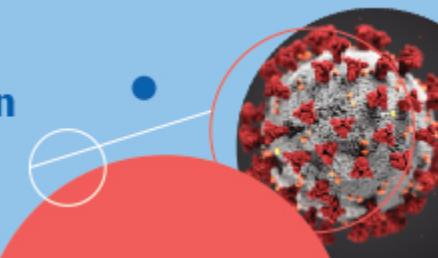


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sexual health workforce bulletin

love in the time of covid-19



[A project of the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19](#)

Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin

Love in the time of COVID-19 #9

2020 Retrospective | 7 December 2020

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Welcome to the final edition of the Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin for 2020.

This year, COVID-19 rapidly changed the way we all live and work. As part of our response, ASHM established these bulletins to provide the sexual health workforce with information on changes in clinical practice, health service innovation, medical education, emerging research and useful resources.

With 2020 now drawing to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to look back and reflect on the unprecedented changes, adaptations, and innovations that we've seen in the sector.

This special retrospective edition of the bulletin includes reflections from:

- [The Australasian Sexual Health Alliance](#)
- [The Albion Centre](#)
- [The Ankali Project](#)

- [The Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association](#)
- [The Public Health Association of Australia](#)
- [The Sexual Health Society of Victoria](#)
- [Children by Choice](#)
- [NSW STI Programs Unit](#)
- [NAPWHA](#)
- [ASHM's Course Conversion Working Group](#)
- [ASHM's Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19](#)
- [ASHM's Conference and Events Division](#)

You'll also find all of our usual content, including:

- [Upcoming and recorded webinars](#)
- [Education on offer from ASHM and other training providers](#)
- [Opportunities for sector input](#)
- [News and research](#)
- [Useful resources for the workforce](#)

The bulletin has been developed by the ASHM Sexual Health Program with expert input by members of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (AChSHM) and the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19.

We hope that you have found this bulletin useful this year. Look out for more editions in 2021 – as always, we are keen to receive your submissions and ideas (please email these to sexualhealth@ashm.org.au). Please distribute this bulletin through your networks.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!

Dr Vincent Cornelisse

ASHM Clinical Advisor

Medical Unit Manager and Staff Specialist, Kirketon Road Centre

&

Courtney Smith

ASHM Sexual Health Program Acting Manager

[For more information or to subscribe to the bulletin click here](#)

Reflections on 2020 from across the sector

The following updates were graciously supplied by our colleagues in the workforce. For any questions or commentary please reach out to the organisations listed.



The Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA)

ASHA is a group of partner and collaborator organisations established to improve national and local responses to sexual health issues, via a multidisciplinary support network for the sexual health workforce. It aims to strengthen bonds between specialists, GPs, nurses, researchers and other key contributors to the sexual health sector, through collaboration in sexual health education, training, policy-making and research. ASHA activities are implemented through a model of collaboration with ASHM.

2020 has been a year many of us want to forget. It has been a year of global uncertainty with COVID-19 impacting us all professionally and personally.

Many of our services have been involved with the COVID response, and this has led to further challenges meeting the sexual and reproductive health needs of our community.

COVID and the impact of these social restriction have highlighted the ongoing social and health inequities many of our community experience. COVID has also led to better understanding of infection control principles - so it is possibly a good time for our sector to harness this understanding to enhance our STI and HIV health promotion and prevention activities.

But we need to consider these in the context of these inequities and be prepared for the post-COVID world. For long term change we have to consider the importance of sexual and reproductive health education in schools - too often the focus gets shifted to health services and biomedicalization, but if we don't begin the work in school and in community settings, all the health services in the world will do little good for sustainable change.

We also need to continue to engage with gender and sexual diversity in the work we do, and advocate for all health services to not assume that the world consists of a heterosexual majority.

We need to work together to address the sexual and reproductive health needs and inequities as we move forward to the 'new normal' post COVID.

Dr Judith Dean and Professor Angela Dawson, ASHA co-chairs



The Albion Centre: Reflections on 2020 from a mental health perspective

2020 dawned with raging bush fires across Australia contributing to a national mindset of anxiety, uncertainty and fear about the future, a mindset that the pandemic subsequently exacerbated.

