

MEDIA RELEASE

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Introducing PEP... to Port Lincoln!

A medication that may prevent HIV infection after an exposure (e.g. following unprotected sex or a condom breaking). *PEP is great news, but one has to act fast!*

Relationships Australia South Australia through its Gay Men's Health SA team is excited to bring the PEP72.com campaign to Port Lincoln. The campaign aims to increase awareness of PEP, and the need for the treatment to be taken within 72 hours of exposure to be effective.

About PEP

PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis) is a four week medical treatment that can prevent HIV after exposure. PEP works best if started within 8 hours of being exposed to HIV but is still effective up to 72 hours (3 days) after exposure.

PEP is available to anyone who has been in a situation that is considered high risk, for example unprotected receptive anal sex between two men.

People who think they have been exposed to PEP can call the PEP Hotline.

PEP Hotline 1800 022 226 (available in South Australia 24/7)

Interstate phone numbers:

NSW 1800 737 669

VIC 1800 889 887

WA 1300 76 161

The campaign

Utilising an hourglass theme to symbolise the importance of time, the campaign aims to share the message that those at risk need to act fast for the treatment to be effective. Already launched across the Adelaide CBD, the campaign's giant hourglass shaped stools have been adopted by popular venues and spaces. Following its launch in February this year, the campaign has now been expanded to more regional areas in the state including Port Lincoln and Murray Bridge.

The striking stools actually work; they can be tipped over and the sand runs through. Matching coasters, business cards, and posters reinforce the message.

Port Lincoln Launch

With a thriving gay and same sex attracted community, Port Lincoln was an ideal location to launch the first regional location for the campaign.

"South Australian gay men remain at higher risk of HIV than the general population and it is important for those men living outside of Adelaide to know PEP exists and is available to prevent HIV, if they think they have been exposed," said Wills Logue, acting manager of Gay Men's Health SA.

Currently, the campaign's giant hourglass stools can be seen in Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service's (PLAHS) waiting room, and the matching posters at PLAHS and the Port Lincoln Emergency Department.

Further updates on the whereabouts of the stools as well as the Gay Men's Health team's other activities can be found on the Gay Men's Health Facebook page www.facebook.com/GMHealth.

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