sent to participants seeking feedback on their impressions of the Forum.

*The immediate feedback from participants, as well as impressions gained from observation on the day indicate, was that the Forum broadly succeeded in meeting its objectives. It brought together young people from across the state and promoted the exchange of information, ideas, opinions and experiences on sexual health issues among the young people as well as health professionals, youth workers, service providers, policy makers and others.*

*There was an enthusiastic response to the content and delivery of the program and an acceptance among participants that they had been heard and that their views were seen as important to the development of responses in policy and practice.*

*The challenge ahead is twofold — to maintain the impetus to ensure the information gleaned in this forum is in fact incorporated into ongoing planning and service delivery and to build on the success of this event in planning similar consultative and learning forums into the future.*

### **Youth Week events across the state**

During Youth Week many LGAs held events that utilised sexual health messaging and resources including Crankfest - a music event held at Byron Bay Shire, Goats festival - a music festival on the central coast, Pee for 3 - a chlamydia testing program in Dubbo in partnership with FPNSW and local Publicly Funded Sexual Health Clinics and Shorefest - a music festival in North Sydney.

LHD HARP Health Promotion Units, YFoundations and FPNSW were asked to provide support to LGAs (if that was required by the LGA or the young person) with projects or activities occurring across Youth Week. The objective was to build capacity of the LGAs around sexual health through providing expert advice, resources and support. Through this reorienting of health services, the Youth Week partnership can be viewed as a vehicle for creating supportive environments for young people around sexual health not only across Youth Week but well into the future.

## Resources for Youth Week

Every LGA was sent a youth worker support pack, this included information about ordering specific resources and a contact person at the Local Health District HARP Unit. The resources the LGAs could order were condoms; condom tins; Little Black Books (Sexual health information booklet) and the Chlamydiastic game. Information was also included on how to use the resources with young people. A list of relevant websites was also provided that contained sexual health education and information. All LGAs received wristbands, which could be used for events and festivals, the wristbands had a link to the “Dare to Score” website. The dare to score website is a NSW Health online sexual health tool. The wristbands were appropriate for all ages; however it was up to the discretion of each LGA how they used the other resources.

Every LHD HARP Health Promotion Unit (except Hunter New England and Far West and Western NSW LHDs who declined the offer to have a representative involved in the project) were sent the condoms, Little Black Books and Chlamydiastic games for distribution to local LGAs where requested. They were also sent a contact list of the key person to contact at the local LGA regarding Youth week. All LHD HARP Units were expected to make contact with the local LGAs to let them know they were the key contact for sexual health events and where able offer support and send out resources. In the case of LGAs in the Hunter New England, Far West and Western LHDs, representatives from FPNSW and YFoundations provided sexual health contact, resources and support to LGAs where requested.

All LHD HARP Unit Youth Week representatives were also sent a media template that could be used with local media regarding any relevant activities in Youth Week; this may also have included an article on the young person who was selected to go to the Youth Forum at Parliament House.

## Seeding Grants

There was \$10,000 available for Sexual Health Youth Initiative Project Seeding Grants, they were offered for innovative sexual health projects that addressed issues affecting young people.

The aim of the grants was that they were to:

- Be youth led and youth driven
- Increase youth participation and engagement around sexual health and STIs
- Be sustainable and have a longer term impact in addressing sexual health
- Form partnerships with a range of young people and organisations

A Youth Week Grants application information document was sent to all participants of the Youth Forum and all LGAs and LHD HARP Units. (See also **Appendix 3 – Youth Week Grant’s Application information**). The application document reiterated that up to \$2,500.00 was available per project. The document also provided information about how to apply for grants, what was expected from grant applications and who to contact for advice, etc. The seeding grants closed in July and are all currently in process with completion expected to be by 31 March 2014.

### **Funding and budget**

Funding for sexual health week comes from individual LHDs, Family Planning NSW (FPNSW), and Healthy Cities Illawarra.

The SHAC budget for Youth Week is made up of contributions from participating LHDs and FPNSW and the amounts are what each LHD can justifiably spend on the project depending on their size and resources. YFoundations contributes administration of funds in lieu of contributing direct funds.

In total \$76,000.00 was spent on Youth Week activities in 2013. This included funding for the Forum at Parliament House, resources such as condoms, wristbands, pens, Dare to Score website modifications, travel expenses for Regional and remote HPOs to attend the Forum, Seeding Grants and Evaluation.

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## Chapter 2: In-depth interviews with key stakeholders

### 2. Methodology

In late August the consultant sent out an email to seven key informants nominated by the Chair of SHAC and STIPU. The key informants were selected on the basis of their geographical location, agency membership and length of experience/involvement with the implementation of Youth Week. The email invited them to participate in a short (15-30 minute) qualitative interview which would be conducted over the phone (see also **Appendix 4 In-depth interview guide for key informants.**)

All interviews were conducted in early to mid-September and the interviewer took notes on the main themes to emerge from the discussions. One participant also forwarded a copy of their notes to the interviewer the day after the interview. The key themes to emerge from the interviews have been reported further below as well as a discussion on the implications of the interviews for the roll-out of Youth Week in 2014.

### 2.1 Results

#### **Overall thoughts on Youth Week 2013:**

The vast majority of key informants (six out of the seven) were very positive about their experience of Youth Week 2013 and the focus of it being on sexual health. The main reasons that were cited was the extended reach of the project particularly into rural areas of NSW; and the ability to partner with government, sexual health and youth agencies which strengthened the population health outcomes of the project.

There was a strong sense from participants that the involvement of the Office of Communities had enabled the project to become state-wide and created opportunities for broader collaboration between youth and sexual health agencies. Further it provided the HARP and the sexual health promotion sector with an ideal platform to develop a sound health promotion practice model.

*“In terms of health promotion activities the reach was much better this year than in 2012.”*

*“I think overall it was a really good thing because we got full state-wide coverage which weren’t able to achieve in previous years.”*

*“The partnership was the best part of the project for me and my LHD. We don’t get a lot of resources in rural areas. It was the first time that STIPU, Office of Communities and Ministry of Health worked together in a collaborative community development framework.”*

Only one person was negative about the implementation and delivery of Youth Week 2013 and didn’t feel that the project had much impact in their LHD. Their main criticisms were about the incorporation of sexual health week into Youth Week which (in their opinion) made the project very outcome driven and rushed.

*“The rushed timeframes placed additional pressures and I felt that locally the project had lost its grassroots engagement”.*

It would seem that some LHDs embraced the new model whole-heartily while others didn't.

*"The challenge for us was always going to be how we could maximise the population based approach with equity."*

Despite some of the criticism's listed above there was acknowledgement that Youth Week 2013 had some good high level strategic outcomes such as building a relationship with the Office of Communities. Through this partnership the project had the ability to build on and influence policy at a state-wide level regarding young people and sexual health.

### **Positive outcomes of Youth Week 2013:**

The Youth Forum at Parliament House was nominated as one of the most successful outcomes of Youth Week 2013. (See also Norman Booker's Report of the outcomes of the Youth Week Forum at Appendix 2.)

The Forum was popular on a number of levels; firstly because it provided networking opportunities by bringing young people and those working with youth in from different parts of NSW. Secondly hosting the event at Parliament House and having Ministerial involvement gave it prestige and state-wide significance and thirdly the event's engagement of young people.

*"Every LGA across the state was invited to send a young person to the Forum at NSW Parliament House. This provided a supportive environment for young people to develop their personal skills in the area of sexual health. The objective was for these young people to have their voices heard and to up-skill in the area of sexual health knowledge. These young people were provided with resources and training that would support them in addressing areas of sexual health with their peers when they returned to their own communities."*

*"The Forum worked well at a state-wide level giving an excellent public profile to sexual health issues."*

*"The Forum held in April at Parliament House gave young people a voice that was heard by politicians and policy makers. One of the many outcomes of the Forum is that the sexual health of young people has been included in the State Plan and young people have been invited to sit on the advisory committee to the Ministry of Health on the development of a sexual health website."*

*"The Forum was a good platform for me to meet motivated young people working in my LHD. It has resulted in some good partnerships being developed between youth and sexual health services" [See also Case Study over.]*

While conducting an in-depth interview with Franklin John-Leader (Regional HARP Health Promotion Coordinator, North Coast Public Health) it became evident that there had many positive spin-offs in his LHDs from the initial Youth Forum that was conducted at Parliament House on 3 April 2013. Below is an edited transcript of our discussion.

**Case study: Youth Week 2013 – Mid North Coast and Northern NSW LHDs**

*“From our LHDs perspective, Youth Week activities in 2013 enabled us to meet and work with motivated young people and build stronger partnerships between youth and sexual health services across both LHDs on the North Coast of NSW. The Youth Forum at the Parliament House was a great opportunity to link up with a number of youth representatives from both Mid North Coast (MNC) and Northern NSW (NNSW) LHDs.*

*While I was at the Youth Forum I met two young people - Neil and Phoebe who were actively involved with youth issues in NNSW LHD. Both Neil and Phoebe are super motivated and have lots of energy and want to make positive changes for young people in their communities.*

*Neil is on the Northern Rivers Youth Advisory Council and I asked him to become involved with Positive Adolescent Sexual Health (PASH) Consortium which is a network of over 30 organisations with mandate to improve sexual health and BBI services of young people of Northern NSW. Neil became an active member of PASH and was featured in a short Sexual Health Promotional Video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zut7CuDv7kA> that was produced during ‘Crankfest’ which is a major youth festival run during Youth Week.*

*PASH are also in the process of planning a major Regional Youth Sexual Health Conference in Byron Bay in 2014 and both Phoebe and Neil have a leadership role within the organising committee for the conference.”*

It is apparent that Youth Week 2013 in this LHD resulted in increased:

- Youth participation, leadership and consultation
- Partnership opportunities with local Council’s and other organisations
- Use of social media (settings based approaches)
- Youth engagement in regional NSW

**Areas for improvement of Youth Week 2013:**

*Training of Peer Leader’s (facilitators) for the Forum at Parliament House*

Despite the positive feedback about the Forum, two key informants felt one of the areas for improvement was the training provided to peer leaders who were facilitating sessions at the Parliament House Forum. Both felt that two hours was too little time to up-skill peer leader adequately.

*“The training wasn’t as good as it could have been. It was rushed and two hours wasn’t really enough to provide young people with the skills and confidence to be effective peer leaders. I think they needed more time to develop group work skills.”*

*“It’s important that the peer-leaders get good training so they are well informed and don’t spread misinformation.”*

### *Human resource implications*

Two key informants commented that the project could have been more effectively rolled out in their LHD's if staff leave had not been scheduled and key personnel had not left the Unit. During interviews with key informants there were several examples of human resources being stretched at LHD level during the project planning and implementation with staff sickness, vacancies and leave.

*"We were really short staffed at a critical time during the projects implementation which was a shame."*

*"Lack of coordination – things seemed a bit rushed at times – especially the Grants process."*

Two participants mentioned they had problems locating key contact people to assist with the implementation of Youth Week activities. This resulted in missed opportunities to participate in Youth Week events across some LHDs. There was also a sense that some LHDs had put more effort in than others.

*"It was a shame that some Councils in our LHD were not contacted by the Office of Communities because their contact lists hadn't been updated. This meant that things were rushed, we missed critical dates and people were unable to prepare properly for Youth Week activities. Some Councils were unable to send young people to the Forum because it was too far to travel and they needed more time to locate the right young people to attend."*

*"I don't think all LHDs put in the same amount of effort, personnel or resources into Youth Week this year, and for those who didn't it was a lost opportunity to participate."*

### *Role of young people in resource development*

Another person mentioned that they would like to see young people more involved with the development of sexual health materials and resources in the future.

