

Development of a culturally appropriate, national website about crystal methamphetamine.

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Biography:

Steph is a Research Fellow at The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use. Steph leads an innovative program of research and translation to reduce the impact of illicit substance misuse. She is currently Project Lead for Cracks in the Ice, a National Online Portal funded by the Australian Government Department of Health to develop and disseminate evidence-based resources about crystal methamphetamine ('ice') for the Australian Community

Methamphetamine is a stimulant drug of concern to many communities across Australia. Access to culturally appropriate and community informed resources is limited. This presentation aims to provide an overview of the development of the first culturally appropriate, national website for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which aims to provide evidence-based resources about crystal methamphetamine ('ice').

An Expert Advisory group of Aboriginal elders, researchers, and health workers collaboratively guided the development, ensuring the project navigated the complexities of developing an evidence based resource. To understand the communities needs initial national consultations were conducted to identify specific resource requirements. 166 people participated, identifying a need for evidence-based resources regarding what methamphetamine is, its impacts on mental health and families/communities. Integrating ongoing community feedback through the development process and prior to the launch of the website was imperative to ensure resources were responsive to community needs.

The Cracks in the Ice website for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples launched on 21 July 2021, attracting >15K website visitors and >37K views. Over 31K hardcopy brochures have been distributed. The website is the first of its kind, providing community led and informed resources that support people and their families affected by crystal methamphetamine.

Learning Objectives

This presentation will describe the development and testing of a community-led, culturally appropriate, evidence-based eHealth resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about crystal methamphetamine. It will also discuss some of the themes that emerged during this research including the impacts of crystal methamphetamine use on mental health and connection with family, community and culture.

References

Snijder, M., Kershaw, S. (2019). Review of methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin, 19(3). Retrieved from: <http://healthbulletin.org.au/articles/review-of-methamphetamine/>