



**family  
planning  
victoria**

Sexual & Reproductive Health  
Care. Education. Advocacy.

# eUpdate



[www.fpv.org.au](http://www.fpv.org.au)

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## new look, new direction

Family Planning Victoria has a new look and is about to embark on some new directions! After completing a review of our communication needs in 2007, FPV has revamped its visual identity and is now working to revise our communication materials.

FPV has also recently restructured, combining school and community education with its communication,

health promotion and resource development area, and bringing our clinical education and BBV/STI programs into our integrated clinical services.

CEO Lynne Jordan said the move would enable FPV to strengthen the clinical placement component of its clinical courses as well as expand FPV's opportunities to become a leader in resource development.

'We are confident bringing our programs with a clinical component together will prove to be a very effective way of continuously improving our clinical input to keep us at the forefront of clinical education and training delivery.'

'At the same time, we have combined school and community education, health promotion and resource development in the one team. This will enable us to more effectively evaluate all our health promotion activities and to take a lead role in the design and development of resources', Ms Jordan said.



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## health promotion & evaluation

### Family Planning Victoria is delighted to welcome Claire Rickard as our new Project Officer – Health Promotion and Evaluation.

Claire comes to us from Austin Health where she has been working as a project coordinator for the Cancer Clinical Trials Centre.

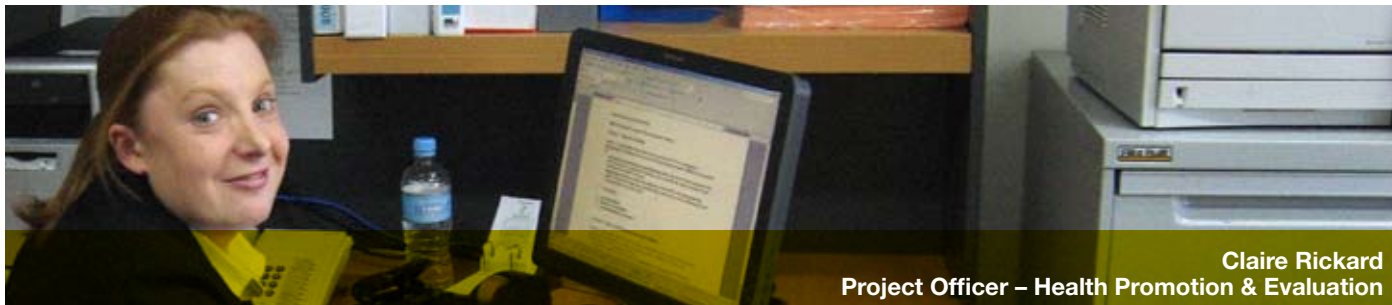
She is currently completing a Master of Public Health through the Victorian Consortium for Public Health which includes La Trobe, Monash, Deakin and Melbourne universities.

Commencing at the end of June, Claire has already made an impact, undertaking an audit of our health promotion activities in readiness for a full review.

Claire said she was eager to use her knowledge of health promotion principles and practices to help enhance and evaluate the activities of Family Planning Victoria.

‘I’m really keen to learn as much about sexual and reproductive health as I can. I can clearly see how important the work being done here is, and I am looking forward to putting my expertise in evaluating programs to use.’

Immediate priorities include finalising the audit of activities and establishing a process by which to undertake a systematic review of this work. Claire will also work with program areas to enhance and develop our evaluation practices to ensure we collect the information we need to develop our services.



Claire Rickard  
Project Officer – Health Promotion & Evaluation

## seXfactor 2008

Now in its fourth year, seXfactor is once again bringing a positive sexual health message to young people in the western region of Melbourne.

SeXfactor 2008 will bring together 200 young women from the Wyndham and Hobsons Bay municipalities for an innovative two-day event. This year young women will laugh, learn and

be challenged as comedians and dancers present sexual health messages with a focus on body image.

Similar events have run each year since 2005, when FPV first partnered with various local schools and education units to provide a fun, yet educational sexual health promotion day for disengaged young people studying in the area. Funding for this project is obtained through the School Focused Youth Services.

Watch this  
space for  
more information  
about this year's  
seXfactor!

## PSST! the resource you've been waiting for is here!

At last, it's here – the resource you've been waiting for! Everything you need to know about sexual health and young people, all on the one CD!

Whether you're a member of a Primary Care Partnership (PCP) or a service provider, youth worker, health or education professional, this CD will help you make the sexual health of young people a priority.

Need resources to use with young people? Want to know what services are available? Wondering how to get sexual health on your PCP or agency health promotion plan? Keen to run a professional development session on young people and sexual health? Looking for clinical information and help for GPs?

Then this is the resource for you. Produced by FVP through the Partnership in Safer Sex and Testing project funded by the Department of

Human Services' BBV/STI program, the CD includes: resources and resource lists, up-to-date information on sexual health services, strategic advice, workshop slides, useful proformas, links to relevant websites – all the information you need to get started with sexual health and young people.

For copies of the CD, call the FPV Resource Centre on 03 9257 0146.



**The PSST project report is on the FPV website.**

## BBV/STI projects

Nine other projects were funded through the DHS Blood Borne Virus / Sexually Transmissible Infections (BBV/STI) funding initiative. All projects worked with young, disengaged people needing to access services in out of school settings.