*"I would like to see the development of resources with a dedicated sexual health message. It would be good if we could use young people to develop the materials."*

### **Feedback on the Youth Grants process:**

One of the areas the SHAC Working Group was keen to seek further feedback on from key informants was the implementation of Youth Week Grants in 2013. Youth seeding grants were introduced at the Sexual Health Forum at Parliament House and young people were encouraged to go back to their communities and begin discussions with other young people and their LGAs (youth development/community development coordinators) about potential projects. This provided an opportunity for young people to strengthen community action and provide supportive environments in the area of sexual health education.

Over half of those interviewed commented that there were some problems with the implementation of Youth Grants in 2013. Many felt the Grants process required better planning as at times it seemed rushed and disorganised. Participants also mentioned that there was confusion around the aims and objectives of the Grants. One participant also mentioned the need to provide greater clarity about the peer-driven nature of projects and another commented on the reduced funding provided for Grants this year.

*"We need to centralise the Grants process - less hands is better. I also think it's important for us to develop clearer aims and objectives for Grants in 2014."*

*"We needed to get organised earlier as there was an element of chaos with the Grants this year even though the quality was high. I think we need to develop better aims and objectives and tighten up the process. I also think we should develop more realistic guidelines for youth workers to engage with young people."*

*"The biggest problem with Youth Week this year was the Grants. I don't believe my colleagues effectively understood the process and the new terms of reference. I think the renewed youth focus is great but next year the process needs to be smoother and better promoted to LGAs."*

*"We need to address the Grants program next year and must to work harder to make sure rural and regional LHDs are better represented."*

*"I think it was a shame that funding was reduced for Grants this year. It wasn't clear to many why this happened and people weren't happy about it."*

### **Role of the SHAC:**

Another area that the SHAC was interested in attaining more information about was the role of the two groups in guiding the implementation of Youth Week activities in 2013.

The vast majority of those interviewed were positive about the role of the SHAC Executive in guiding the development and implementation of Youth Week 2013.

*"I felt very positive about the SHAC. I think HARP, STIPU, YFoundations and Family Planning did a great job in a short amount of time."*

*"I think it was a fantastic effort from all those involved. I felt fully supported and was always aware of what was happening."*

One person reported that the SHAC Executive was very productive and supportive of each other but probably could have provided more support to those on the larger SHAC Working Group.

*"If we had more time we could have made people feel better about the changes that were made."*

There were also some comments about the ambiguity of the role and Terms of Reference of the two SHAC groups. Communication about decision making and governance issues was raised by a couple of participants.

*"There was a lack of clarity about the roles of each group [SHAC Executive/SHAC Working Group] e.g. where decisions were made and if/how consultation happened. I understood that the functions of the smaller group were to be short lived, until the Forum preps were completed. However the group became the project mainstay, thus shutting out others from the decision making processes. Communication about decisions was unclear at times."*

*"It would have been better to have better communication between the two SHAC groups."*

Two participants mentioned they would have liked more regular meetings or teleconferences to be conducted throughout the project so that there was more clarity about the role of LHDs staff particularly with LGAs.

### **Concluding remarks from key informants:**

The vast majority of key informants that were interviewed as part of the evaluation were extremely positive in their concluding comments about Youth Week 2013. Most cited the extended reach of the project and the partnership with the Office of Communities as one of the reasons it had been so successful this year.

*“Fantastic effort from STIPU and the Office of Communities which gave strategic and state-wide support to Youth Week this year. The partnership was particularly effective because it was able to reach young people in rural areas.”*

However there was acknowledgement that better planning, longer time frames and more effective communication between key agencies could assist with achieving better outcomes for Youth Week next year.

*“The idea to combine the two weeks into one was great but the execution was at times rushed and problematic.”*

*“I’m not sure how things could be improved except perhaps establishing better communication channels between agencies especially between the Office of Communities and LGAs.”*

*“State-wide imperatives and local performance requirements are slightly different, despite us working to the same ends. A project like this probably needs to work from both top to bottom and bottom to top to make effective change.”*

One member on the SHAC Working Group was obviously unhappy with the way the project was reorientated and this created some conflict and problems especially around decision making.

*“I think the LHD staff that complained about the implementation of Youth Week in 2013 are well within their right to complain about how decisions are made. But they also need to step up, be solution focused and share some responsibility for tasks.”*

## **2.2 Discussion**

The seven key stakeholder interviews have provided some rich qualitative data on participant’s thoughts on the achievements of Youth Week 2013 and areas for improvement for next year.

It is clear that the vast majority of those interviewed felt the Youth Week partnership was much stronger than it had been in previous years. The extended reach and state-wide scope of the project meant that more young people were exposed to sexual health messages. This was particularly the case in rural areas of NSW.

The opportunity to partner the existing Sexual Health Week with the State-wide Youth Week via the relationship with the NSW Office of Communities provided the HARP and the sexual health promotion sector with an ideal platform to develop a sound health promotion practice model at a population health level. Further, it is an ideal platform for addressing all the principles of the Ottawa Charter.

The Youth Forum which was conducted at Parliament House was a notable success. Attendance by young people and youth workers from the same LHDs facilitated broader collaboration between youth and sexual health services. The Forum also enabled motivated young people to develop on-going partnerships with youth workers specifically around sexual health issues. In this respect it is important that Youth Week activities in the future facilitate contact between young people and other agencies in their jurisdiction.

While the partnership with the Office of Communities extended the reach of the project it was apparent that some information on the contact list was out of date which meant that critical information about Youth Week activities and resources did not reach some LGA contact people. While it is impossible to maintain totally up-to-date lists it is important to note that this may have contributed to reduced youth week activities/outcomes in some LHDs.

It was apparent in key stakeholder interviews that there was some lack of clarity about the roles of the two SHAC committees. In this respect consideration should be given to developing clearer roles of governance between the SHAC Executive and Working Group. This will assist participants and agencies to develop a better understanding of the decision making processes and the tasks and roles of each Committee.

A significant proportion of key informants also felt that the Youth Grants initiative required some reorganisation. It is suggested the aims and objectives are fine tuned to be clearer and more specific. Further clarifying the role of young people in the Grants partnership is also important. Participants also felt that more realistic timeframes needed to be built into the grants application procedure so that things weren't so rushed. Consideration should perhaps also be given to providing more funding for Youth Week Grants in 2014.

## 2.3 Recommendations

The seven key informant interviews provided further in-depth data on the key issues to emerge from the implementation of Youth Week in 2013. The following recommendations emerged from the interviews and provide some points for consideration for the implementation of Youth Week in 2014.

### **1. Continue to include sexual health week in Youth Week 2014**

The vast majority of those interviewed believed that including sexual health week into Youth Week had been a success. Notably the partnership with the Office of Communities had extended the reach of the project especially into rural NSW.

### **2. Conduct more Youth Forum's or networking opportunities**

As noted in the key informant interviews (and Norman Booker's report of the Forum) the Youth Forum at Parliament House was a notable highlight of Youth Week 2013. Although perhaps it is not feasible to conduct one every year, consideration should be given to hosting regional or bi-yearly forums that prioritise sexual health and provide the opportunity for young people and youth services to network.

### **3. Increase quality of training provided to Peer Leader's (facilitators)**

If peer leaders are used in Youth Week activities and/or forums it is important that they receive effective education and skills-based training. In-lieu of comments provided by key informant's consideration should be given to improving the length and quality of the Yfoundations training that was provided to peer leaders in 2013.

#### **4. Clarify and adjust the Grants application process**

One of the most prevalent criticisms of Youth Week 2013 was about the implementation of community Grants process. In this respect it is advisable to revisit the grants process and develop clearer aims and objectives and improve guidelines for the involvement of young people. Consideration should also be given to providing more lead time to apply and execute grants and perhaps make a larger pool of funding available in 2014.

#### **5. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the two SHAC groups**

The roles and responsibilities of the two SHAC groups seemed at times confusing to those involved with the implementation of Youth Week 2013. In this respect consideration should be given to revising the roles and responsibilities of the two groups which would provide clarity on governance and decision making processes.

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## Chapter 3: Quantitative survey questionnaire with SHAC Working Group

### 3. Methodology

In early September a short 10-question survey instrument was designed by the consultant in conjunction with The SHAC. (See **Appendix 5: SHAC Working Group Survey**). The survey sought quantitative and qualitative feedback from members of the Working Group on their thoughts of Youth Week 2013 including; whether it met its objectives, the use and applicability of resources, and the implementation of the new Grants initiative. The questionnaire was hosted on Survey Monkey and responses were anonymous and confidential.

A link to the survey was sent out to 19 members of the Working Group inviting participants to complete the 10 minute survey in the next five working days. A reminder email was sent on day five asking participants who hadn't completed the questionnaire to do so in the next three working days. In total the link was active for eight working days. Data was collected and analysed and has been reported further below.

#### 3.1 Results

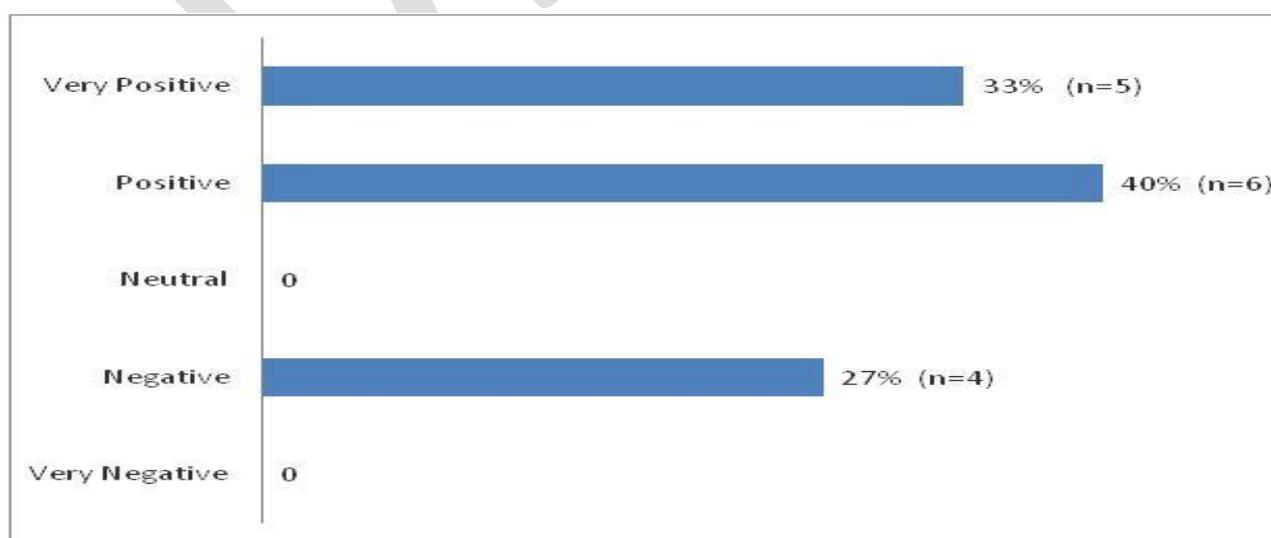
A total of 15 questionnaires were be completed by members of the SHAC Working Group – this is a response rate of 79%.

The length of people's involvement with the implementation of Youth Week or the former Sexual Health Week in the past ranged from one – six years with an average of 3.6 years. Sixty percent of participants reported that they had been involved with Youth Week/Sexual Health Week for over three years suggesting that this group had a long history with implementing Youth Week/Sexual Health Week activities in the past.

