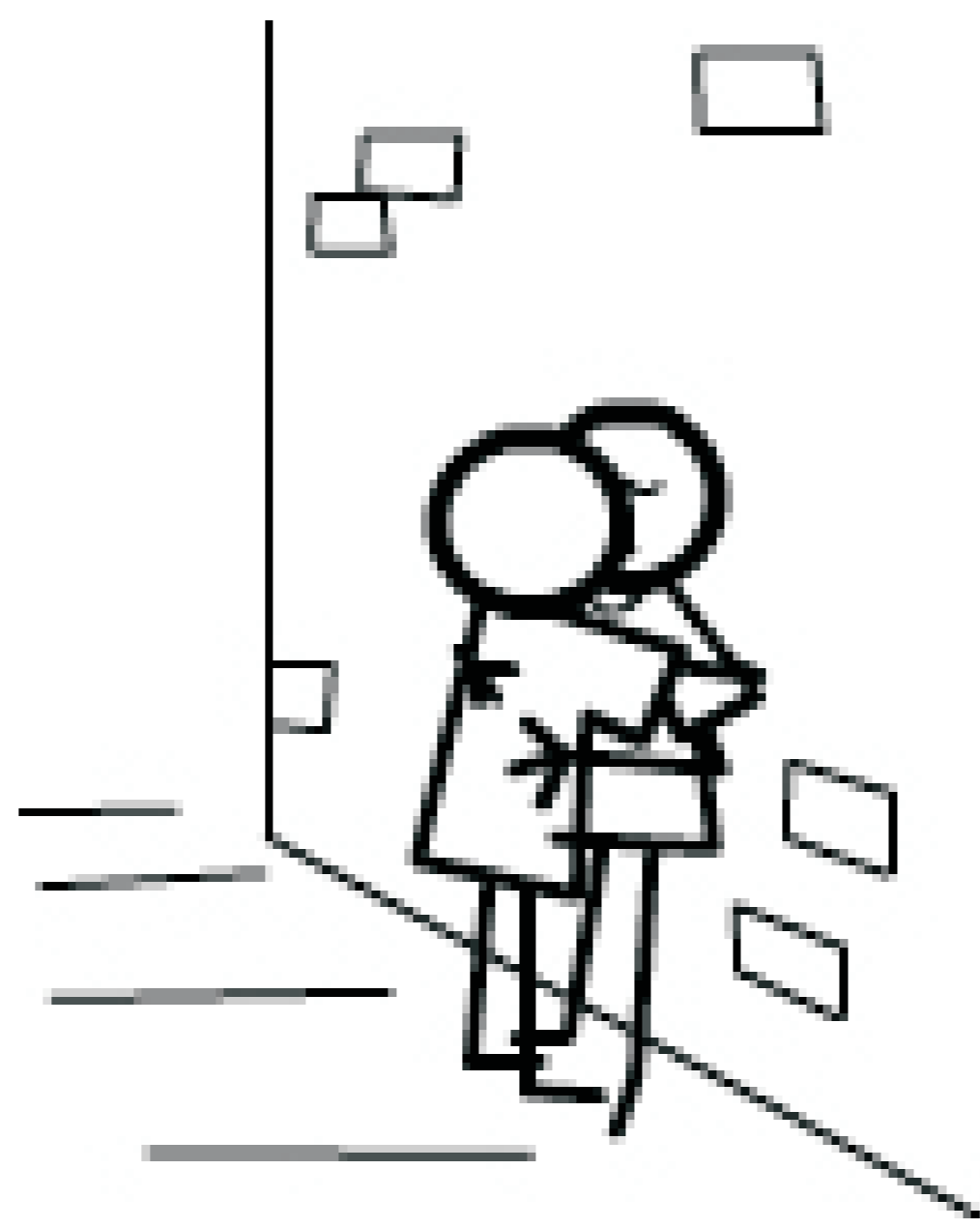


Consulting with young people about sexual health

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HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and sexual health promotion with young people project