PLWHiV expressed concerns about the impact of COVID 19 on their health, particularly mental health, access to ARV (and other medicines), financial stability, and social isolation[1]. However, anecdotally some PLWHiV expressed the opposite - of not feeling alone, feeling part of the community more than ever and finally 'being in the same boat'. Some expressed a sense of resilience, 'I have dealt with a pandemic before, I know how to handle this', whereas others found the experience re-traumatising. Linking virtually with health and social services and other organisations, meant that some people experienced a new form of connection which was more flexible to their needs, whereas others missed the face-to-face contact, or were delayed in addressing important health needs. For others, quality of life improved with fast-tracked access to (temporary) housing for those who were homeless and increased social services payments.

Within the HIV health workforce, shared camaraderie so important in times of crisis was challenged by physical distancing and re-deployment, with teams being split and not being able to meet and socialise in the usual way. Many front-line workers and health care professionals arguably experienced higher levels of anxiety due to the risks their work potentially posed and the required adjustments to work safely. Health and related services demonstrated great resilience and an ability to continue to provide services and reach the community in new and innovative ways.

2020 has been challenging for us all in different ways and at different times, and moving forward will require continual adjustment depending on the pandemic. Evidence-based recommendations emphasise the importance of self-care, psychological support, and strategies that foster human connection to reduce

the risk of psychological trauma associated with such crises as COVID 19 [2] [3] [4]. [View full article including references here](#)

Ruth Hennessy and Katherine Coote, Senior Clinical Psychologists, The Albion Centre



The Ankali Project – providing emotional and social support during a pandemic

The Ankali Project is funded by NSW Health, and a division of the Albion Centre. Since 1985, through marketing, recruitment and training volunteers, The Ankali Project have provided emotional and social support to people living with HIV (or affected by HIV such as partners, parents, carers, etc.) experiencing social isolation.

This year has been unlike any other, and the focus on mental health and isolation is more relevant than ever. In March, 115+ volunteers who ordinarily attend a face to face fortnightly support group were trained and coordinated to attend virtual groups. Throughout the lockdown period in March/April, volunteers have displayed commitment, innovation and creativity to provide their clients with phone only support. Volunteers used technology, played games through apps, and made regular phone calls/text messages to keep the engagement going – until it was safe to provide face to face support again.

We're proud to say that isolated Ankali clients were supported through the past seven months, that volunteers have remained engaged and supported. The contribution of Ankali volunteers this year was recognised recently with Centre for Volunteering awarding the Ankali Project as 'Volunteer Team of the Year'.

The Ankali team recently delivered a 3 day Covid- safe training at Sydney Hospital and graduated 20 new volunteers. The Ankali Project continue to flourish in its 35 years of supporting the HIV community in and around Sydney.

Please visit our [Facebook](#) and [website](#) or more information, or give us a call: 02 9332 9742 for any enquiries.



ASHHNA reflection on COVID-19

2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife has seen many of our nursing colleagues nationally and across the globe work courageously to test and care for individuals and families affected by COVID-19.

ASHHNA members have reflected on 2020 and reported benefits and challenges in their work settings. Some stated that due to social distancing requirements, 2020 has been an opportune time to remodel clinical services which in different times may have been met with resistance. Several members from different states have indicated that their workplaces have changed from walk-in services to booked services which have been well received by patients and staff.

The majority of clinics prepared for a worst case scenario back in March, which fortuitously didn't happen in most areas. Staff adapted to the new way of working by discouraging non-essential visits, delaying vaccinations, sending/faxing scripts for treatments and referring patient to other services who were providing telehealth for asymptomatic STI and BBV screening.

Nurses have learnt new skills along the way including telephone triage, telephone symptom assessment and using telehealth for consultations which some services will be keeping as usual practice. COVID has provided many opportunities for change which are now the new norm.

Challenges have included communicating service changes to current and previous patients and adapting to telehealth services, as well as difficulties in trying to assess whether low risk patients needed to be seen in the clinic or not. It has also been hard to work out what to do with the patient who has symptoms of a sexually transmitted infection but also has a cough and sore throat. Some nurses reported that they found telephone assessments challenging in sexual health with no visual cues making it difficult to adjust conversation accordingly. Others include the challenges of cleaning clinic spaces, patient toilets and waiting rooms regularly throughout the day or after each patient visit. Many found it

difficult to try to stay 1.5m away from patients in clinic rooms and conduct consults in less than 15 minutes.