##### Overall thoughts on Youth Week 2013:

The first question in the survey asked participants what their overall thoughts were of the Youth Week partnership in 2013 (see Graph 1 below.)

**Graph 1: Overall thoughts on the Youth Week Partnership 2013**

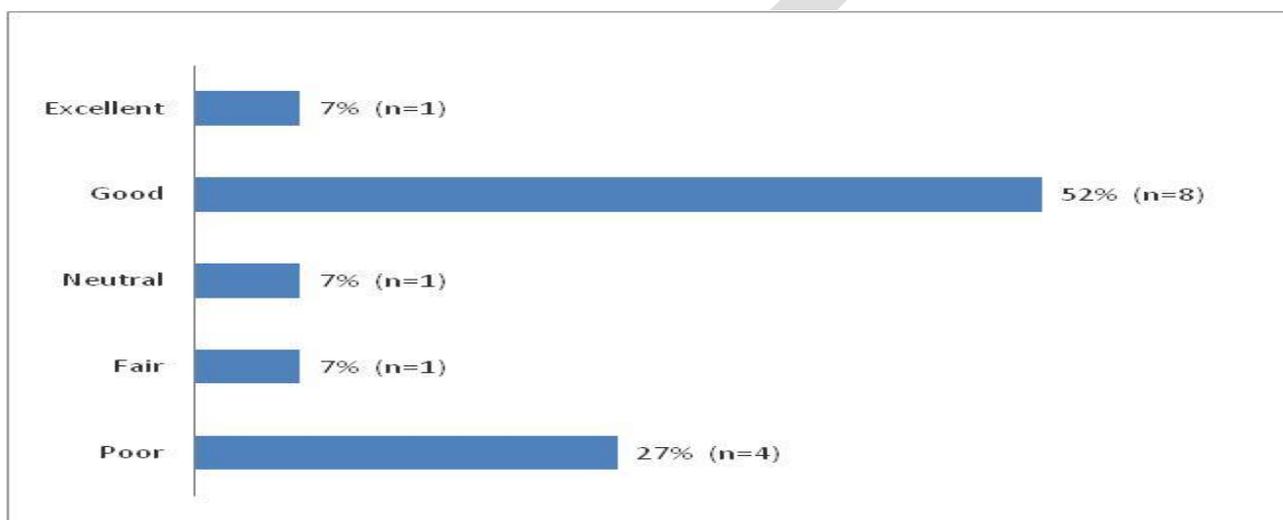


As shown in Graph 1, 73% of participants (n=11) reported that they thought the Youth Week partnership in 2013 was positive to very positive. Just over a quarter of the group reported their experience of the partnership as negative.

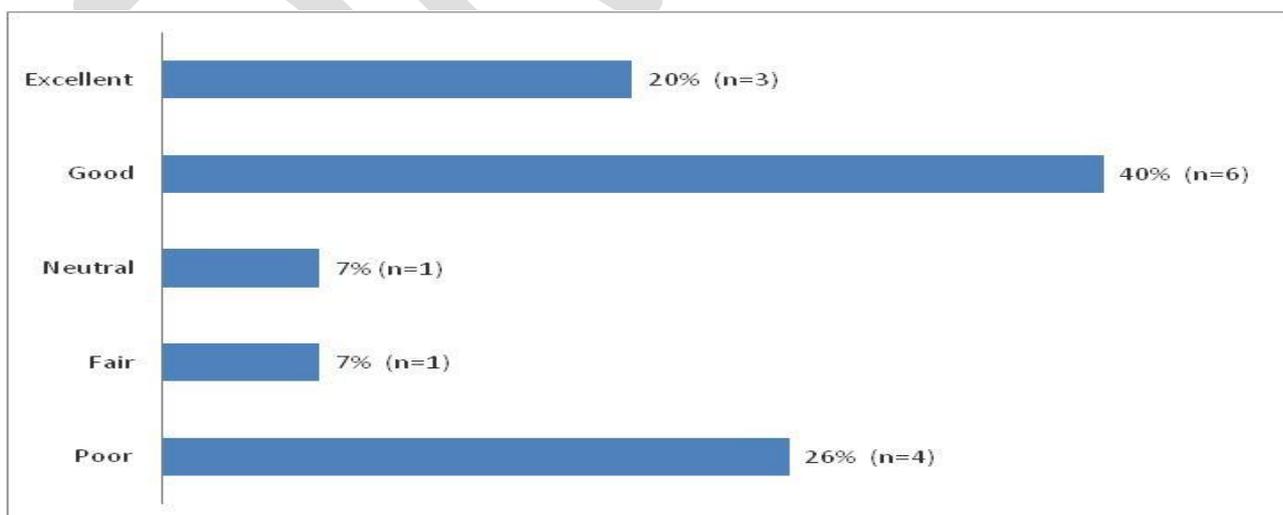
### Achievement of State-wide objectives of Youth Week 2013:

Participants were asked how well Youth Week 2013 met its State-wide objectives. This information has been listed in Graphs 2-5 below.

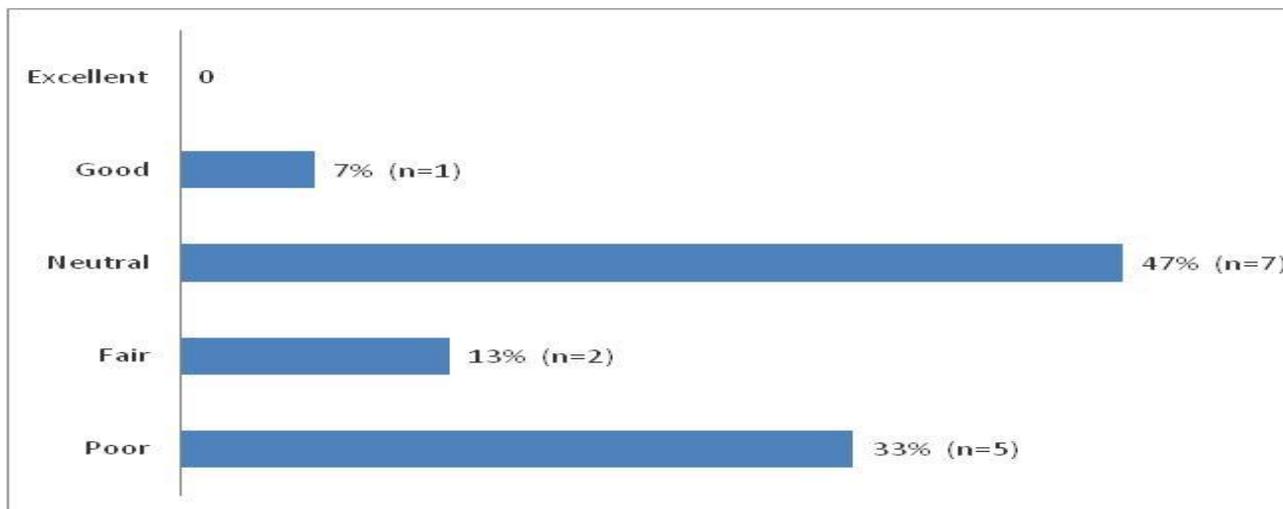
**Graph 2: Increased young people's knowledge of sexual health and STIs**



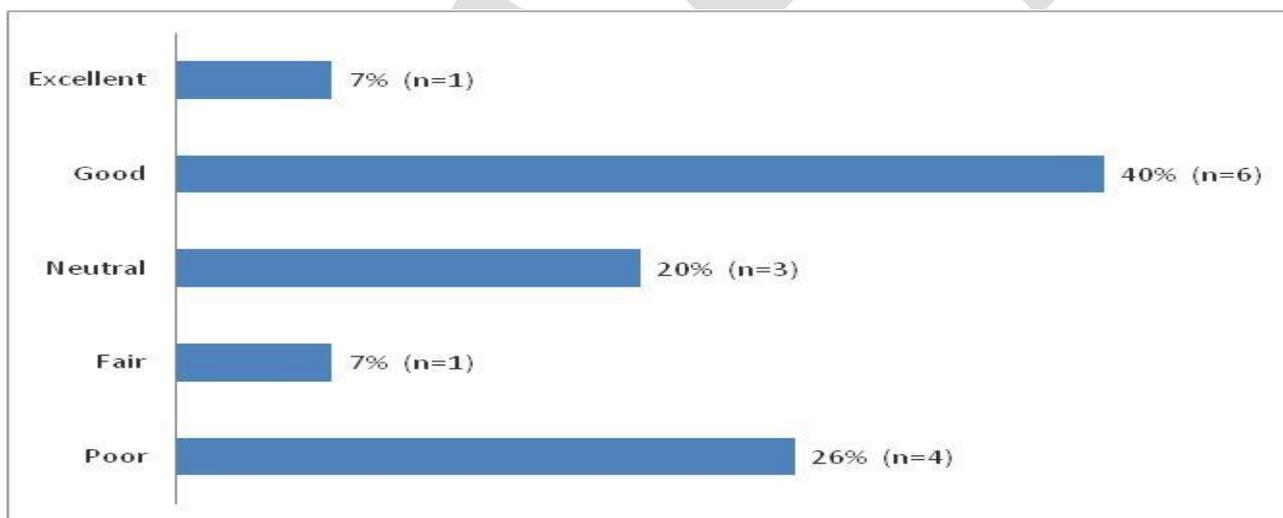
**Graph 3: Increased the capacity of young people to communicate and negotiate about sexual health with peers, community and decision makers**



**Graph 4: Increased STI testing by young people across NSW**



**Graph 5: Increased capacity of LGA staff in NSW to support young people around sexual health**



As shown in Graphs 2-5 participants believed that some of the State-wide objectives of Youth Week 2013 were better met than others.

Sixty percent reported (good-excellent) that Youth Week 2013 had met the first two objectives of increasing young people's knowledge of sexual health and STIs and their capacity to communicate and negotiate about sexual health with their peers, community and decision makers. The remaining 40% reported poor, fair or neutral responses to these two objectives being met.

Objective three, to increase STI testing by young people in NSW was not met. Almost 93% of people reported either a neutral response or poor to fair response to this objective; and only one person believed this objective had been achieved in Youth Week 2013.

The fourth objective relating to increasing the capacity of LGA staff to support young people in NSW around sexual health had mixed responses from those surveyed. Almost half of respondents (47%) reported either good to excellent responses to this question indicating their support for this objective being met. Another 20% of participants reported a neutral response to this question and a further 33% reporting poor-fair - indicating they did not believe this objective had been met during Youth Week 2013.

**Resources, activities and strategies to support Youth Week 2013:**

Survey participants were also asked to comment on which activities, resources and strategies they thought were helpful in their LHDs to support Youth Week 2013. This information has been reported further in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Activities, strategies and resources that were helpful during Youth Week 2013 in your LHD**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Yes % (n)</b>	<b>No % (n)</b>
Youth Forum Parliament House	<b>87</b> (13)	<b>13</b> (2)
Condoms and tins	<b>73</b> (11)	<b>27</b> (4)
Dare to Score Tool	<b>73</b> (11)	<b>27</b> (4)
Little Black Book (LBB) and other resources	<b>67</b> (10)	<b>33</b> (5)
LGA contact list	<b>67</b> (10)	<b>33</b> (5)
Youth Grants Initiative	<b>67</b> (10)	<b>33</b> (5)
Media template	<b>53</b> (8)	<b>47</b> (7)

As can be seen in Table 1, the most popular activity during Youth Week 2013 was the Youth Forum at Parliament House with 87% of participants reporting this had benefited their LHD. The next two most popular resources were the condoms and tins and the Dare to Score Tool, with 73% of participants reporting these had benefited their LHD. The LBB (and other resources), the LGA contact list and the Youth Grants initiatives were reported to have been of benefit to 67% of the sample. The least popular strategy was the media templates with just over 50% of participants stating this was beneficial for their LHD.

