

31 March, 2014

## PLAY SAFE DURING YOUTH WEEK

As part of Youth Week 2014, held between 4 – 13 April, NSW Health is celebrating the launch of its new website: Play Safe – a one-stop shop for young people wanting to know about safe sex.

The site has been developed in consultation with the NSW Youth Advisory Council and aims to provide young people all the information they need about safe sex, getting tested and Sexually Transmissible Infection (STIs).

Young people aged 15-24 years have the highest rates of STI notifications in NSW. Chlamydia is the most frequently reported with more than 11,000 notifications in this group in 2013.

To increase awareness of sexual health information and access to sexual health services, NSW Health is working on a range of initiatives during Youth Week 2014.

YouthRock is a key event which, since 2000, has evolved from a local band competition to a statewide competition.

NSW Health is promoting the Play Safe Wildcard as part of the event to allow young people to vote for their favourite YouthRock finalist to secure a spot in the grand final. Voting will occur on the Play Safe website [www.playsafe.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.playsafe.health.nsw.gov.au).

Dr Chris Bourne, Head of the NSW STI Programs Unit, said it was important for young people to be given information on safe sex and STIs in a variety of ways.

“YouthRock is an exciting event to be involved in. It’s a unique event designed by young people to engage their peers around sexual health,” he said.

“When it comes to STIs, it’s important that young people know what safe sex means. This includes both using condoms correctly, and knowing when and where to get tested. Taking responsibility for your health, including your sexual health, is a really great thing, and Play Safe helps young people to do this.”

A sexual health information booth run by Youth Peer educators will be at the event.

Regional NSW is also getting in on the act, with a two-day regional conference for young people.

PASH - Positive Adolescent Sexual Health, a regional consortium of organisations supporting sexual health locally, is organising a two-day regional sexual health conference for young people, teachers and parents on 10 – 11 April at Byron Bay, NSW.

For more information about sexual health, or to vote for one of the YouthRock finalists, take a look at [www.playsafe.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.playsafe.health.nsw.gov.au)

The YouthRock grand final will be held in Sydney, on Sunday, 14 April at Sutherland Entertainment Centre. For more info visit [www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au/youthrock](http://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au/youthrock)

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