

Towards a regional approach: Collaboration of abortion experts to strengthen MTOP access in the north west of Melbourne

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Acknowledgement of Country

We recognise that the land on which we work and provide our services always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We proudly acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Melbourne's north west, their rich cultures, diversity, histories and knowledges, and the deep contribution they make to the life of this region.

The need in northwest Melbourne

State-wide average rate of 4.57 MTOP services received by women, per 1000 women aged 12-54.

Northern Metro Region

Average rate of 4.3 per 1000 women aged 12-54. LGAs ranged between 3.38 - 5.90.

In 5 out of 7 LGAs fewer than half of MTOP services received by patients were prescribed from within the LGA.



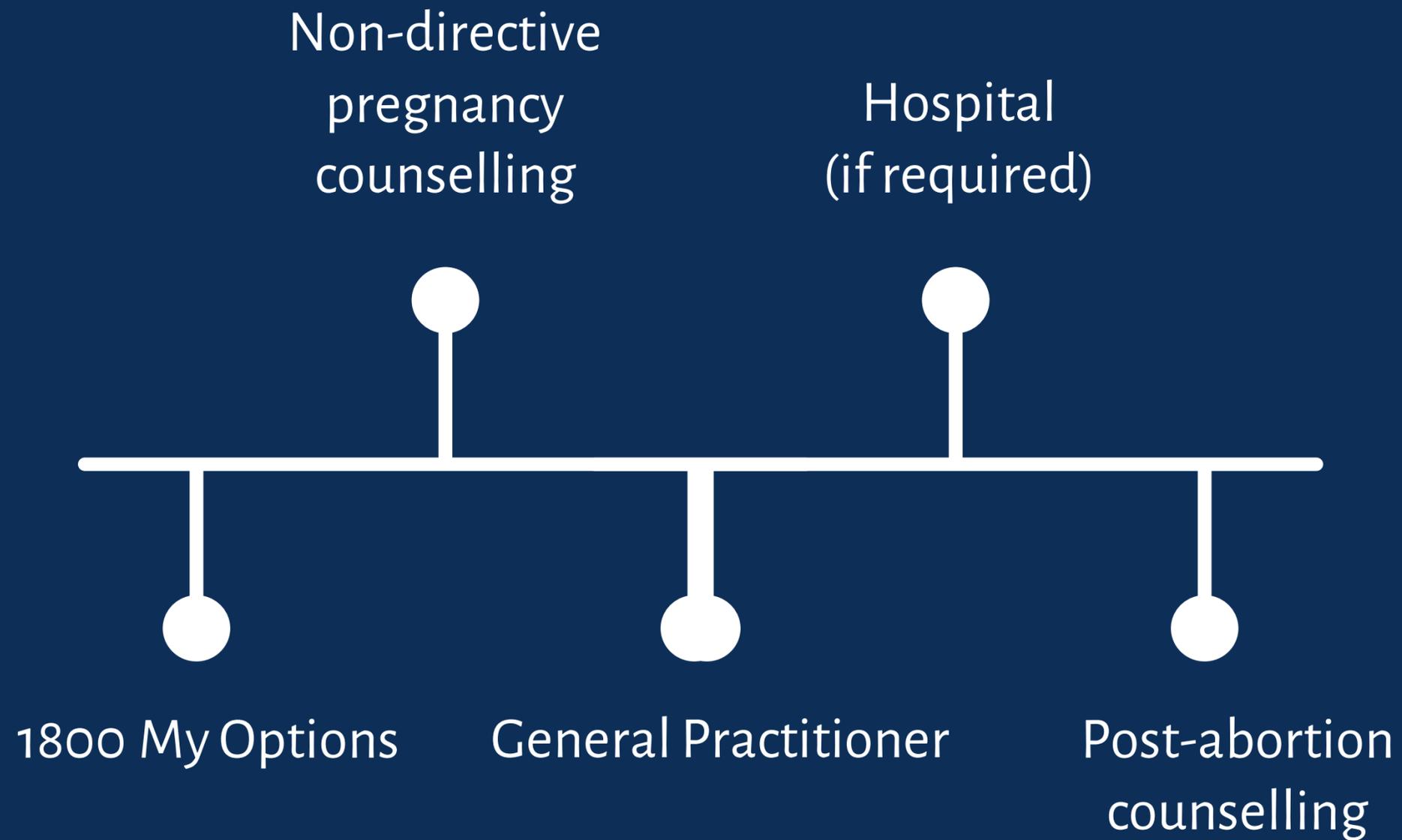
Western Metro Region

Average rate of 4.6 per 1000 women aged 12-54. LGAs ranged between 2.33 - 9.66.

In 2 out of 7 LGAs fewer than half of MTOP services received by patients were prescribed from within the LGA.



Bringing experts together: The patient pathway



Engaging health professionals

33 Attendees

- 17 General Practitioners
- 10 Practice Nurses
- 2 Midwives
- 4 Health Promotion and Allied Health

Location

- 26 Victoria
- 5 Queensland
- 2 New South Wales

5 Presenters

- The Royal Women's Hospital
- 1800 My Options
- Melbourne Pregnancy Counsellors
- GP Provider

Online Format

- Patient pathway with case studies and clinical considerations
- Wrap-around counselling and care
- Q&A

Evaluation

What are the barriers holding you back from becoming an EMA provider?

- I feel there are a lot of support/allied services I need to link in with/rely on to reliably provide in my suburban GP practice.
- No one else providing [EMA] at my clinic - would be nice to have in clinic support when starting out.
- Our current GPs are not keen. I'd need to recruit a new session GP to get it up and running at our practice.
- I'm a midwife and nurse but want to be able to support.

Of those who completed the evaluation:

- 100% said their confidence to become an EMA provider increased a little or a lot following the session
- 10 GPs said they intend to become EMA providers within 6 months
- 93% said they were either moderately clear or extremely clear about referral pathways on the patient journey

Where to next?

- Build on established network of abortion champions across north west Melbourne
- Expand reach across other regions, sharing session outcomes
- Explore opportunities to support practice nurses and other staff who have a role in EMA provision and patient pathways
- Continue to schedule similar sessions in future

