Maintaining long term influence

While influence occurs through a number of pathways, achieving and maintaining this influence over the long term is understood to principally include that it is underpinned by principles and beliefs that are central to the work of AFAO and the AIDS Councils.

Engagement within community

The strength of AFAO and the AIDS Councils lies in their ability to engage and maintain influence over the long term within communities, and to be able to do so in a sustained manner. This requires ongoing engagement with communities so that the organisations may be considered in terms of their relevance and reliability. The ongoing and engaged engagement of AFAO and AIDS Councils in their communities ensures that they remain relevant and influential.

Involvement in broader health and social policies

Involvement in broader health and social policies is also an essential component of the influence that AFAO and the AIDS Councils bring to their communities. It is this deeper role that allows these organisations to adapt quickly within the networks in which they were described organisations adapting to changes in community, changes within communities of gay and bisexual men influenced about HIV?

THE INFLUENCE OF AFAO, AIDS COUNCILS & COMMUNITIES: How, when and where are gay and bisexual men influenced about HIV? Fewer than half of gay and bisexual men had knowledge of HIV prevention treatments, and a quarter of those who did know about them had not heard of PrEP. A study of over 1,000 gay and bisexual men found that those who were more likely to be aware of PrEP were those who had heard about it from community-led organisations, such as AFAO and the AIDS Councils, rather than health services. This indicates the importance of community-led organisations in influencing HIV prevention knowledge and behaviour among gay and bisexual men.

References/Footnote


Suggested citation.


Further details on W3 Project can be found at http://www.aidshealth.org.au.
Background

Australia’s response to HIV is in the midst of the largest and most significant developments in over 20 years, with developments in prevention and treatment (1-3). These changes include the widespread availability of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the improved understanding of Treatment as Prevention (TasP) and PrEP and TasP are driving major policy and practice shifts to prioritize the incorporation of antiretroviral medications into combination HIV prevention. These developments are already re-shaping safer sex norms, and have the potential to improve clinical outcomes, antiretroviral adherence, and public health in general.

As the HIV response adapts to significant developments in prevention, it is time to investigate and understand the future role of communities in HIV prevention and treatment. The current study investigated the impact of gay and bisexual men’s direct and indirect influence of AFAO and the AIDS Councils in shaping HIV responses across Australia and advocates for the influence of these communities on HIV prevention and treatment practices. These pathways of influence reflect the complex and interacting ways in which AFAO and AIDS Councils influence gay and bisexual men’s HIV response, their lives, and the lives of their communities. Direct and indirect influence of AFAO and the AIDS Councils in shaping HIV responses across Australia and advocates for the influence of these communities on HIV prevention and treatment practices.

The Australian Federation of AIDS organisations (AFAO) and the state and territory AIDS Councils play leading roles in the response to HIV in Australia. Investigating among gay and bisexual men.

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Summary

AFAO and the AIDS Councils’ influence in the changing HIV response. While some gay and bisexual men may not be directly engaged with AFAO and the AIDS Councils, their work in community-driven planning and evaluation frameworks continues to support the wider HIV prevention, testing and treatment practices. Effective community-level health promotion is about empowering and engaging with gay and bisexual men through a discussion of their needs and values. They engage with gay and bisexual men in the community to understand how they can improve health outcomes and support them. These pathways of influence are built and sustained through a range of integrated programs and health services, including HIV testing, PrEP, STI testing, and treatment practices. Effective community-level health promotion is about empowering and engaging with gay and bisexual men through a discussion of their needs and values. They engage with gay and bisexual men in the community to understand how they can improve health outcomes and support them. These pathways of influence are built and sustained through a range of integrated programs and health services, including HIV testing, PrEP, STI testing, and treatment practices.