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*Sexual Health*

### **Supplementary Material**

#### **Where would young people using an online STI testing service want to be treated? A survey of young Australians**

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## Supplementary material file S1 – Youth Survey

What do young people want in an online STI testing service? Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are common in Australian young people. We know that many young people worry about getting an STI and are concerned about being judged and treated differently by others. Young people may also experience challenges in finding and attending health services to get checked and treated for STIs. **Our team of researchers is setting up an online STI clinic in Australia. We want to design this online clinic with young Australians in mind.**

**How the online STI clinic will work:** By answering some online questions about sexual health and sexual activity, young people will be able to find out what tests they need, get notified if their STI tests are positive or negative, and get treated. This confidential service will be provided free if you have a Medicare card.

**Take this survey and help us make this clinic work for young people** If you live in Australia and are between the ages of 16 and 29, help us understand what you want from an online STI testing and treatment service by completing the survey below. It does not matter whether or not you have previously tested for an STI – we still want to hear your thoughts and ideas. **This survey will take 15 to 20 minutes. Your answers will be completely anonymous. You can skip any question.** After completing the survey, you may choose to enter a draw to **win a \$100 Prezzy voucher** for your favourite store. There will be five winners!

If you would like more information about this research project, you can read more information [here](#).

Yes, I give consent to participate in the study

No, I do not give consent to participate in the study

What is your age?

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You must live in Australia. Please provide your postcode.

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**Tell us a little bit about you. We want to make sure we get views from young people of different ages, genders, sexualities, and other factors that may affect what you want or need in an online STI clinic.**

Who do you usually live with?

- Parent or caregiver
- Partner (boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse, significant other)
- With friends or in a sharehouse
- Live alone
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Which best describes your gender?

- Boy/Man
- Girl/Woman
- Non-binary / Gender fluid
- Questioning / unsure
- Prefer to self-describe as \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to say

What sex were you assigned at birth?

- Male
- Female
- Intersex
- Prefer not to say

Who are you sexually attracted to?

- Men
- Women
- More than one gender
- Asexual
- I would prefer to state my sexual attraction as \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to say

Have you ever had sex, including oral sex (mouth on genitals or anus), vaginal sex (penis in vagina) or anal sex (penis in anus)?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**Section 2: Finding information about STI testing** STIs are infections that are passed on during sex with an infected person. Common STIs include: gonorrhoea (gono), chlamydia,

genital herpes, syphilis, HIV/AIDS, genital warts (HPV), and pubic lice (crabs).

Indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements (check 1 option for each statement):

	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Prefer not to say
I worry about getting an STI				
I know where to look online for trustworthy information about STIs				
I would prefer to look for information online about STIs than ask someone face-to-face				
I have previously looked online for information about how to get tested for an STI				
I have previously been tested for an STI				

*Imagine* you were interested in being tested for an STI. What phrase would you use in Google to find what you are looking for?

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What features would make you trust a website that provides STI testing? (please select the top five most important features to you)

Service is supported by the Government, sexual health clinic, or university

Has no advertising on it that tries to sell you services or products  
Gives sources and references to support the information provided  
Indicates your information is confidential and secure  
Provides options to contact someone for more information  
Provides free services  
Says that services are culturally appropriate (LGBTQIA+ friendly, responsive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, available in languages other than English)  
You know about the service from family or friends  
It is recommended by other youth organisations and community services  
Other things that make you trust the website? Please specify:

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To access most health services, you need to provide your name and Medicare card or private health insurance details (BUPA, Alliance, etc). Would you be willing to provide this information to use the online STI clinic?

Yes

No

Why wouldn't you provide your Medicare card or private insurance details?

I'm worried my parents might be able to see what's on my Medicare record

I don't want my medical record to include these tests

I don't have my own Medicare card or private insurance

Other reason \_\_\_\_\_

**What parts of the STI testing process do you want to happen online?** Getting tested and treated for an STI involves five steps. The next set of questions will ask about aspects of each step.

### Step 1 - Getting checked

**Scenario 1: You don't have any symptoms**, but you want to get tested to make sure you don't have an STI. Which of the following would you prefer:

Only answer questions online about my sexual health (a computer program will select the right tests for you)

Use the online clinic to book a telehealth consultation with a doctor or nurse

Answer questions online about my sexual health and a doctor or nurse will call me if they need more information

Would prefer a different option (tell us)

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I don't know

Scenario 2: You think you may have some symptoms (like blisters, pain when you wee, unusual discharge) and you want to get tested for an STI. In order to determine what tests you need, what would you prefer:

Only answer questions online about my sexual health (a computer program will select the right tests for you)

Use the online clinic to book a telehealth consultation with a doctor or nurse

Answer questions online about my sexual health and a doctor or nurse will call me if they need more information

Would prefer a different option (tell us)

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I don't know

## **Step 2: Getting Tested**

**Tests may involve peeing in a cup, taking blood, or taking a swab from the vagina, bum or mouth.** Unfortunately, this cannot be done online.