Lots of nurses, along with the general public, were also afraid of contracting COVID-19 themselves, and quite a lot of nurses working in this specialty area were redeployed to COVID testing sites and public health units due to their expertise with contact tracing. Several reported that they undertook general nursing refresher courses so that they could work in acute settings if required.

While the challenges of COVID have affected all ASHHNA members and their patients in different ways, feedback has shown patients continue to be at the forefront of all that we do. COVID has provided staff opportunities to change, adapt and embed new practices.

Shannon Woodward, with input from ASHHNA members.



**Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA**

Public Health Association of Australia

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is a multi-disciplinary peak body for public health in Australia and provides networking, advocacy, professional development and community leadership. The PHAA has eighteen special interest groups for members to meet with those who have similar interests and to assist in developing public health [policy position papers](#).

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 the PHAA has contributed to a number of initiatives in the area of sexual health. The abortion and contraception policies have been revised and an interim LGBTIQ Health position statement has been developed in consultation with the LGBTQI Health Alliance.

The PHAA signed a [Joint letter to Minister Hunt regarding the impact of telehealth changes on women's access to sexual and reproductive health services](#) in July and contributed a submission on the [South Australian Government's Draft Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2020](#).

Professor Angela Dawson, Public Health Association of Australia representative on ASHA



Sexual Health Society of Victoria

The [Sexual Health Society of Victoria \(SHSOV\)](#) is a charity dedicated to improving sexual health through a multidisciplinary exchange of knowledge and ideas. We provide professional education and interdisciplinary networking for workers in the field of sexual health. As with other organisations, 2020 has required us as a society to adapt; our Executive meetings have been undertaken via Zoom and we successfully moved our AGM event online, with an “on-topic” presentation by Dr Jacqueline Coombs from the University of Melbourne titled “[Love in the time of COVID-19](#)”. Jacquie’s presentation highlighted changes to sexual practices during the first Australian-wide lockdown between March-May such as reduced casual sex and increased virtual dating and solo activities such as sex toy use and masturbation.

We also used 2020 as an opportunity to increase engagement via our Twitter ([@SHSOV](#)) platform, sharing news of publications and other research activities.

Victorian sexual health physicians, nurses and researchers have seen several changes in practices in 2020. The Melbourne Sexual Health Centre reported fewer [prescriptions for PEP](#) and [asymptomatic presentations](#) during the first lockdown, but somewhat reassuringly, no significant decreases in symptomatic presentations. These findings were presented at the first virtual Australasian joint HIV & AIDS and Sexual Health conference. As we have done for many years, we could still play an important role at the conference by offering to judge and award poster prizes. While the virtual events were successful in 2020, we look forward to meeting with our colleagues face-to-face at one of our events in 2021.



CHILDREN BY CHOICE

ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

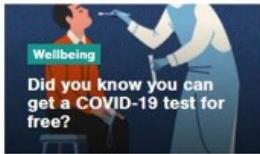
Providing counselling, information
and education services on all
unplanned pregnancy options
since 1972.

Children by Choice

Since 3 December 2018, Children by Choice has been working in an environment where abortion is no longer a crime in the state of Queensland and we have seen increased access to abortion and contraception. We continue to work with our clients and support networks towards reproductive autonomy - as more than a third of our clients have reported reproductive coercion or violence.

Our Rural Regional and Remote Abortion Access Project has delivered Australia's first abortion doula and ultrasound training collaborations, with an interactive mapping project being delivered in 2021.

In the last financial year we counselled 1377 clients and trained almost 700 health professionals. In response to the pandemic, our Queensland counselling service and education and training modules have moved online. Read more about us and access our resources at our website <https://www.childrenbychoice.org.au/forprofessionals>



NSW STI Program Unit

If I were to summarise 2020 in one word it would be ‘change.’ Unexpectedly everything seemed to change for everyone. From professional to personal. Our work at the NSW STI Programs Unit (STIPU) undertook significant changes. Late February we started to look at what was happening around the world and from then the change started to unfold very quickly. In March we moved to a fully remote workforce. We had a consultant offer some tips and things to consider when working fully remote and we all packed up our laptops and headed home.