Participants were also asked if the Youth Week partnership in 2013 had led to any further collaboration with LGAs and/or young people in their LHD. Approximately half (47%) reported that it had and the remainder reported that it hadn't.

Participants were also provided with the opportunity to provide further information on this collaboration. Eight responses were recorded and have been reported verbatim below:

*"This work is done via the HARP Unit, not directly through me, so it probably has yes, but I have not been personally involved."*

*"Although still requires further communication by HARP it's a good start for LGA youth/community workers to know that HARP staff are willing to support them with SH resources and technical support."*

*"We have had some contact with the local attendees but by the HPO being restricted in meeting them at the Forum it has made it a lot harder to build an ongoing working relationship."*

*"Existing positive working relationships with LGA youth contacts and agencies."*

*"Working with an LGA on a project for which they had a grant. Making contact and knowing who is who at different LGAs is really useful for further collaboration."*

*"A couple of grants were submitted."*

*"Local LGA has their own planning and activities during the Youth Week, so it was very hard to get support for them."*

*"The rushed nature of the youth week program made it difficult to get young people from each of the LGA's in our LHD to attend the Forum. Furthermore, the greatly reduced grants pool meant that there were less youth-led sexual health initiatives than there were under the Sexual Health Week program."*

#### **Helpfulness of the SHAC Executive Committee in supporting Youth Week 2013:**

Participants were also asked to indicate how supportive they thought the SHAC Executive Committee had been in supporting them during the implementation of Youth Week 2013. The SHAC Executive Committee consisted of members from HARP SESLHD/NSLHD, STIPU, Yfoundations and Family Planning NSW. This Committee made many of the governing decisions on the implementation of the Youth Week 2013 project.

The vast majority of respondents (73%) reported that the SHAC had been helpful to very helpful during Youth Week 2013. A further 13% felt that the SHAC had been somewhat helpful and 7% reported the SHAC hadn't been helpful at all. One person reported a neutral response to this question.

#### **Feedback on the new Grant's Initiative:**

Participants were also asked to provide their thoughts about the new Grant's process that had been implemented this year. From discussions with HARP staff and those interviewed for the Youth Week 2013 Evaluation it is my understanding the Grant's process was reorientated to be youth driven and incorporate a broader health promotion perspective (See also **Appendix 3 – Youth Week 2013 Grant Application**).

In the Survey, all participants indicated that they had promoted the Grants Initiative in their LHD and almost half (47%) indicated that had assisted someone in their LHD with a Grant application.

Participants were also asked how the Grants process could be improved in 2014. Eleven participants (73%) provided feedback to this question which has been reported verbatim below. Participant's comments have been grouped together to provide an overview of the general themes to emerge.

Over 40% of participants reported that the Youth Week Grants required clearer aims and objectives and further clarification of the role of young people:

*"The objectives of the grants could be more clearly defined so that an even stronger emphasis on young people being central to them is highlighted."*

*"Better terms of reference (aims specific to the grants) and coaching for young people."*

*"The process needs to be clearer and with more time I think that this will be smoothed out. Also there was confusion over who could apply and who a mentor was."*

*"Earlier and clearer in who exactly could apply and roll of 'supporter' 'coach'."*

*"2013 was targeting young people to lead the grants application and current version requires a proper evaluation. I do not think any school goer or young person has the capacity to understand proper evaluation process without proper support. When it is only young led project, individual organisations are not keen to support the way the SHAC was expecting."*

There were some concerns raised about the funding provided for the community Grants component of Youth Week.

*"More funds, this year we had less than 1/2 the amount of previous years."*

*"A larger quantity of the budget needs to be directed to the grants – this increases local participation in the state-wide message."*

Several comments also mentioned the need for longer timeframes and one participant mentioned that STIPU should have been included on the Grants selection panel:

*"Longer timeframes."*

*"I think it was all a bit rushed as there were other constraints and with more time to organise this is a good model especially as it has an emphasis on being youth led."*

*"Judging panel to include STIPU. Develop, distribute and communicate selection procedures and plans well in advance within the selection panel and key parties."*

The comment over seems to sum up many of the issues related to the Grants process that were raised by participants.

*"I think better engagement with LGA youth contacts to allow for an improved partnership model will assist in LGAs' ownership of program, and engagement with grants program. Clearer and simpler information and guidelines for young people. Clearer objectives for the grants component of the program. Increased funding to support greater number of youth projects in broader range of locations for greater reach. Clearer delineation of roles between young people, youth agencies and HARP units. Improved structure for the Youth Week Partnership."*

#### **Final comments on Youth Week 2013:**

Participants were also offered the opportunity to provide any further comments about their experience of the Youth Week 2013 partnership. A total of twelve people (80%) provided feedback which has been quoted verbatim below. Responses have been grouped according to the themes they raised.

One third of surveyed participants had positive concluding comments to say about the implementation and achievements of Youth Week 2013.

*"Great opportunity and makes sense with the numbers of young people engaged."*

*"I think the partnership with the LGAs is a great idea, widespread and brings sexual health into the realm of normality rather than being on the freaky fringe."*

*"I think that given the circumstances during the year the committees and the roll out was very successful."*

*"I think it has really increased the reach for LHDs to collaborate with LGA, great opportunity to partner with such a positive and proactive organisation as Office of Communities. The mechanism and thinking behind the way the small SHAC and the extended SHAC working group was not fully understood by a lot of the staff despite it being discussed at length at several Senior HPO meetings and through emails. A challenge is how to ensure that people who are communicated with actually really understand what is being proposed. Some LHD staff seemed really resistant and reluctant to even try another way and this at times caused a lot of the focus of the SHAC to be on discussing things about change and distracted from focusing on the actual partnership project. Overall I think the outcomes of the project were great and the process was average due to quite a few factors beyond the control of the committee."*

Some of the problem areas of Youth Week 2013 identified by respondents include: confusion about decision making processes and management issues, (see also comment above), appropriate planning and rushed timeframes. These were mentioned by a quarter of respondents.

*"I think the haste with which the partnership activity was undertaken due to external time frame issues resulted in a poor program structure, which negatively impacted the partnership, and program outcomes. The open discussion and resolution of these issues would allow for the improvement of the partnership model, and success of program initiatives."*

*"Stronger commitment from senior LHD staff across NSW for the project. This would allow for sharing of project tasks, including planning, implementation and evaluation. Much work was left to a small number of people that did a lot of work in a very short time."*

*"LGAs should have been on board, so the purpose of the project would (be) met by getting more local young people involved."*

Approximately 17% of participants felt that it was difficult to comment on the whether or not Youth Week 2013 had achieved its objectives.

*“Responding to the success of the projects objectives earlier in this survey is very difficult as they are big & broad. I think my answer to them would have been more positive if they related to the forum attendee only. But I found it impossible to answer positively in thinking about the whole state, & all young people.”*

*“It is difficult to answer some of the impact questions as we haven’t yet received an evaluation. And questions such as ‘did it increase testing across NSW’, can’t be answered until we have seen data.”*

### 3.2 Discussion

On the whole there was majority support for the roll-out and achievements of Youth Week 2013 from those on the wider SHAC Working Group. Almost three quarters of respondents rated their overall experience of the week as either positive or very positive. Essentially those that were positive about the project reported that the reach was much wider than previous years; and the opportunity to partner with the Office of Families and Communities also provided the prospect of stronger collaborations and health promotion partnerships.

However, there was a core group of participants (27%) who were critical of a number of aspects of the project and rated their experience negatively. Many of their concerns seemed to be about how decisions were made on the SHAC Executive Committee particularly about reorientating Sexual Health Week into Youth Week. There was also criticism of the revised Grants initiative and displeasure at the lack of funding provided in the Grants program (which was less than previous years). It was evident in some of the comments that there was some resistance from participants to change from the way things had been done in the past.

Despite there being strong support for the outcomes of Youth Week 2013, approximately a quarter of participants expressed concern that the organisation was at times confusing and rushed. Human resource implications such as staff leave, illness and vacancies resulted in some aspects of the project not running as smoothly as it could have at both the SHAC level and in some LHDs. Some of this could be addressed through appropriate planning, realistic timetabling and the implementation of more transparent governance and decision making processes on the SHAC Executive Committee. Also it needs to be acknowledged that human resource issues such as vacant positions not being filled and staff absences due to leave and illness are challenges that impact on the planning and implementation of projects governed by a committee.

Probably the biggest criticism of Youth Week 2013 came from the implementation of the new Grants program. Forty percent of participants commented that there was a lack of clarity about the aims and objectives of the Grants and confusion about the role of young people within the Grants process. A significant proportion of participants also commented that the Grant’s process seemed rushed and disorganised. A quarter of comments from respondents were critical about less money being made available this year, especially since the Grants had been a popular component of Youth Week in the past.

The survey results suggested some mixed outcomes with regard to achieving the Youth Week 2013 objectives. Whereas as sixty percent of respondents were positive about the project meeting its first two objectives – increasing young people’s knowledge of sexual health and STIs and their capacity to communicate and negotiate about sexual health with their peers, community and decision makers; there was a significant proportion of the group who felt these objectives hadn’t been met.

Participant responses relating to achieving objectives three and four were even more confusing to interpret. This suggests they had not been adequately met or perhaps they were not even measurable?

Most participants reported that many of the activities, resources and strategies in Youth Week 2013 had benefited their LHDs. The most popular event was the Youth Forum that was conducted at Parliament House in April. Almost all respondents (87%) reported that this event had benefited their LHD. Almost three quarters of participants reported that condoms and tins and the Dare to Score Card (73%) were useful; and just over two thirds of participants reported that the Little Black Book and the LGA contact list had benefitted their LHD. The least valuable resource for LHDs was the Media template with just over half those surveyed saying this was useful.

### 3.3 Recommendations

In exploring the qualitative data and describing the salient themes that emerged from the SHAC Working Group survey, six key recommendations can be easily identified for this component of the evaluation. (Please note recommendations 1, 3, 5 and 6 are similar to recommendations from Chapter’s 2 and 3.)

#### **1. Maintain the inclusion of Sexual Health Week into Youth Week**

While it needs to be acknowledged that a core group of participants were not happy with the inclusion of Sexual Health Week events being incorporated into Youth Week, the extended reach of the project and the relationship with the Office of Communities was an obvious success

#### **2. Revise the objectives of Youth Week 2014 so that they can be effectively measured**

It is clear that some of the objectives of Youth Week 2013 were either not met or able to be measured. In this respect careful attention should be paid next year to revising the objectives and ensuring they are also able to be measured effectively.

#### **3. Conduct more Youth Forums**

The Youth Forum at Parliament House in Sydney was an obvious highlight of Youth Week 2013. While it may not be practical to organise such an event every year, consideration should be given to running regional forums or perhaps conducting a big Forum in Parliament House every two years.

#### **4. Maintain the production of resources**

Resources such as condoms were also popular amongst those surveyed and should continue to be available in future years.

#### **5. Clarify and adjust the Grants application process**

One of the most prevalent criticisms of Youth Week 2013 was about the implementation of community Grants process. In this respect it is advisable to revisit the grants process and develop clearer aims and objectives and improve guidelines for the involvement of young people. Consideration should also be given to providing more lead time to apply and execute grants and perhaps make a larger pool of funding available in 2014.

#### **6. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the two SHAC groups**

The roles and responsibilities of the two SHAC groups seemed at times confusing to those involved with the implementation of Youth Week 2013. In this respect consideration should be given to revising the roles and responsibilities of the two groups which would provide clarity on governance and decision making processes.