Usually these samples are collected and tested at a pathology service. But some samples can be collected at home using a free home kit. If you use a home kit, the sample needs to be returned in-person or by mail (free of charge) to a pathology service for testing.

### How a home kit works:

The free home kit comes in a plain, unmarked package and includes:

1. Instructions showing you how to collect the samples
2. Materials for you to collect your samples (like testing for COVID-19 at home)
3. Pre-paid package to mail your samples to pathology services for testing.

For taking a blood sample, would you rather:

- Have a health professional take your blood at a pathology service
- Use a home kit (take blood by finger prick) and return the sample to the pathology clinic (by mail or in person)
- No preference
- I don't know

For providing a urine sample, would you rather:

- Go to a pathology service and pee in a cup
- Use a home kit (pee in a cup) and return the sample to the pathology clinic (by mail or in person)
- No preference
- I don't know

For providing a swab of anal or vaginal tissue, would you rather:

- Go to a pathology service where you will be asked to go to the toilet and take your own swab
- Use a home kit (swab your own anus or vagina) and return the sample to the pathology clinic (by mail or in person)
- No preference
- I don't know

What influenced your choice to use home test kits or to test at a pathology service? (Select your top three reasons)

- Saves time
- Costs less
- Results are more accurate
- Don't feel confident to collect my own sample
- Difficulty getting to a pathology service
- Difficulty returning samples taken at home
- More privacy
- Other factor: \_\_\_\_\_

If home testing kits were available, how would you prefer to receive the kits?

- From a specialised vending machine in your neighbourhood
- In an unmarked package in the mail
- Pick them up from the pharmacy
- Pick them up from school, TAFE or university
- Pick them up from a youth services organisation
- Another way (please specify)

- 
- I would not use a home testing kit
  - No preference
  - I don't know

Imagine you are using a home kit to take your own samples. The kit provides written instructions and some images of how to do it correctly (like a COVID-19 rapid test). Would you feel comfortable with this level of instruction?

- Yes
- No, I would need other support

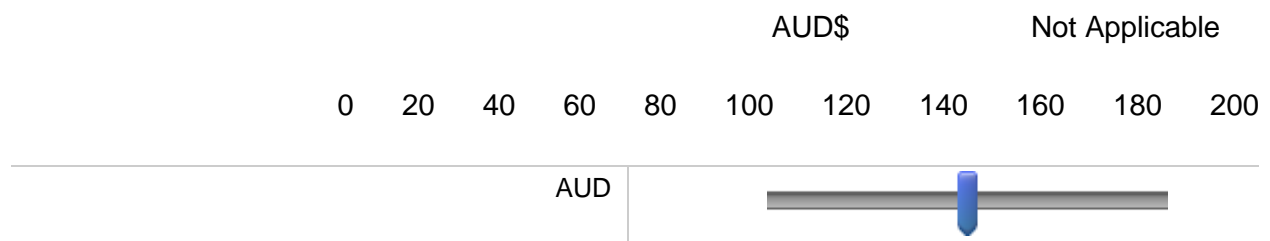
What other support would you require?

- I would need video instructions
- I would need chat support
- I would need telephone support
- I would need other support

The clinic can send an STI testing kit to your house or post box in an unmarked package. It includes:

1. Materials for you to collect your blood, urine or tissue samples at home
2. Instructions showing you how to collect the samples
3. Pre-paid envelope to mail your samples to pathology services for testing

How much would you be willing to pay for the test kit to be mailed to you?





### Step 3: Getting your results

If your STI test is negative, how would you prefer to receive the results (tick all options that are acceptable)?

An email that says your result is negative

A text message that says your result is negative

A notification telling you to log into the website for your results

A phone call from the clinic telling you the result is negative

No notification if the result is negative

Other. Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

I don't know

If your STI test is positive, a doctor or nurse may need to speak to you before providing treatment. How would you prefer to be contacted? (tick all options that are acceptable):

A text message that says your result is positive and you should contact the clinic to discuss further

A phone call by a doctor or nurse during the day

A notification telling you to make an online booking to speak with a doctor or nurse

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

No preference

I don't know

### Step 4: Getting treatment

If you test positive for an STI, you will need treatment. Treatment may include an antibiotic that you swallow (tablet). How would you prefer to receive the tablet?

