

EPPeer – Evaluation of the Implementation of a Youth Peer Worker Role within an Early Psychosis Program

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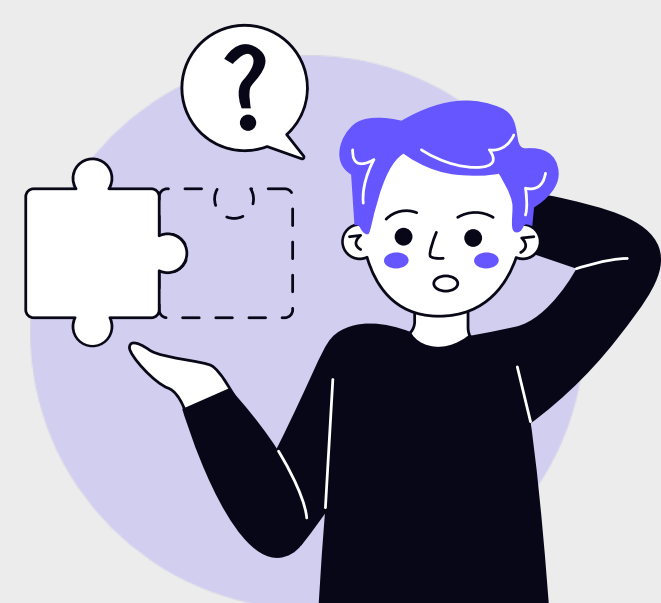
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BACKGROUND/SIGNIFICANCE



The Early Psychosis Program (EPP) is a multidisciplinary team in Sydney, AU providing specialised intervention to people aged 14 – 25 experiencing a first episode of psychosis (FEP).



Integration of peer workers is a priority, yet there is limited research capturing effective implementation in a youth-based setting and peer worker perspectives.

AIM

To evaluate the implementation of a youth peer worker role into the EPP service.

METHODS

This study is a mixed-methods evaluation:



