

CONVERSATIONS WITH APHCRI

ADVANCING YOUTH HEALTH THROUGH GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

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Level 1, Conference Rooms 3 & 4, Scarborough House

THE ADOLESCENT HEALTH CHECK

The greatest causes of death and disability among young people are injuries resulting from accidents, mental illness, substance abuse and sexually transmitted infections. If detected and acted on early, harms from these illnesses and risky behaviours can be prevented. Primary care, particularly general practice, is still at the centre of health services for youth in this country - at least 80 percent of young people aged 12-24 years old visit a GP at least once a year. This presents an enormous opportunity for screening young people for risky behaviours and mental health disorders, and responding with appropriate interventions such as education, guidance, treatment or referral.

This presentation will outline some options for enhancing adolescent health care in Australian general practice and will also look at the broader context of youth health, through service integration, government coordination and community-based interventions.

PRESENTERS

Dr Sancı leads a research program in young people's health in primary care at the University of Melbourne's Department of General Practice. Dr Sancı works two sessions a week in a young people's drop in clinic and continues to train GPs, medical students and allied health professionals in young people's health. Professor Patton is Director of Adolescent Health Research at Melbourne's Centre for Adolescent Health. He has expertise in population based surveillance, longitudinal studies of adolescent health and community based intervention trials.

Dr Sancı and Professor Patton are involved in an APHCRI research project which is investigating new ways to encourage adolescent Australians to avoid or reduce risky behaviours.

FOR FULL BIOGRAPHY & PUBLICATION LISTINGS

Dr Lena Sancı www.findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/researcher/person1932.html

Professor George Patton www.findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/researcher/person14598.html



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