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## Chapter 4: Local Government Agency (LGA) Acquittal Survey Form

### 4. Methodology

At the conclusion of the Youth Week 2013 each LGA (153) was required to complete an Acquittal Report on their sexual health activities across Youth Week. This included several evaluation questions on the “Check it Out” sexual health resources distributed as a component of the partnership; and their experience of support received from their local Sexual Health Service (SHS). Sexual Health Service refers to either the Local Harp Unit Health Promotion Team, or in absence of a participating HARP Health Promotion Team, a representative from either FPNSW or YFoundations.

The questions were answered by employees from the LGAs, including community development officers, youth development officers and youth workers. The feedback questions were focused on: participation in the Youth Week Forum; the use of sexual health resources, individual LGA experience of support from SHS using a five point Likert scale (Very valuable, Useful, Useful but limited, Not helpful at all and No contact as the choices); and the last question was an open-ended question that prompted suggestions for improving support for sexual health information dissemination. (See **Appendix 6 Acquittal Survey Form.**)

Detailed feedback about the Youth Week 2013 project was sought from 153 LGAs that are located within 15 Local Health Districts (LHDs) across NSW. The following section of the report documents the analysis, both quantitative and qualitative of the feedback from each LHD. Quantitative data was collated in relation to the number of LGAs reporting involvement in the Youth Forum; the proportions of resources used across the LHDs and experience of support provided by SHSs’ according to the Likert scale outlined above. The qualitative data was examined across and within each LHD boundary using thematic analysis, and the themes that emerged were then explored and grouped according to LHD.

### 4.1 Results

A total of 138 Local Councils responded to the five-question Acquittal Survey Form – this is a response rate of 90%, which is on par with the response rate from the previous year (2012).

#### **Attendance at the 2013 Youth Week Forum:**

The 2013 Youth Week Forum comprised of a number of activities including two structured small group sessions that involved participants discussing key themes and issues related to sexual health. The Office of Communities organised and paid for all young people who attended, and under 16 year olds were provided with a chaperone as needed. Each LHD was represented at the Youth forum and of the 138 councils that provided feedback approximately 30% (n=41) had a young person in attendance at the Forum. The overwhelming feedback from those in attendance at the Forum reported that it was a great success, with an opportunity to learn and network.

In relation to the 70% who were unable to send a young person to represent them, the barriers most often reported were in relation to geographical isolation/travel issues and scheduling of the Forum conflicting with school attendance requirements such as exams:

*“It was very short notice and held in school hours. All YAC members attend high school and none of them felt confident in travelling to Sydney alone.”* [Hunter New England: Gunnedah Shire Council]

*"It was discussed with the Committee, but distance and travel times were an issue."*  
[Murrumbidgee: Upper Lachlan Shire Council]

*"I nominated two Young People, but neither could attend due to SRC camp and exams. We would need months of notice to organise someone to go all the way to Sydney, especially during such a busy part of term."* [Southern NSW: Snowy River Shire Council]

Another fairly common theme among respondents was that there appeared to be a lack of interest shown by those young people approached and/or that the focus/content of the forum was "challenging", which was also a theme expressed in the Acquittal reports of 2012:

*"There was no interest from any young person approached."* [Mid-North Coast: Nambucca Shire Council]

*"Lack of interest from Young People that were approached. The topic of sexual health made a lot of people uncomfortable and they were not confident to attend a forum based on this topic."* [Western NSW: Parkes Shire Council]

Overall, reports from those in attendance at the Forum suggest it was an interesting and valuable day – as described in the first section of the report. An opportunity to provide feedback on the experience of those who attended was not provided in the Acquittal form. For those unable to attend it was apparent that with improvement in coordination, timetabling and communication regarding transport and chaperone support, levels of attendance could increase.

#### **Support from local Sexual Health Services (SHS):**

All LHD HARP Units (except Hunter New England, Far West and Western NSW LHDs- some of the LGAs in these LHDs were supported by representatives from FPNSW or YFoundations) were expected to make contact with the local LGAs to let them know they were the key contact for sexual health events and where able offer support and send out resources. Feedback in relation to how useful they had found their local sexual health service (SHS) during Youth Week was provided by 136 LGAs across the LHDs. An increase of 20 LGAs, compared with the previous year (2012) reported having contact with their Sexual Health Service and 46% overall found their contact useful. Forty-five percent of LGAs responding to the survey reported having had no contact with their SHS and 8% provided an "other" response.

Of the two LGAs representing the Central Coast LHD, only one provided a response and found that contact with their SHS to have been "Useful but limited".

Five of the six LGAs from Far West NSW LHD responded regarding support from their Sexual Health Service. Two reported they had "No contact", a further two found the contact they had to be "Useful but limited" and one had experience of:

*"Ongoing support when requested - not just in Youth Week."* [Far West: Broken Hill City Council]

Among the 27 LGAs covered by the Hunter New England LHD, 85% (23) provided a response and overwhelmingly reported that there had been "No contact". Feedback provided some indication that having no links with local SHS had been an issue, compounded by distance from services:

*"We don't know who our local sexual health service person is. They are probably located in Taree, which is 40mins drive away."* [Hunter New England: Great Lakes Council]

There was however, some indication of positive experiences in Hunter New England, with two local councils reporting their contact to have been “Very valuable”:

*“For some reason a number of Youth Week emails never reached me. Without our contact person I would not have known about the event - or been able to send two of our MYAT kids. So for that reason I found it very useful”* [Hunter New England: Greater Taree City Council]

Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD had mostly useful contact with their SHS and feedback seems to indicate that this was a result of good links.

Similarly Mid North Coast LHD had positive interactions with their SHS:

*“Very valuable - the sexual health worker assisted with the forum and has made further contact with regards to assisting with other sexual health matters and programs in the area”* [Mid North Coast: Bellingen Shire Council]

Murrumbidgee was the LHD with the largest number of LGAs covered and with an 84% response rate to the Acquittal Survey Form. However, feedback indicated that there had been little contact between LGAs and the SHS in the area. A total of 22 of the 27 LGAs indicated that they had “No contact” with the SHS:

*“No contact with them - local sexual health contact unknown to Council.”* [Murrumbidgee: Cootamundra Shire Council]

Nepean Blue Mountains LHD had a mixed experience with their contacts with the SHS: With four of the six LGAs reporting a useful or “Very valuable” experience with their SHS.

Northern NSW LHDs had mostly a “Useful but limited” contact with their SHS (four of the seven LGAs).

Northern Sydney LHD had a varied experience with the more than half the LGAs having “Useful but limited” contact or “No contact” and the remainder having either a “Valuable” or Very valuable” contact with their SHS:

*“There was an information booth set up at Shorefest run by the NSW Health Promotion Team. There was sexual health information available including free condoms”* [North Sydney: Hornsby Shire Council]

*“Our Youth Week activities are always conducted in strong partnership with our local sexual health service contact person.”* [North Sydney: Ku-ring-gai Council]

South Eastern Sydney LHD had a mostly positive experience with their SHS:

*“St George Youth Services, who oversee sexual health projects in the area, were extremely helpful with organising and managing both events.”* [South East Sydney: Kogarah City Council]

South Western Sydney LHD similarly had positive things about their engagement with their SHS:

*“CYC and Camden Council staff have a strong partnership with the Local Sexual Health and Youth Health Service - Traxside. We also have strong partnership with HARP and The Health Promotion Team at Liverpool.”* [South West Sydney: Camden Council]

However, it is apparent that this is influenced by location to service provision as reported by Wingecarribee Shire Council below:

*“Not helpful at all - there is no sexual health service in Wingecarribee. Traxside based in Campbelltown isn't funded to extend their services to Wingecarribee Region. Headspace Campbelltown was invited to participate at events in area but did not attend.”* [South West Sydney: Wingecarribee Shire Council]

Sydney LHD had one LGA indicate that they had a “Very valuable” experience with their SHS; while the other six LGAs reported having “Useful but limited”, “No Contact” and one reporting “Not helpful at all” :

*“It was unclear as to the role of the sexual health contact person in supporting Youth Week 2013. As such, the contact person did not provide any assistance with the planning, delivery or evaluation of the Youth Week Activities.”* [South West Sydney: Canterbury Shire Council]

Feedback from the Western Sydney LHD was varied. One LGA reported it had a “Very valuable” experience with their SHS, while two others reported they had a “Useful but limited” contact and one reporting having “No contact”. The comments largely reflected a lack of engagement with the SHS.

In South Western NSW LHD there was principally “No contact” between the LGAs and the SHS:

*“No contact with them - last year they were great, we didn't think about contacting them this year and they didn't contact us.”* [South Western NSW: Queanbeyan City Council]

Similarly Western NSW LHD had over half of their LGAs reporting “No Contact” with their local SHS. However, for those LGAs who did make contact (39%) reported it was a “Very valuable” experience:

*“The local sexual health organisations should be commended for their willingness to be involved and the extra length that they want to get involved in Youth Week activities. Both services and the YAC are committed to continue to work together.”* [Western NSW: Dubbo City Council]

An increased number of LGAs reported contact with their SHS than the previous year (2012). Of those that made contact with their SHS, feedback about that involvement was largely positive – this suggests that any efforts to strengthen the contact between LGAs and SHSs would be of significant benefit to the sustainability of the project.

#### **Use of Sexual Health Resources:**

A number of resources were developed to support Youth Week 2013 and were made available to LHDs. The resources included wristbands, condoms, condom tins and “Little Black Books”. Every LGA was sent a youth worker support pack, this included information about ordering specific resources and a contact person at the Local Health District HARP Unit or YFoundations and FPNSW in HNE, Far West and Western NSW LHDs. Information was also included on how to use the resources with young people, with a list of relevant websites that contained sexual health education and information. All LGAs received wristbands, which could be used for events and festivals, the wristbands had a link to the “Dare to Score” website. The dare to score website is a NSW Health online sexual health tool. The wristbands were appropriate for all ages; however it was up to the discretion of each LGA how they used the other resources.

Every LHD HARP Health Promotion Unit (except Hunter New England and Far West NSW) were sent the condoms, Little Black Books and Chlamydiastic games for distribution to local LGAs where requested. They were also sent a contact list of the key person to contact at the local LGA regarding Youth week.