Engagement data



Pre & post surveys



Semi-structured interviews at end of program

RESULTS

Survey Demographics

Age Range

17-25 years



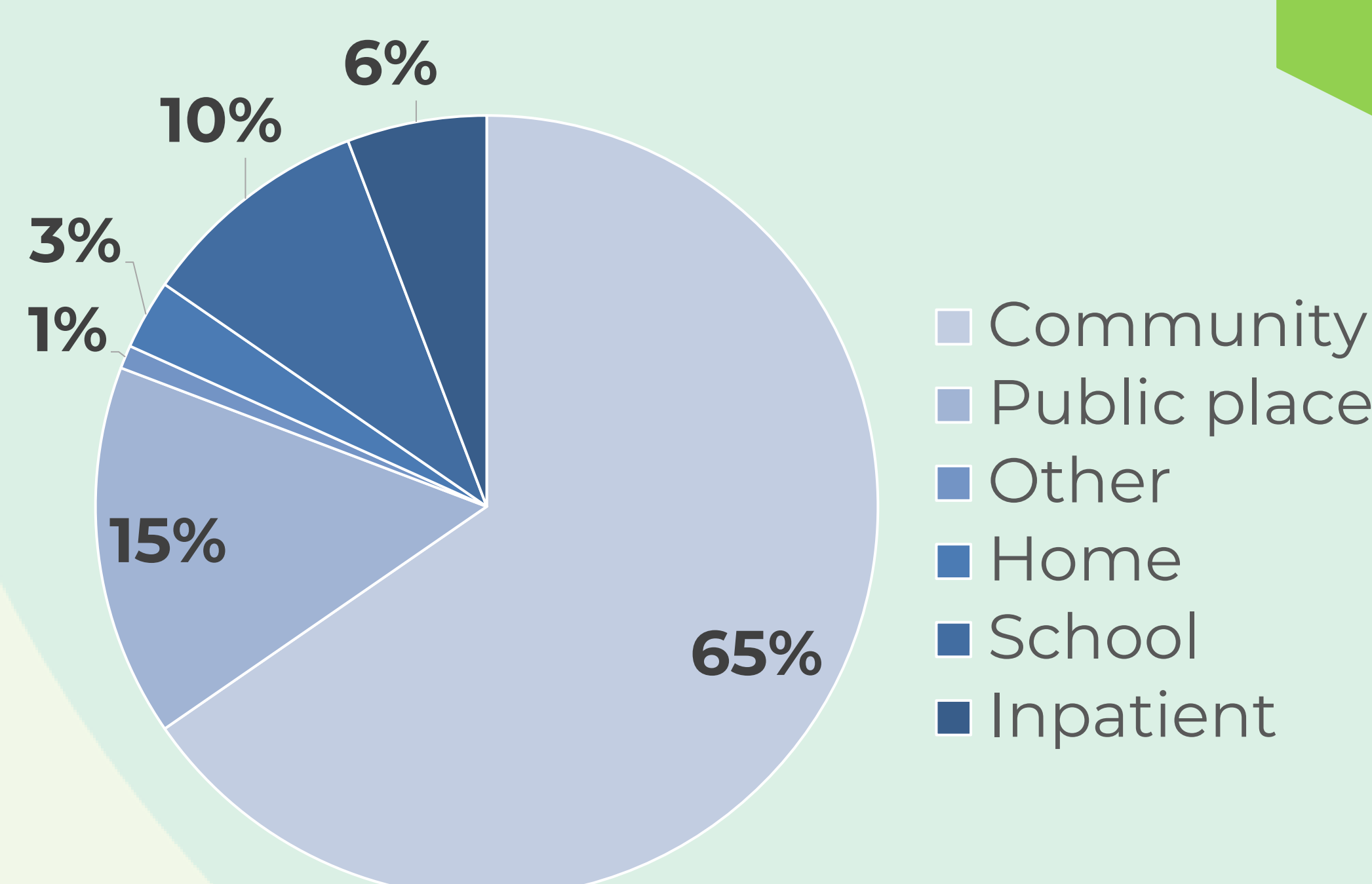
Gender Identity

50% Female
43% Male
7% Gender diverse

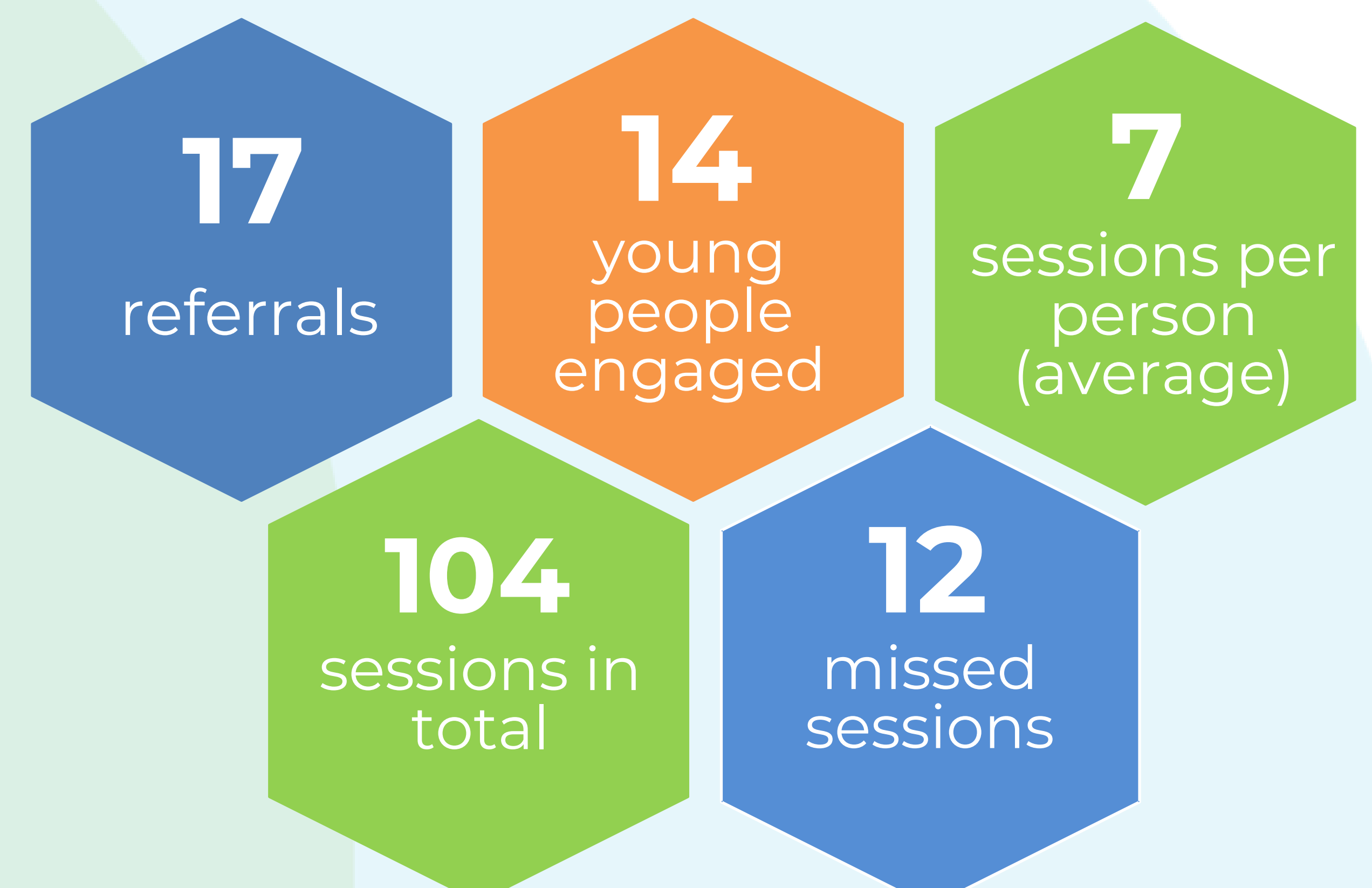
Diagnosis

11 (79%) FEP
3 (21%) Ultra-High Risk

Session Location



Engagement data from the first 8 months



CONCLUSIONS



Strong engagement from young people

High attendance, low DNA, indicating good acceptability



Initial clinician receptiveness

Initial survey responses suggest good understanding and integration into existing care pathways

Flexible delivery of sessions

Outreach and inpatient sessions aligns closely with EPPIC model



Balance of research and clinical needs

Ongoing work is needed to ensure outcome measures are feasible within routine clinical practice