We had some of our wonderful staff redeployed to other parts of the Ministry COVID-19 response team and those of us who remained had to reorient our programs and maintain communication with the sector. We quickly developed our Framework for NSW Sexual Health Services responses to COVID-19 in consultation with the sector. Our face-to-face community events were cancelled, our meetings and trainings were moved to online and we all learnt new ways of working, communicating and managing zoom fatigue. [Read more](#)

Rochelle Avasalu, A/ Manager



NAPWHA is Australia’s peak body for organisations that represent and serve a wide range of positive communities, each of which experiences the pandemic in different ways. As different jurisdictions went into lockdown, we conducted a survey of PLHIV in Australia (n=147), which identified priorities for action including social isolation, loneliness, loss of work, and the risks these pose to mental health and good quality of life. In response, we revived the long-running and much-loved ‘Chinwag’ format, hosted by **Vanessa Wagner (Tobin Saunders)**, as a regular Friday night Zoom session featuring special guests including **Sharon Lewin, Edwina Wright, Bruce Richman, Greg Owen and Nic Holas**. Breakout rooms were used to provide 1-on-1 connection with experienced peer support workers from NAPWHA’s member organisations and community partners. Participants reported feeling more socially connected and improved mental health and resilience.

HIV peer navigators working at member organisations told NAPWHA that a shift to online delivery of social activities like Chinwag meant that some PLHIV living in rural and remote areas reported feeling better connected than ever before. This was one of many initiatives NAPWHA undertook to respond to emerging issues and needs during the pandemic.

Above all, it highlights the ability of peak organisations to draw together the strengths and capabilities of our member organisations and PLHIV and affected communities across Australia.

Daniel Reeders, Learnings Project Officer



Adapting to online learning: ASHM's Course Conversion Working Group

Converting face-to-face training courses to online delivery has been a steep learning curve for us at ASHM in 2020. While it's been challenging, it has also been a learning opportunity, prompting us to take advantage of the online learning environment and our eLearning platform.

Keeping training materials interactive and engaging has always been important, however trying to maintain those valuable components of face-to-face education while teaching online is a key challenge. In response, this March ASHM formed the Course Conversion Working Group (CCWG) to review, analyse and adapt course content, compare and select an online training platform and develop procedures and resources to guarantee an optimal learner experience.

This working group has been meeting every week, joined by a representative from each content area, our IT team, our communications team, and our course support team. We have many achievements over the past nine months – these are a few of them...[Read more](#)



ASHM COVID-19 taskforce on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and Sexual Health

The ASHM COVID-19 taskforce on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and Sexual Health (the Taskforce) was formally established in March to provide healthcare workers in the BBV and sexual health sectors with timely evidence and guidance on scientific, clinical, treatment, prevention and research aspects of COVID-19 in relation to their patient populations.

The development of outputs produced by the Taskforce is guided by the health workforce, where information is collected through a variety of channels on the needs and issues they or their patient populations are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ASHM team meets regularly to triage topics and nominates a co-ordinator to lead the output and liaise with the Cluster Groups. The Sexual Health Cluster Group produced three guidance documents and one partnership webinar with the [Regional Advisory Group](#) during 2020. You can access these outputs by clicking the below links:

- [Sexual health services in Australia and New Zealand during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Harm reduction approaches to casual sex during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Women's health and COVID-19](#)
- [The COVID-19 Pandemic and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Pacific](#) (webinar)

The breadth of work the Taskforce has undertaken from its inception has been commendable, as has its ability to ensure its outputs are relevant, timely and responsive to the sector given the ever-evolving nature of the COVID-19 response.

Refer to the Taskforce website at: <https://ashm.org.au/covid-19/> for further information.



ASHM Conference and Events Division – Reflections on a Virtual Conference

The [Joint Australasian HIV&AIDS and Sexual Health Conferences: VIRTUAL](#) are over for 2020 and, before we turn our gaze to 2021 we want to share some of the key highlights from this year's inaugural virtual conference.

