



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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DISCOVERING MORE THAN SYDNEY'S SIGHTS: LAUNCH OF NEW STI PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

A campaign that promotes safe sex among backpackers and provides information on how they can access sexual health services and STI testing while visiting Sydney and NSW was launched today by the Member for Vaucluse, Gabrielle Upton.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said a report by Sydney Sexual Health Centre found that international backpackers visiting Sydney were susceptible to sexually transmissible infections.

"To help reduce the number of STIs among backpackers, a new campaign that promotes safe sex among backpackers will provide information on how they can access sexual health services and testing while visiting Sydney and NSW," Mrs Skinner said.

Ms Upton, whose electorate includes major tourist destinations such as Bondi Beach and Watsons Bay, said more than 400,000 backpackers visit NSW each year and that they are a priority population for sexual health promotion and access to sexual health testing.

"This campaign has been developed to specifically help the backpacker community, who come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and younger age groups," Ms Upton said.

"The campaign material promotes an increase in the use of condoms with casual and new sexual partners and provides essential information on where and how backpackers visiting Sydney and NSW can access regular STI testing."

Posters will be produced and distributed via bus shelters and to hotels and backpacker accommodation in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs and through the NSW Health Get Tested, Play Safe website.

A condom tin and booklet, containing information on STIs and sexual health services, will also be distributed to hotels, backpacker accommodation and sexual health centres in the areas favoured by backpackers.

For more information on the campaign visit www.gettested.com.au.