Of those that provided feedback, 67% (n=93) of LGAs reported using the sexual health resources provided to them – most commonly the wristband. This result echoed feedback from the previous year (2012), whereby wristbands seemed to have the dual purpose of acting as confirmation of entry as well as carrying the sexual health message. Outlined below is the variety of ways in which resources were used across Youth Week:

- Wristbands being used as a method of ID for entry to various Youth Week events and as give-aways
- General resources were handed out to participants at events, given to local services, put into packs and show bags for participants
- Resources were also provided at workshops and as a discussion point to begin conversations with young people about safe sexual practices

On average each Local Health District received 1,000 condoms (range 600-1,200), 1,100 condom tins (range 500-3,000) and 514 “Little Black Books” (range 300-1,200). Information and comments collected from LGAs that did order resources, including condoms, Little Black Books and Condom Tins, suggests that these resources were perceived to be very useful:

*“Little Black Books, Condoms and Condom Tins – extremely, young people loved the tins with condom insides.”* [Mid North Coast: Nambucca Shire Council]

*“Little Black Books, Condoms and Condom Tins - yes, these resources were useful and are always well received by young people.”* [North Sydney: Ku-ring-gai Shire Council]

The following comments also provide some insights into how the resources were used to engage young people in conversations about their sexual health:

*“Used them by discussing with interested Young People about the message and also gave out to lots of Young People.”* [Murrumbidgee: Greater Hume Shire Council]

There was some feedback that indicated that some LGAs were not aware that they could order resources from their LHDs, and that they would have found them useful:

*“No - was not aware these resources were available and would definitely have ordered some.”* [Central Coast LHD: Gosford Shire Council]

A further theme that emerged among those LGAs that chose not to order resources relates to concerns about their appropriateness for young people aged below 13 years:

*“We chose not to do so as most of the Youth Week events were attended by 12-14yr olds & sometimes younger children, we decided handing out these resources would not be appropriate.”* [Mid North Coast: Port Macquaire-Hastings Council]

*“No - as there were concerns regarding the age and cultural background of participants. The target 12-24yrs encompasses wide life experiences and variable levels of parental supervision.”* [South East Sydney: Rockdale City Council]

Those LGAs who did not use the resources reported that the reasons they weren't provided was that resources had either arrived too late to be used within Youth Week, or that young people did not show an interest in them, this echoes a small amount of feedback from the previous year. However, for those LGAs making use of the range of resources available the feedback was very positive as evidenced in the following quote:

*"This was received and used to help open the communication lines with young people as well as provide some education and reference material for young people attending the activities."*  
[Mid North Coast: Bellingen Shire Council]

### **Improving Support for Sexual Health in Local Government Areas:**

When asked what suggestions LGAs had in relation to improving support for sexual health in their area a total of 75% of respondents (n=103) provided a detailed response.

Overall there were six major themes that emerged across the LHDs and these included:

- 1. Increase the number/type of activities and funding to support these events**
- 2. Having Youth Week "on the agenda" in their LGA, improves outcomes and levels of satisfaction**
- 3. Continue to improve partnerships and connectivity**
- 4. Continue to promote sexual health information pathways/representatives**
- 5. Improve the quality/variety and amount of resources**
- 6. Balance the focus within Youth Week beyond sexual health**

Themes derived from the data indicate that most respondents felt that sexual health support could be improved by an increased number of activities, and funding allocated to support them. As well as continuing to foster partnerships across schools, health services, with youth and LGA workers. The response from Central Coast LHD and Far West NSW LHD was focused on the importance of activities:

*"Minor extra funding to deliver a Youth Forum/workshop that is dedicated to sexual health, drugs and alcohol aimed at Young People 15yrs +. This would be a separate event to the NYW activities as it would not be inclusive of the 12-24 age group."* [Far West NSW: Wentworth Shire Council]

The two LGAs within the Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD spoke of the importance of their partnerships in their positive experience of Youth Week 2013:

*"We have an excellent relationship with the South Eastern Illawarra Area Health Service and in particular the HARP Unit and have developed many joint projects together especially during Youth Week. We intend in continue the partnership & provide programs & activities."*  
[Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD: Kiama Shire Council]

Feedback from Hunter New England LHD was relatively evenly spread across the 22 LGAs that responded, with most agreeing that more activities would be useful and that improvement in coordination and building partnerships would assist the project:

*"Greater contact and specific activities to age appropriate young people."* [Hunter New England: Armidale Dumaresq Shire Council]

There were also three LGAs (again within Hunter New England LHD) that indicated that the Youth Week event should be split from sexual health as a focus as they felt it competed with the youth messages and other related topics such as mental health:

*"I do not believe that Youth Week should be associated with Sexual Health. This should be its own promotion due to the seriousness of Sexual Health for young people in Lake Macquarie. The promotion of one event shadowed the message of the other."* [Hunter New England: Lake Macquarie Shire Council]

In South Eastern Sydney LHD feedback indicated that the focus on sexual health may have been to the detriment to other issues:

*"Trying to do it in Youth Week is difficult. There is already so much going on, however through continued support of local youth services & their peer educator program I think there are plenty of opportunities to deliver sexual health information throughout the year."* [South Eastern Sydney: Kogarah Shire Council]

A number of LGA's in the Murrumbidgee LHD echoed this sentiment. However, the reasons given were that they often felt ill-equipped to address sexual health issues:

*"As the ages of the Young People we provide Youth Week activities for can vary considerably (12 - 20 years) it can be challenging distributing sexual health information."* [Murrumbidgee: Corowa Shire Council]

*"The delivery of sexual health info shouldn't be the role of Local Government. The resources would be of much better use to the local high schools as they are trained educators and the more appropriate vessel for delivering this information."* Murrumbidgee: Upper Lachlan Shire Council]

The reason for some of these expressed concerns may have been addressed by improved coordination of the event and communication about the resources and supports that were available:

*"The delivery of sexual health info to Young People and workers in our LGA could be better supported in 2014 through early communication with the Youth Activities Officer prior to Youth Week to arrange for delivery of resources and/or speeches/workshops within the timeframe."* [Northern NSW: Byron Shire Council]

For the Nepean Blue Mountains LHD the theme expressed unanimously was that strong partnerships assisted the project and that increasing these support networks would be beneficial for the future:

*"Enhanced communication through Council's youth health focused networks."* [Nepean Blue Mountains: Blue Mountains Shire Council]

*"Maybe a worker could attend the Youth Council meetings in local areas prior to Forums/Youth Week events."* [Nepean Blue Mountains LHD: Lithgow Shire Council]

Established partnerships such as those experienced within the Nepean Blue Mountains LHD could be an approach that might work elsewhere. In Northern NSW LHD the lack of partnerships and coordination were identified as being areas for improvement:

*“The delivery of sexual health info to Young People and workers in our LGA could be better supported in 2014 through early communication with the Youth Activities Officer prior to Youth Week to arrange for delivery of resources and/or speeches/workshops within the timeframe.”* [Northern NSW: Byron Shire Council]

*“A presence throughout the year and a concerted effort to participate in local events would raise the profile of the local sexual health service.”* [Northern NSW: Kyogle Shire Council]

In Northern Sydney LHD most reports were extremely positive and attributed the success of Youth Week 2013 to the partnerships that had already been established:

*“Good working relationship/partnership with health services and direct service providers.”* [North Sydney: Pittwater Council]

More resources with varied messages/approaches were identified across the LHDs with feedback such as:

*“More 'on the spot' representation with info packs and handouts targeting Young People that is done in a fun, interactive way.”* [Southern NSW: Eurobodella Shire Council]

Overall the data indicates the importance for good planning and coordination, strong partnerships and support through accessible resources and infrastructure that facilitates participation. Where these elements had been sufficiently attended to, it is clear in the feedback that the project was a wonderful success for all those involved.

## 4.2 Discussion

The quality of the qualitative feedback data demonstrates a positive level of engagement in the Youth Week project by LGAs and provides useful insights for improving the way the project is supported. Comprehensive coordination between stakeholders and good communication, specifically with an identified sexual health worker appears to be a key indicator for those having a positive experience throughout Youth Week. In some cases in spite of proximity to major centres (those LHDs that represent the Sydney metropolitan area), lack of coordination and/or adequate partnerships with SHSs meant the difference between LGAs feeling adequately supported.

Where LGAs had an already established network that included schools, community groups and SHSs the feedback was extremely positive for the project. High levels of connectedness meant that resources were utilised, events were well coordinated with the key sexual health messages and young people were engaged. Some basic issues such as timetabling (school-related commitments clashing with the Youth forum) would be easily addressed with improved coordination and strong partnerships – perhaps even localising some mini-forums in regional/rural areas to ensure better access.

The qualitative data also indicates that while sexual health issues may be perceived as a challenge to raise/explore with young people, those LGAs who felt supported by their SHS were less likely to be apprehensive. Clarity around whether there should be different approaches/messages/resources according to age categories may also assist LGAs in feeling more confident in engaging young people and pitching sexual health messages appropriately.

### 4.3 Recommendations

In exploring the qualitative data and describing the salient themes that emerged, four key recommendations can be easily identified from the Acquittal Form Survey data:

**1. Continue to improve communication and coordination**

Where LGAs were provided adequate information, in advance, and knew what was on offer in terms of resources, there appears to have been significantly better engagement and involvement in the event

**2. Emphasise the variety of sexual health information mechanisms offered throughout Youth Week**

Highlighting the variety of sexual health information resources and supports that are available throughout Youth Week can increase the confidence of LGAs running events and engaging young people.

**3. Hold smaller forums in multiple locations to combat issues of travel/geographical location**

Improving engagement in events and the youth forum in particular may have been enhanced by holding smaller forums in regional/rural areas, with the potential for video link-up with the forum held in Sydney.

**4. Consider a more targeted/tailored campaign given the age range**

Concerns outlined in relation to the broad age range covered by Youth Week and the appropriateness of sexual health messages may be addressed by tailoring resources/support to assist LGAs and their individual profiles of young people in their area.

## Appendix 1 – Youth Week Forum Evaluation

### 2013 Youth Week Forum Forum Participant Feedback

#### Report on the Post-Event Survey

Report prepared by Norman Booker

##### *Background*

On Wednesday 3 April 2013 a one-day youth forum was held at Parliament House Sydney. Planned and hosted by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and the Sexual Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) in the lead up to Youth Week 2013, the Forum brought together young people from across the state nominated by the Local Government Area Youth Week Committees to engage in an exchange of information and ideas around the theme *Addressing the Rise in STIs*. As well as the young people invited to attend the Forum participants from the SHAC partnership of NSW STIPU, LHD HARP Health Promotion Teams, Family Planning NSW, Yfoundations and Healthy Cities Illawarra also attended.

The objectives for the Forum, identified in the project brief, were to:

- provide a platform for young people to come together to voice their thoughts, experiences and opinions on sexual health issues
- provide a range of activities, discussions and workshops that build young people's advocacy skills in relation to sexual health
- provide a platform for young people to meet local contacts and service providers
- equip young people with a range of sexual health resources and tools to take back to their local communities
- provide a space where policy makers and health professionals listen to young people's thoughts, experiences and opinions on sexual health issues.

##### *Participant Feedback*

At the conclusion of the event participants were invited to participate in an online survey seeking feedback on their impressions of the Forum. A flyer about the survey (*copy attached*) was also included in the information folders distributed to participants on registration.

Several hours after the event participants were sent an email with details of the survey and a link to the online site. Over each of the following four days a reminder email was sent to those who had not to date responded with a final reminder six days after the event. The survey was deactivated after it had been live for one week.

A total of 81 invitations to participate were emailed out to participants registered for the Forum. Three email addresses were either defunct or inoperative. Of the remaining 78 email addresses responses were received from 49 participants representing a 63% response rate. This is gratifyingly high and coupled with the range and quality of the feedback offered indicates a strong level of engagement among the young people attending the Forum.

### *Structure and Content of the Survey*

The online instrument included multiple choice matrix questions, open-ended responses and rating scales. It comprised ten questions and could be completed online in less than 15 minutes. The survey was anonymous (email addresses were de-identified from the responses) and although respondents were invited to send in separately any other feedback or queries no additional content was received.

The survey began with three questions seeking minimal biographical information — age, place of residence (*town/suburb/city*) and Local Government Area represented.

Participants were asked at Question 4 how easy or not it had been for them to attend the event — *arranging time to attend; travelling to the venue; being clear on what to expect of the day*.

Question 5 sought feedback on how useful the day had been in terms of learning new information about sexual health and STIs — *how young people can stay sexually healthy; the risks associated with STIs; sexual health services available to young people; ways to talk with my peers about sexual health issues*. For each of these respondents were asked to choose one response from — *I learnt a lot of new stuff about this; I learnt a few things I didn't know before; I really didn't learn anything new*.

