

Monday, 13 April 2015

Youth Week 2015 – It Starts With Us Improving sexual health information and STI testing for young people in St George and Sutherland Shire

Young people, aged 15-24 years, have the highest rates of Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs) in NSW with over 12,000 Chlamydia notifications last year in this age group.

As a partner for Youth Week 2015, running from 10-19 April, NSW Health is helping to increase the awareness of sexual health and STIs for young people and improve access to local sexual health services.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) will be supporting a range of events and activities promoting sexual health messages to young people throughout local government areas within South Eastern Sydney.

One of the key events SESLHD youth and sexual health workers will be participating in is **Funfest** - a day of entertainment and fun for young people, in collaboration with Headspace, Miranda and SESLHD, **on Friday, 17 April from 11.00am. Peace Park, Sutherland.**

Dr Josephine Lusk, Director, Short Street Sexual Health Clinic in Kogarah, said sexual health is an essential but sometime overlooked part of being a healthy young person.

“Each year, we are seeing increased STI rates among young people, particularly for Chlamydia, which saw a further 10 per cent increase in 2014 compared to 2013 in NSW,” Dr Lusk said.

“Youth Week supports youth and youth health workers across NSW to improve their ability to have conversations about sexual health, and importantly, provides an opportunity to focus and remind young people about their sexual health, why it’s important and where they can receive confidential, free advice and STI testing locally.”

“It’s a unique approach designed by young people in NSW to create ways to talk with each other about sexual health, improve access to sexual health information and condoms,” Dr Lusk said.

For more information on sexual health services across South Eastern Sydney, visit:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/sexualhealth/pages/sexual-health-clinics.aspx>

or contact the Sexual Health Info Link on: 1800 451 624. Or visit the Play Safe website for sexual health information and the opportunity to email Nurse Nettie for prompt, confidential sexual health advice. www.playsafe.health.nsw.gov.au

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