15 February 2017

SLHD part of Fair Day fun again

Sydney Local Health District's Sexual Health Service will join in the fun of the 2017 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day in Newtown this weekend.

Fair Day launches Sydney's annual Mardi Gras Festival and regularly attracts more than 80,000 people for a day of entertainment and information from local organisations.

The District's HIV and Related Programs team will combine with health promotion and clinical staff from, Northern, Western, South Eastern and South Western local health districts to deliver the Fair Day stall.

The service will promote condom use, provide details of gay-friendly GPs, give away safe packs and xxx questions on the popular spinning wheel.

The District's Director of Sexual Health Service, Associate Professor Catherine O'Connor, said the Fair Day was a highlight for the service.

The District's Sexual Health Service stall at last year's Fair Day.

"Mardi Gras Fair Day is a great opportunity to connect with community members and to highlight the free and confidential services available at the RPA Sexual Health Clinic," she said.

Staff will also provide information about the statewide pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) trial for men at high risk of HIV.

"Clinical staff will be available to answer questions and offer resources about HIV testing and PrEP which are key to continuing towards the target of ending HIV by 2020."

"The PrEP trial has already recruited 4766 patients in NSW who are at substantial risk of getting HIV, to prevent infection by taking a pill every day. Men at high-risk can call the Sexual Health Infolink on 1800 451 624."

Fair Day is this Sunday, February 17 from 10am – 7pm at Camperdown Memorial Rest Park, Newtown. The annual Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade will be held on Saturday, March 4. For more information, see www.mardigras.org.au.

The Sexual Health Service is located at 16 Marsden St, Camperdown. It is open Monday to Friday and offers free and confidential services, including rapid HIV testing. To make an appointment, call 9515 1200.