An open-ended question followed at Question 6 about broad perceptions of the success of the day and its influence on policy and practice. *One of the main aims of the Forum was to give you a place to voice your opinions and to raise ideas about sexual health. How well do you think this was achieved today? Do you believe the voices of young people were heard by the health professionals and policy makers at the Forum? What do you think will happen differently as a result of today?*

Next, participants were asked: *How useful was the day to you in meeting new people?* The specific groups of people asked about were *other young people from across NSW; sexual health workers and health service providers; workers in youth agencies and services; and, politicians, policy makers and health bureaucrats*. For each group a response was to be chosen from — *I met and made some new contacts from this group; I plan to follow up these contacts in the near future; I didn't really meet anyone from this group*. Respondents were asked for any additional comments about who was at the Forum.

Question 8 asked for impressions of each of the sessions within the day's program, respondents being asked to rate each session on a scale, the main points of which were — *Very useful, extremely interesting, highly engaging; Quite useful, pretty interesting, engaging; Totally useless, very dull, definitely boring*.

Respondents were asked for any additional comments about the day's program.

Several resources to support work with young people around sexual health were presented and talked about at the Forum. Participants were asked at Question 9 what they thought of them. The four resources identified were Wristbands; Little Black Book; the Chlamydiastic game, and the daretoscore.com.au website. For each of these people were asked if they knew about it before the day, or if it was new to them. They were then asked to rank each according to perceived usefulness, value and whether they would recommend it to friends.

Finally respondents were asked to think about future Forums and offer advice or suggestions for organisers to consider. Specifically comments were invited about the choice of venue, the date and timing of the event, the choice of speakers, food and drink, and finally, the day as a whole.

### *Findings and Observations*

#### Biographical Information (Qs 1-3)

Respondents ranged in age from 14 (n=1) to 25 (n=1) with nearly 24% aged 16 years. A further 34% were aged between 20 and 23 years. Respondents came from a broad spread of major city, suburban and rural settings with most being able to identify the Local Government Area they represented.

#### Ease of Attendance (Q4)

80% of respondents found it 'very easy' to arrange for their attendance at the day; 70% had no problems in getting to the venue, and just over half said they were very clear on what to expect of the day. Less than half the respondents were either 'OK' or 'not clear' on what to expect of the day and 10 did not respond to this question.

- *No hassles and transport was easy to catch. Everything was organised very well.*

#### Learning New Information (Q5)

Almost half of those who responded said they 'learnt a few new things I didn't know before' about how young people can stay sexually healthy and 38% said they 'learnt a lot about this'. A similar pattern emerged in relation to information on the risks associated with STIs, however on the question of sexual health services available to young people 70% said they 'learnt a lot' and similarly 60% said they learnt a lot about 'ways to talk with my peers about sexual health issues. Fewer than 8 people said they 'didn't learn anything new' in each of these areas.

- *I learnt some fantastic techniques on how to speak with young people and connect to them*
- *All the adult staff who attended were very informative and helpful*
- *Highly informative*
- *It was great that the groups were presented BY young people — felt more comfortable*

#### Perceptions of Outcomes (Q6)

One of the main aims of the Forum was to give you a place to voice your opinions and to raise ideas about sexual health.

- How well do you think this was achieved today?
- Do you believe the voices of young people were heard by the health professionals and policy makers at the Forum?
- What do you think will happen differently as a result of today?

Responses here were overwhelmingly positive indicating a high degree of satisfaction among participants that their voices had been heard, their opinions and ideas listened to and expressing optimism that this would result in positive change. A small number expressed doubt that improvements would take a long time to materialise or were concerned that learnings would be lost in the process.

The respectful sharing of information and ideas along with a willingness to listen and respond appropriately was noted and people were appreciative of the opportunities presented at the Forum. The panel session was cited as being particularly useful and a plea for more time was repeated several times (This included either a longer day e.g. 9am to 5pm, or an additional half- or full-day).

Numerous respondents identified the fact that information had been shared freely and heard not just by the designated professionals in the room but by their peers — the value of learning from each other was emphasised.

- *I was surprised and pleased to see that young people (us) were so open about what is often considered an awkward issue.*
- *I believe we got plenty of opportunity to raise our opinions and questions on sexual health... The health professionals and policy makers appeared to take an interest in what was said—even taking notes. They also answered well.*
- *...as a result of today (we) will be able to better promote sexual health awareness to people in our areas.*
- *I really hope that the issues raised ... will be examined and used to help inform future policy and practice.*
- *I believe everyone – especially the panel – were very good at listening and answering the questions.*
- *We were able to talk and ask a lot without the worry of embarrassment or being uncomfortable. We were heard.. and I hope they take our ideas and thoughts and help take action.*

#### Meeting New People (Q7)

The Forum was clearly successful in helping people meet others and develop networks. Over 75% said they 'met and made new contacts among other young people from across NSW'; 60% among sexual health workers and health service providers' and 55% among workers in youth agencies and services.' Negative responses in these areas were very low — fewer than 10 respondents for each.

Perhaps not surprisingly, about half the respondents 'didn't meet anyone' from the politicians, policy makers and health bureaucrats group — though about a third of respondents said they did.

- *Every person at the Forum was excellent to speak to and very accommodating of anything I wanted to ask. They were more than happy to provide contact details and info for the event I was planning.*
- *The Minister of Education needed to be present. It was clear that lack of sex education was a key factor in the rise of STIs*
- *Great networking day*
- *Would have liked more time for mingling and talking about varied experience across the state.*
- *More youth workers and agencies would have been great*
- *Good to have health workers there to clarify what we were unsure about*

#### Program Elements (Q8)

The mix and range of sessions within the program was well received with all sessions receiving positive responses. The Q&A Panel session was very well liked with almost 75% rating it extremely interesting and engaging. The great bulk of additional comments related to this session — it was clearly very successful and appreciated by participants. The two workshop sessions also rated very strongly with somewhat lower responses for the launch speeches and the opening session. Kayla Lochner's Setting the Scene talk however was seen as very useful and engaging.

### Resources (Q9)

The resources on which comments were sought (wristbands, Little Black Book, Chlamydiastic game and Dare to Score website) were well known to around half the group.

Those who knew them were generally quite positive in their opinions of them and most reported having used and shared them. Least popular among them were the wristbands, while the Little Black Book was the most known and used. Among those respondents who had not seen the resources prior to the day there was great enthusiasm for the Chlamydiastic game with more than 80% saying they liked it and would 'check it out further'. The Dare to Score website was also of strong interest to the bulk of respondents.

- *The resources were great! Not the same old boring notes so it made it lot more interesting.*
- *I was also interested in a lot of the health resources available from the Family Planning health professionals and sex educators. They could have been included more in the packs.*
- *Loved chlamydiastic!!!*
- *Perhaps a larger range for next year?*

### On Future Forums (Q10)

When asked to offer advice or suggestions relating to future Forums respondents provided a range of ideas aimed at improving what was seen overall as a positive experience.

The venue was generally popular though some suggestions for alternative, more youth friendly venues were made. Some commented on the in the crowding and noise levels Jubilee Room during group sessions

- *Parliament House was an appropriate and accommodating setting*
- *The venue was great in the way it was spacious and such an important building to be able to set foot in, but as a young person who does not know the city I would prefer to have the forum based at a place like a community centre or a youth centre as the Youth Week forum I think it should be set in a youth friendly space.*
- *Maybe make it different each year so other people don't have to do all the traveling*

Some suggested a longer event and shifting the day to a Monday or Friday for easier travel arrangements

- *was really good could go longer though*
- *Times were fine, but hosting it mid-week does make it tricky to attend. Perhaps on a Monday or Friday next year?*
- *I think it should be longer perhaps 9-5, it just felt like time flew by and more could have been covered.*

Respondents were well satisfied with the range and quality of speakers, with some specific suggestions.

- *Minister for education would have been good - and more sex educators and young people speaking*
- *Choice of speakers were good, the woman hosting the Q&A did a good job!*
- *Great professional speakers on health and also involving young people!*
- *Try and attract more well-known/influential young people*

The food and drink served at the event received a range of comments – mostly favourable.

- *Nice and healthy*
- *GF options should include protein - I nearly fainted by the afternoon as my lunch was just salad.*
- *Okay. Just a little disappointed. Sandwiches were good though*
- *I loved the ANZAC biscuits in particular!*
- *Wished there was more sweets for the afternoon- needed a sugar hit!!*

#### Overall Comments

Many suggestions and comments were offered here. Overwhelmingly the feeling was of gratitude and acknowledgement of a successful and productive day.

Respondents felt that the topic was well chosen, relevant and engaging. The day was well planned and ample opportunity given for the sharing of ideas and experience. There was a 2013 Youth Week general feeling of inclusion and acceptance and appreciation of a well-managed consultative process. Two specific suggestions were made for topics for next year's Forum — youth suicide and the Australian political system.

- *Day was fantastic - important topic, could have been a two day workshop*
- *I loved the whole thing. I came away very positive and bursting with ideas. I'm thrilled I went.*
- *Awesome topic!*
- *Very informative and good for networking*
- *Amazing day! Great information, great people, great event*
- *Great fun, good to feel included in the policy making process and the future of this important area*
- *Was really good and engaging*
- *I would like to see more whole group activity like the q and a session. Also if we split into small groups and perhaps had one panel member in each group*
- *Such a great experience for my first time. hope to come back next year*
- *We will be holding a talk at our school in the near future.*
- *Fantastic! Thanks!*
- *It was very well presented and organised, well done.*
- *The Four Seasons stand was a brilliant touch, and I think the condom in the key-ring is the funnest and greatest idea ever. My organisation is definitely going to look into getting some. Other than that,*
- *It was all brilliant. I'm very unhappy I couldn't stay the whole way through.*
- *Very successful day. My suggestion for maybe next year or future may have it around youth suicides.*
- *I think the forum should be about enhancing the education of politics and about the voting system in Australia. We need to know more about this.*
- *Keep up the amazing work - Maybe include a 'Where to from here?' segment at the end... I'm feeling a little directionless with this new info*
- *It was run really well, everyone who attended was really nice, and I felt comfortable there. Thank you*
- *This year's topic was relevant and interesting. Compared to last year's this was heaps better.*
- *It was a great day, lots was learnt and a great opportunity to be active in our society and meet new people.*
- *Definitely a success!*

*Conclusion*

The immediate feedback from participants as well as impressions gained from observation on the day indicate that the Forum broadly succeeded in meeting its objectives. It brought together young people from across the state and promoted the exchange of information, ideas, opinions and experiences on sexual health issues among the young people as well as health professionals, youth workers, service providers, policy makers and others.

There was an enthusiastic response to the content and delivery of the program and an acceptance among participants that they had been heard and that their views were seen as important to the development of responses in policy and practice.

The challenge ahead is twofold — to maintain the impetus to ensure the information gleaned in this forum is in fact incorporated into ongoing planning and service delivery and to build on the success of this event in planning similar consultative and learning forums into the future.

*Norman Booker*  
*May 2013*

DRAFT

## Appendix 2 – Youth Week 2013 Forum at Parliament House

**NSW Sexual Health Information Line (SHIL)**  
Phone: 1800 451 624

Free and confidential sexual health support and information.

**Family Planning NSW Talkline**  
Phone: 1300 658 886

A confidential telephone and email information and referral service, connecting Family Planning NSW expertise to communities across NSW.

**YFoundations**  
Phone: Yconnect Line 1800 424 830, or (02) 9318 1531 within Sydney

A peak body that seeks to end youth homelessness and aims to represent the needs of young people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

**Twenty10**  
Phone: 8594 9555

A community based, non profit state-wide organisation that works with and supports young people of diverse genders.

