

*Cervical screening: does it really matter?
Building on Feminist Best Practice*

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Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

Liverpool Women's Health Centre: Sydney

Womens Health Centres

- Grass roots primary health care
- Leichhardt Womens Community Health Centre the first centre established in Australia in 1974
- Liverpool Womens Health Centre in 1975
- There are 23 centres across NSW – Women's Health NSW is the peak body
- Non government organisations funded by NSW Ministry of Health
- Meet the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised women

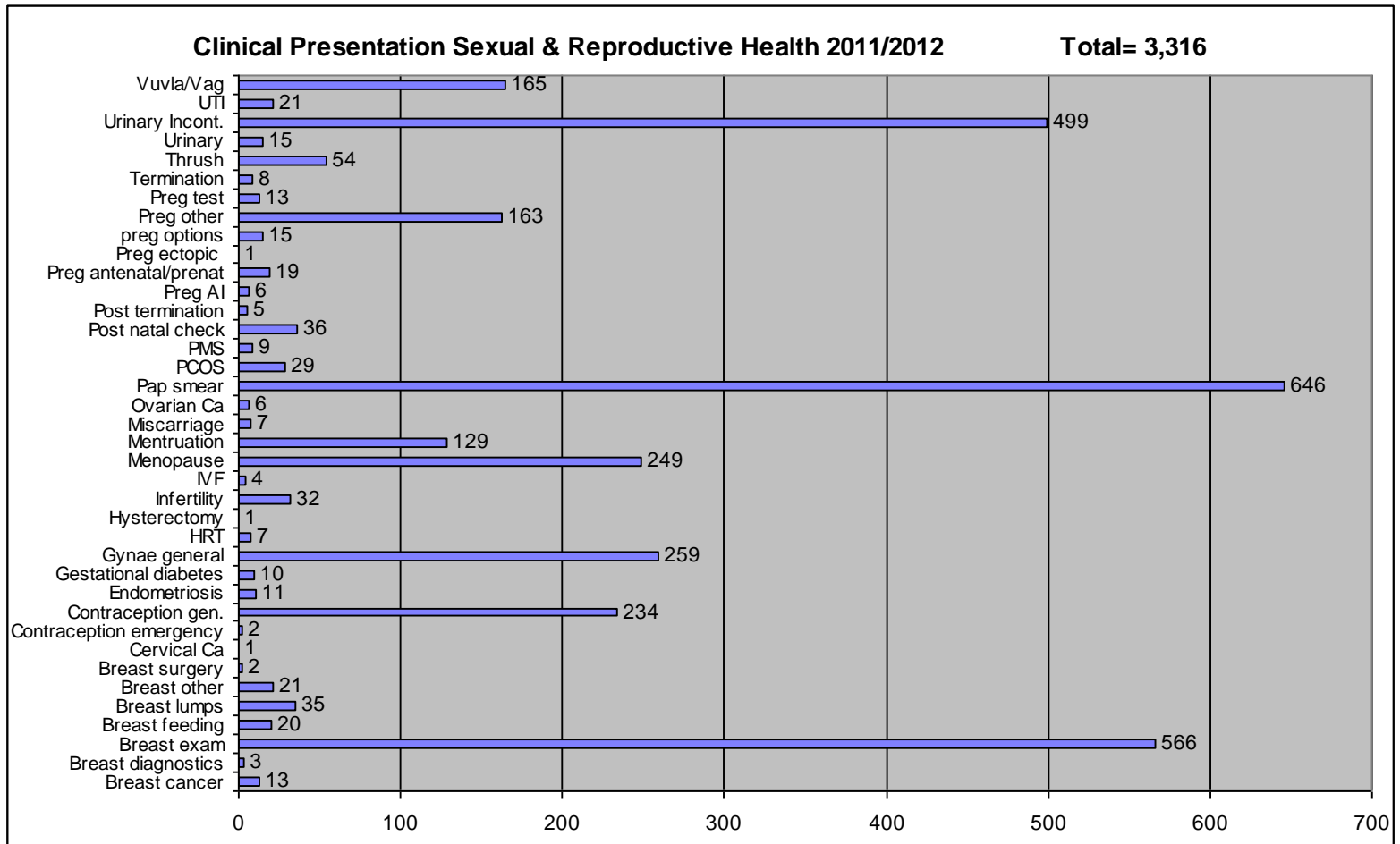
Liverpool Womens Health Centre



Nurse Practitioner Role

- Clinical
- Health Education
- Health Promotion
- Advocacy
- Referral
- Management
- Leadership

Nurse Practitioner Stats 2011 - 2012



Cervical Cancer

- Cervical cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in women worldwide
- Australian age –standardised incidence rate (4.9 cases per 100,000 females) is one of the lowest among developed countries
- Mortality rate 1.4 deaths per 100,000 females

FPNSW (2011). Reproductive and sexual health in NSW and Australia: differentials, trends and assessment of data sources. FPNSW: Sydney

Cervical Cancer

- In NSW from 2004 to 2008, women born in the UK and Ireland had the highest age standardised incidence rate of cervical cancer followed by New Zealand born women and North European women
- Cervical cancer incidence by area of socio economic disadvantage was highest in the most disadvantaged.

FPNSW (2011). Reproductive and sexual health in NSW and Australia: differentials, trends and assessment of data sources. FPNSW: Sydney

SSWAHS Cervical Screening Rates

- SSWAHS - 58%
- Liverpool LGA – just over 50% (Womens Health SSWAHS)
- Liverpool LGA is a fast growing area of Sydney where newly arrived refugees are settling.
- Liverpool Women's Health Centre main referral point for newly arrived women (under screened and first pap tests)

NSW Cervical Screening Program

- Campaigns
- Data
- NSW Pap Test Register – opt off system

NSW Cervical Screening Program

- Where will the women turned away go for screening?

What's feminism got to do with it?