Have the tablets mailed to you. You pay the cost of the tablets and the shipping.

Have a prescription sent electronically to your phone and then you buy the tablets at your local pharmacy/chemist.

Make an appointment with a sexual health clinic or community health service to receive the tablets for free

Other preference (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_  
No preference

I don't know

Treatment may also include an injection. Injections need to be given by a doctor or nurse. Where would you prefer to go for your injection? (Select one response)

Use a list to select a pharmacy in your area that has a nurse on staff. You probably don't need to make an appointment, but you will need to call ahead to check their hours.

There may be a small fee (tell us why you chose this option):

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Go to a sexual health clinic. You will likely need to make an appointment. But the service is free (tell us why you chose this option):

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Go to a community health service. You will likely need to make an appointment. But the service is free (tell us why you chose this option):

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Go to a local GP. You will need to make an appointment, which could take several days or more. The service is usually free, but some charge a small gap fee (tell us why you chose this option): \_\_\_\_\_

No preference

I don't know

### **Step 5: Partner notification**

If you test positive for an STI, it is important to let your sexual partner(s) know so that they can be tested and treated too. How would you prefer to let your sexual partner(s) know?

Use the clinic website to send an anonymous text message to your recent sexual partners

Send your sexual partners a digital code that will anonymously link them to the clinic for testing

Let them know another way (please specify)

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I wouldn't contact them (tell us why not)

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I don't know

### **Connecting young people to the online STI clinic**

How should we tell young people about the free online STI clinic (tick top three)?

Paid advertisement on social media apps such as TikTok, Facebook, Instagram (tell us which apps): \_\_\_\_\_

Paid advertisement on dating apps (tell us which apps):

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Influencers on social media (tell us who):

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Radio (tell us which stations):

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University/TAFE health services website

Posters in high schools

Posters at University or TAFE

Posters at local clinics

Posters in places where young people hang out like sporting clubs, bars, bus stops (tell us where): \_\_\_\_\_

Youth organisations websites (tell us which ones):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think we should call the online STI clinic?

\_\_\_\_\_

What type of language should we use on the website?

The language you might use with your friends, for example: Chlamydia is a bacterial infection you can get in your eyes, throat, cock, arse, vagina or front-hole.

More medical language, for example: Many STIs are spread through contact with infected body fluids such as blood, vaginal fluids, or semen. They can also be spread through contact with infected skin or mucous membranes, such as sores in the mouth.

A mixture of both

No preference

I don't know

All in all, would you rather use an online STI testing service or go to a clinic to receive in-person services? Tick your preference and tell us why (if you like).

Online STI testing service, why?

\_\_\_\_\_

Receive in-person services, why?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Before you go, please answer a few super quick questions that will help us gear the online clinic service towards the different life experiences of young people:**

Are you currently studying?

Yes

No

What level are you studying?

Secondary school

TAFE

University

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Primary school

Secondary school

TAFE

University

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

What ethnicity/cultures do you identify as (can select multiple)?

Australian

Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

New Zealander

Pacific Islander (e.g. Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia, Maori)

Southern or East African (e.g. Kenyan, Somali, South African)

Central or West African (e.g. Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Congolese)

North African or Middle Eastern (e.g. Egyptian, Iranian)

Russian

North-west European (e.g. British, Scottish, Welsh, German, Swiss, Danish, Swedish)

Southern or East European (e.g. Italian, Spanish, Croatian, Greek, Polish, Czech)

South or Central Asian (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Afghan)

South East Asian (e.g. Thai, Vietnamese, Malay, Filipino, Indonesian, Singaporean)

North East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese, Korean)

North American (e.g. Canada, USA)

South for Central American (e.g. Brazil, Bolivia)

I identify as (please state)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prefer not to answer

What country were you born in?

Australia

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you speak a language other than English at home?

Yes

No

What other languages do you speak at home?

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**Enter your email here to win a \$100 Prezzy voucher** to your favourite store. There will be up to five winners! We will contact you by email if you win. Your survey answers will remain confidential.

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**Would you like to be involved in helping us to design the online STI clinic?** Enter your email here and we will contact you about opportunities to get involved in other surveys, workshops, and user testing (your survey answers will remain confidential).

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