### clockwork: promoting youth health

A partnership between Clockwork Young People's Health Service and Glastonbury Child and Family Services, this project aims to provide STI education to young people who do not attend school; same sex attracted young people; young people abusing substances or practising offending behaviours; and young workers.

Contact Lynne Baston, GP Association Geelong.

P/ 03 5229 1922 lyn1@gpageelong.com.au

[www.gpageelong.com.au](http://www.gpageelong.com.au)

### protect respect

Protect Respect aims to reduce the transmission of STIs and improve the overall sexual health and wellbeing of young people aged 15-25 in the Warrnambool area in South West Victoria. It focuses particularly on young people not engaged in mainstream education, using peer education and training community agency staff.

Contact Maree Crabbe, Brophy Family and Youth Services.

P/ 03 5561 8888 mcrabbe@brophy.org.au

[www.brophy.org.au](http://www.brophy.org.au)

## **rapping and beat boxing on HIV and STI**

An innovative educational and outreach support project for African and Arabic-speaking young people in rural and metropolitan Victoria.

Contact Sophie Dutertre, North Richmond Community Health Centre, Multicultural Health and Support Service.  
P/ 03 9342 9721 [sophied@nrchc.com.au](mailto:sophied@nrchc.com.au) [www.nrchc.com.au](http://www.nrchc.com.au)

## **young people who inject**

Young people involved in injecting drug use are particularly vulnerable to contracting STIs and BBVs. This project, undertaken by Anex in partnership with the Alfred Hospital's Education and Resource Centre, aimed to build the capacity of needle and syringe program workers and other frontline workers to address the sexual health needs of this group.

Contact Anex.  
P/ 03 9486 6399 [info@anex.org.au](mailto:info@anex.org.au) [www.anex.org.au](http://www.anex.org.au)

## **safer sex in the sticks**

Safer Sex in the Sticks was developed to provide a broad community approach to reducing the transmission of STIs in young people in the Swan Hill region by raising awareness of STIs; increasing access to, and use of, condoms; and improving young people's access to sexual health education and testing.

Contact Gayle Taylor.  
P/ 03 5033-9337 [Gayle.taylor@swanhillhosp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Gayle.taylor@swanhillhosp.vic.gov.au)

## **smarter, safer, sex**

The Smarter Safer Sex (SSS) project targets Victorian young people aged between 16 and 25 not currently at school or in work, and who may not be living at home. It aims to prevent and reduce the incidence of STIs and BBVs in this target group.

Contact Youth Substance Abuse Service  
P/ 03 9415 8881 [admin@ysas.org.au](mailto:admin@ysas.org.au)

## **snake condom social marketing**

To keep momentum high following the SNAKE condom launches, Marie Stopes International Australia developed and implemented an intensive public health communications program targeting Aboriginal youth in Bairnsdale, Shepparton, Echuca, metropolitan Melbourne and Mildura, to educate about using condoms for protection against STIs and unwanted pregnancies.

Contact Marie Stopes International Australia.  
P/ 03 9525 2411 [info@mariestopes.org.au](mailto:info@mariestopes.org.au) [www.mariestopes.org.au](http://www.mariestopes.org.au)

## **splash**

STI prevention for young people in Melbourne's outer east is focused on initiatives outside the school setting, targeting homeless and marginalised young people. Initiatives include increased access to testing, condoms and health services and raising awareness of STIs and associated risk factors.

Contact Annette Hesselms, Eastern Access Community Health.  
[ahesselms@each.com.au](mailto:ahesselms@each.com.au) [www.each.com.au](http://www.each.com.au)

## **STIs you should know**

A resource with a difference! The Living Room presents a CD-Rom package providing information on STIs for marginalised young people, including those currently out of school and those who have not received any formal education in the past. Presented like a small pizza box, it includes a handbook with supporting literature, plus graffiti style postcards with dot point information on STIs.

Contact Colette Tattoli.  
P/ 03 9662 4488 [ctattoli@youthprojects.net](mailto:ctattoli@youthprojects.net)



## more and better sex ed needed

### Young people want more and better sexual health education, a recent project has found.

The Youth KISS Project (Knox Innovative Sexual health Strategy) run by Knox Community Health in partnership with Knox Youth Services (KYS), Knox School Focused Youth Service (KSFYS) and Women's Health East (WHE) explored the views, experiences and knowledge of 111 young people in order to build an evidence base for a Knox Youth Sexual Health Strategy.

Many of the young people who participated in the project reported a poor experience of sexual health education at school, saying it was too focused on the biological aspects of male and female anatomy and there just wasn't enough of it. Same sex attracted youth considered it particularly irrelevant to them.

Suggestions to improve sexual health education included: allocating more time to it; focusing more on non-biological information; ensuring staff were trained to deliver it; and delivering it in single gender groups.

The young people also said they felt strong pressure to be sexually active and feared rejection if they were not. They also revealed they considered they lacked the skills to convey and negotiate their needs and desires with their partner. For more information on the Youth KISS Project, email Shelley Walker at [shelley.walker@kchs.org.au](mailto:shelley.walker@kchs.org.au).

Please direct any enquiries about e-update to Claire Rickard at [crickard.fpv.org.au](http://crickard.fpv.org.au)