2013 YOUTH WEEK FORUM

### ADDRESSING THE RISE IN STIS

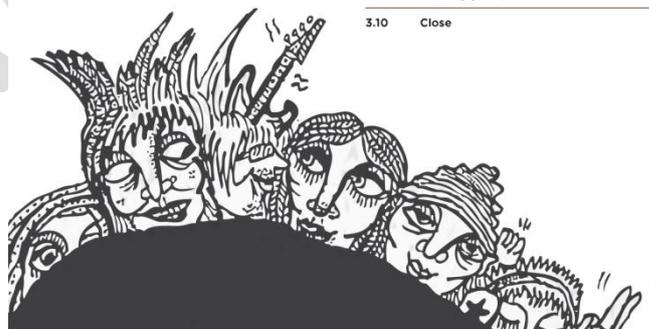
Wednesday 3 April, 2013  
Parliament House, Sydney



## 2013 YOUTH WEEK FORUM ADDRESSING THE RISE IN STIS

### ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

<b>10.00</b>	<b>Registration &amp; morning tea</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Ms Astha Rajvanshi, Chair, NSW Youth Advisory Council Mr Nathan Inwood, Deputy Chair, NSW Youth Advisory Council	<b>Facilitator</b> <b>Ms Natasha Mitchell</b> Life Matters, ABC Radio National <b>Ms Dina Saulo</b> National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health, Australian National University <b>Dr Deborah Bateson</b> Medical Director, Family Planning NSW <b>Dr Toby Lea</b> Research Associate, National Centre in HIV Social Research at the University of New South Wales <b>Dr Timothy Duck</b> Senior Policy Analyst from the HIV and STI Branch, NSW Ministry of Health <b>Ms Kayla Lochner</b> Chair NSW Youth Week Young People's Advisory Committee and Member NSW Youth Advisory Council	
<b>10.40</b>	<b>Launch of Youth Week</b> The Hon. Victor Dominello MP Minister for Citizenship and Communities Minister for Aboriginal Affairs <b>Launch of Forum</b> Dr Chris Bourne Head, NSW STI Programs Unit and Senior Staff Specialist		
<b>11.00</b>	<b>Setting the scene</b> Ms Kayla Lochner, Chair NSW Youth Week Young People's Advisory Committee and Member NSW Youth Advisory Council		
<b>11.20</b>	<b>Workshop</b> Local Needs: Big Issues	<b>1.50</b>	<b>Workshop</b> Skills for leading discussions about sensitive issues
<b>12.20</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>Seeding grants</b>
		<b>3.10</b>	<b>Close</b>



## Appendix 3 – Youth Week 2013 Grant’s Application

### Sexual Health Youth Initiative Project - Seeding Grants Information

#### What is the Sexual Health Youth Initiative Project?

The NSW Sexual Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) is offering seeding grants for innovative sexual health projects to address STIs sexual health issues affecting young people in NSW.

The grants support projects that:

- ❖ Are youth led and youth driven
- ❖ Increase youth participation and engagement around sexual health and STIs
- ❖ Are sustainable and have a longer term impact in addressing sexual health
- ❖ Form partnerships with a wide range of young people and organisations

#### Who can apply?

Groups of young people aged between 15 and 25 can apply for a Sexual Health Youth Initiative project. A legally established organisation must support the young people in the process. To apply for a seeding grant, get together with some young people in your local youth council, school, University, Tafe or community and come up with an idea for a project!

#### Who do I talk to?

First off, you need a coach. A Coach may have different roles depending on the needs of the group but they should remain outside the delivery of the project. The role of the Coach can be to support, mentor or facilitate, suggest ideas or guide the group through the project.

Coaches can be Youth Workers, Youth Development, Community Development Officers, teachers, youth leaders or leaders of youth organisations *etc.* They can help with anything from developing your plan and putting your ideas into words to providing a space for you to work from. Please identify a local coach before submitting your application.

If you can't find a coach please call Lisa Bogie on (02) 4749 0510 or [lisab@fpnsw.org.au](mailto:lisab@fpnsw.org.au)

#### What do I need to contribute?

We will provide grants of up to \$2,500. The money comes with the understanding that you will provide a thorough budget as well as an outline of your contribution. You may contribute thought time, materials, goods, funds and/ or labour.

#### What does the application process involve?

It's easy. You just need to:

- 1) Come up with a project idea
- 2) Talk to a Grants coach about your project
- 3) Contact Lisa Bogie - (02) 4749 0510
- 4) Submit your application

Projects will be reviewed by a committee on the **15th July**. You will be informed within two weeks as to whether your project will be funded.

### **How long can the project last?**

All projects must have been completed by March 2014. This time should include preparation, implementing the project, evaluation and follow up activities.

### **What's achievable?**

Come up with a project that will engage young people in your local community around sexual health and STIs. Think about who you might work with on your project. Brainstorm with your coach about the assets you can use/or have for your project. Think about who can come on board and partner to support your idea. This includes friends, colleagues, local councils, media outlets, sporting clubs, local businesses, health services and community organisations.

Remember, your Coach can provide a range of ideas too. Here are some examples to get you started:

Develop a partnership between your local youth service and the sexual health clinic in your community:

- ❖ Create a short film that can be uploaded on social media sites and host a screening night;
- ❖ Work with a local sporting club to promote sexual health messages at the games;
- ❖ Form a small peer education team to provide sexual health information to young people at local events your community;
- ❖ Investigate condom access issues in your area and come up with a creative solution;
- ❖ Work with GPs in your area to make them more youth-friendly.

### **How realistic is your project to complete?**

We want you to think big but make sure your project is doable. Create something that you can complete and feel good about. Remember to set a specific project aim so that you will know when you have succeeded.

### **How are you going to reach your target audience?**

Think about how to 'reach out' with your project. Identify people or groups – places where different groups of people spend time or meet and involve them in your activity. Invite them to a get together to talk about your grant idea. Check out the seeding grants guide for more ideas.

### **What are the assets you can use?**

Brainstorm with your coach about the assets you can use/or have for your project. Think about who can come on board and partner to support your idea. This includes friends, colleagues, local councils, media outlets, sporting clubs, local businesses, health services and NGOs.

### **What further support is available?**

Young people running a project can get support from many places:

- A group may be assisted by their Coach provided the young people themselves remain in charge of, and directly responsible for the management and delivery of the project.
- Health promotion Officers, Family Planning NSW and YFoundations can assist with sexual health resources and linking you with other relevant services and contact points.
- Check out the Seeding Grants Project Guide for tips and hints on how best to plan, implement and evaluate your project!

### **What are some of the sexual health issues affecting young people across NSW?**

You may have already identified some issues affecting young people in your local community. Here are some quick bits of info to let you know what it looks like across the state.

- ❖ Young people aged 15-29 have the highest rates of Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs) in NSW, with chlamydia the most reported infection.
- ❖ In 2011, the number of chlamydia infections continued to increase in NSW to 20,452.
- ❖ Fifty-seven percent of cases notified in 2011 were female and 59% were aged between 15 and 24 years<sup>1</sup>.
- ❖ Currently, General Practice (visiting a Doctor) is the major referral point for most young people to access sexual health services in NSW.
- ❖ Young people have reported that they often avoid mainstream services (particularly their GP) due to concerns about confidentiality, financial costs, inconvenient locations and opening hours, and negative and judgmental perceptions regarding sexuality, sexual behaviour and sexual attitudes by health providers<sup>2 3</sup>.
- ❖ Bulk Billing doctors are more common in less affluent areas, but can be rare in higher socio-economic and some rural areas in NSW.

### **When do I apply?**

Contact Lisa Bogie for an application form on (02) 4749 0510 or [lisab@fpnsw.org.au](mailto:lisab@fpnsw.org.au)

Applications are due by **Friday 5th July 2013**.

1. NSW Notifiable Conditions Information Management System (NCIMS) and ABS population estimates (SAPHaRI). Centre for Health Protection and Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, NSW Ministry of Health.
2. Aggleton P & Campell C (2000), Working with young people towards an agenda for sexual health. *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*, Vol15 3
3. Keys, D., Rosenthal, D., Williams, H., Mallett, S., Jordan, L. and Henning, D. (2008) Making it real: Sexual health communication for young people living with disadvantage. Accessed 01/09/2009  
[http://www.kcwh.unimelb.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/89838/MIR\\_report\\_Keys.pdf](http://www.kcwh.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/89838/MIR_report_Keys.pdf)

**Appendix 4: In-depth interview guide for key informants**

- 1. Overall what did you think of the Youth/Sexual Health week partnership?**
  - Was your experience positive/negative? Why?
  
- 2. a) What do you think worked well? (How did it benefit your LHD/ the work in your LHD?)**  
  
**b) What do you think worked less well?**
  
- 3. What do you think could have been done better in your LHD to support Councils (and other youth agencies)?**
  
- 4. How could you have been better supported by the “SHAC”? (STIPU, HARP, FP, Yfoundations committee)?**
  
- 5. Do you have any comments about the Grants process this year?**
  - Did you promote it?
  
  - What did you think of the process?
  
  - Did you assist anyone with their Grant?
  
- 6. Do you have any further comments you would like to add about Youth/Sexual Health week 2013?**

**Appendix 5: SHAC Working Group Survey**

- 1. How many years have you been involved with this project? (This includes the Youth Week partnership and Sexual Health Week)**

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- 2. Overall, what did you think of the Youth Week partnership in 2013?**

Very Negative    Negative    Neutral    Positive    Very Positive

- 3. How well do you think the 2013 Youth Week Partnership met its State-wide objectives:**

**Increased young peoples' knowledge of sexual health and STIs**

Poor                  Fair                  Neutral                  Good                  Excellent

**Increased the capacity of young people to communicate and negotiate about sexual health with peers, community and decision makers**

Poor                  Fair                  Neutral                  Good                  Excellent

**Increased STI testing by young people across NSW**

Poor                  Fair                  Neutral                  Good                  Excellent

**Increased capacity of LGA staff across NSW to support sexual health**

Poor                  Fair                  Neutral                  Good                  Excellent

- 4. Did the following activities/ strategies from the 2013 Youth Week partnership benefit your LHD**

Condoms & tins	Yes	NO
LBB and other resources	Yes	NO
LGA contact list	Yes	NO
Dare to Score Tool	Yes	NO
Youth Grants Initiative	Yes	NO
Youth Forum at NSW Parliament House	Yes	NO
Media templates	Yes	NO

**5. Has the 2013 Youth Week partnership led to further collaboration with LGAs or young people in your LHD?**

Yes                      No

**Comments**

**6. How useful was the SHAC in supporting you to undertake your activities for the 2013 Youth Week partnership**

Not at all      Somewhat      Neutral      Helpful      Very helpful

**7. Did you promote the seeding grants initiative in your LHD?**

Yes                      No

**8. Did you assist anyone with their grant application or project ideas this year?**

Yes                      No

**9. How could the grants be improved?**

**10. Do you have any further comments about the 2013 Youth Week partnership?**

## Appendix 6 – Acquittal Form Survey Youth Week 2013

### Sexual Health Information

1. Did you nominate any young people to attend the 2013 Youth Week Forum—Addressing the Rise in STIs?

Yes                      No

If you didn't nominate anyone, what prevented you from doing this?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How useful was your local sexual health service contact person in supporting your Youth Week activities?

Very Valuable      Useful but limited      Not helpful at all      No contact with them

Comments:

3. How did you use the Check It Out-Dare To Score Wristbands and Information Pack which you received?

4. Did you order the following resources from your local sexual health service contact person

Little Black Books      Yes                      No

Condoms                      Yes                      No

Condom Tins                      Yes                      No

Were these resources useful?

5. How could the delivery of sexual health information to young people and workers in your LGA be better supported in 2014?