Family Planning Queensland

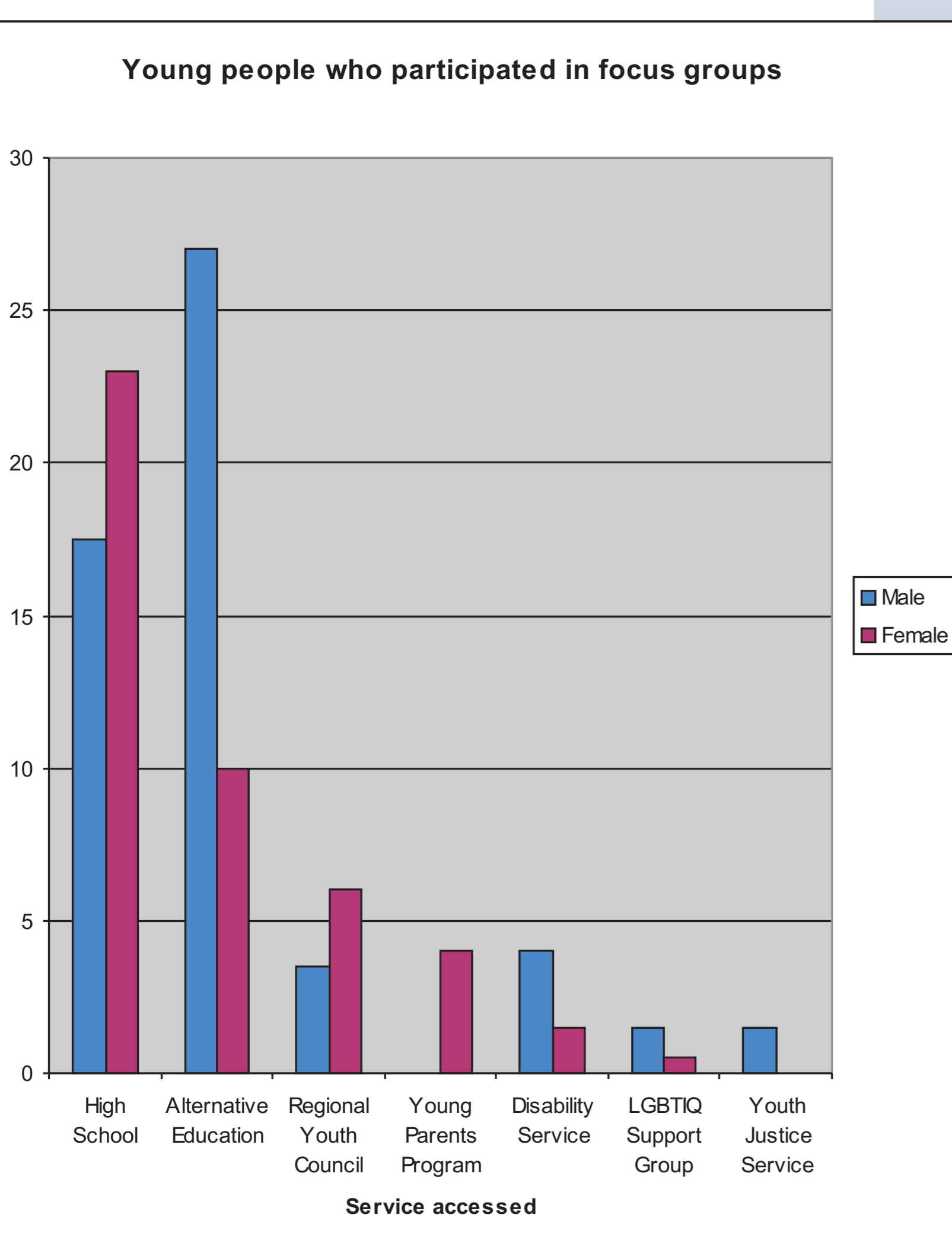


Goal

To improve sexual health services for young people by improving the content of training for the youth and sexual health sector workforces.

Objective

To develop a better awareness of the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people in Queensland by incorporating current information, and the importance of engaging with young people, into professional training delivered by FPQ.



Method

200 young people (110 male, 90 female) aged between 15 and 20 years from Central Queensland, Ipswich and Logan were consulted through informal focus groups regarding their opinions on youth friendly sexual health services, and their knowledge about sexual health.

Focus group questions were developed through input from local service providers, the funding body and several young people.

Professional training events were held in all three locations to inform services of FPQ's consultation process and results.

Key findings

- ✓ **Youth friendly health services are colourful, have friendly staff, no cost/free, and close to public transport**
- ✓ **Young people feel services treat them differently based on their genders**
- ✓ **Knowledge of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses is generally very high. Hepatitis A and C incorrectly identified as STIs**
- ✓ **Young people understand the importance of condoms in reducing spread of STIs**
- ✓ **Young people need more information on where to access condoms and HOW to use them**
- ✓ **Young people want to receive information on sexual health and blood borne viruses from family, teachers, youth workers and trusted services**
- ✓ **Youth sector workforce responded positively to, and saw benefit in, engaging young people to help improve service delivery**

What young people know, like and need

Somewhere that feels like home and with good magazines
Young man, Central Queensland

Needs to be private
All young people

Men and women are very different so need different things
Young woman, Logan

I always thought Hep A and C were STIs
Young man, Logan

Only have sex with people who look clean, not rotten
Young man, Ipswich

Personally, as a female, I think that it would just feel dirty for the guy not to wear one [condom]
Young woman, Logan

Not given a lot of information on how to use them and where to get them
Young Man, Logan

Parents should talk to their kids more about sex rather than the school
Young woman, Central Queensland

Why don't parents treat it as a natural, normal thing to talk about and have gradual, ongoing conversations with their kids?
Young man, Ipswich

Conclusions

All young people involved had similar feedback, suggesting that these issues cross boundaries of gender, sexual orientation and location.

Strong partnerships were formed with some of the services that contributed to the focus groups, leading to further training opportunities.

Consulting with young people about sexual health has increased FPQ's awareness and skill when working with young people.

Young people's opinions and thoughts added to FPQ's professional training programs.