- Informed choice and accurate information
- Preventive Screening – is it power and control of women's bodies? – dominant doctor/patient relationship
- An abnormal result – what does it mean for a woman who has had regular pap smears with negative results – worries about the abnormal body and cervix!
- What about new technologies – HPV screening, Liquid Based Cytology – cost?
- Holistic care

Anecdotes

- Woman told by her female GP that she couldn't do a pap test because of her weight – 106kg!!
- Woman told by another female GP that she didn't have the necessary equipment to do a pap test!
- Do you have any stories to tell?

Women's Health Centres and Cervical Screening

- Women only space
- Female practitioners
- On time appointments
- Highly skilled staff
- Non judgemental approach
- Sensitive to issues identified – history taking
- Adjustable bed - WWD
- Self insertion of speculum
- Privacy
- Informed consent – Pap register etc
- All results given – negotiated with woman as to how she gets her results
- Women feel comfortable
- Equipment

Partnerships

- FPNSW – GP Training. Liverpool Women's hosted training in February 2013
- Medicare local – the NP is now a member of the women's health committee
- Womens Health Nurses
- Womens Health Centres

Proposed research

“What is the cervical screening experience of women attending a women’s health centre with care provided by a nurse practitioner”

- Retrospective study
- All first time clients for pap test July 2011 to June 2012
- Booked in to see NP
- Telephone interviews of random sample

Issues for this conference to consider

- Workforce and funding
- Burnout
- Referrals - maybe up skilling of other professionals is better
- The nurse practitioner is unable to access a Medicare provider number due to funding models. Discussions have been had with local members of parliament to no avail
- The nurse practitioner is unable to prescribe the first dose of vaginal oestrogens and other hormone therapies. Vaginal oestrogens are helpful for postmenopausal women (More comfortable and accurate pap test) – Cx cancer is more common in older women!
- The pap test is just the beginning – what about the follow up and referrals for abnormalities?

Questions?