We are thrilled with the number of registrations for the conference, with 830 registered delegates this far exceeded our expectations and further proved the sector's eagerness to come together to collaborate and share knowledge in a digital virtual world. We were delighted to have keynote presentations by [Claudia Estcourt](#) from Glasgow Caledonian University, [Anne Philpott](#) from the Pleasure Project, [Gwenda Hughes](#) from Public Health England and [Christopher Fairley](#), Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. [Chris Bourne](#) was this year's ASHA Distinguished Services Awardee. Information on their keynote presentations can be found on the conference program page: <https://hivshconferences2020.com.au/program/>

It was a jammed packed program, popular sessions included;

- Sex, sexuality and relationships education in schools: can a national approach ever be achieved
- Pleasure in a Pandemic
- New approaches to STI diagnosis, prevention and control
- Diversifying genders and sexualities: implications for the HIV and sexual health sectors
- The Syphilis Epidemic – what's happening and what's new?
- Innovation, Resilience and Sustainability: Changing Times for Reproductive Health and Rights
- Abstract spotlight sessions

If you didn't get the chance to register for the conference, late registrations to watch the content back on demand will be available shortly. For those who did register, feel free to log back in to the virtual platform at any time and watch any of the sessions again or catch up on those you haven't had a chance to view yet, on demand content will be available for 3 months.

830
Registered
Delegates



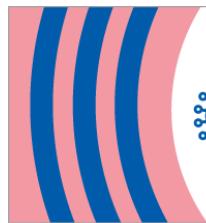
165+ Average
Session Attendance



76 Scholarships
Awarded

379
New!
First Timers
to the conference

The committee will soon be underway in planning the program for the 2021 Joint Sexual Health and HIV&AIDS Conferences that are taking place in **Melbourne, 6 – 9 September 2021**. Be sure to save the dates to your calendar now.



sexualhealth+
hiv&aids
2021

Joint Australasian
Sexual Health + HIV&AIDS Conferences
6-9 September 2021
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition
Centre (MCEC), Australia
shhivconferences2021.com.au



Congratulations to Dr Christopher Bourne, winner of the ASHA Award for Distinguished Services to Sexual Health 2020

Chris is the Head of NSW STI Programs Unit at the NSW Health Centre for Population Health; a Senior Staff Specialist at Sydney Sexual Health Centre, and a Conjoint Associate Professor at the Kirby Institute Sexual Health Program.

This award recognises Chris's distinguished and visionary leadership and outstanding contribution to the field of sexual health, both nationally and internationally. Chris has worked in the field of sexual health for 31 years. As Head of the NSW Ministry of Health STIs Programs Unit (STIPU), his leadership, vision and expertise as a clinician, researcher, strategist and communicator has had significant impact on whole of state health policy and practice.

He has also led the development of numerous other state and national based pieces of work that continue to contribute to the SH and wellbeing for all. We would also like to acknowledge Chris's ongoing contribution to the ASHA executive committee. Chris embodies the spirit of ASHA, as demonstrated by his past role as co-chair and ongoing executive membership, where his vision of education, advocacy and responsiveness to emergent sexual health needs continues to shine through in his actions.

Congratulations to Dr Elissa Kennedy, winner of the ASHA Mid-Career Disciplinary Achiever Award 2020

Elissa has 15 years' experience in sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and this award recognised her commitment to the SRH and rights of young people.

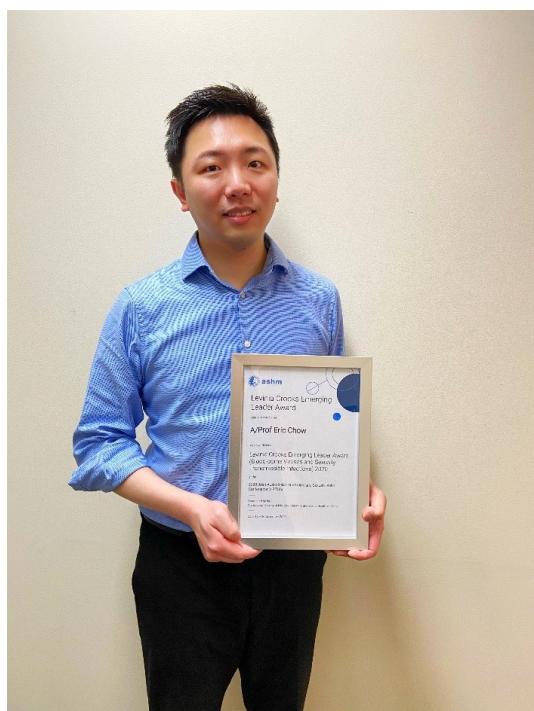
She is Co-Director of the Burnet Institute's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program, providing strategic leadership to the multidisciplinary research, public health and international development portfolio.

She is also Co-Head of the Burnets Global Adolescent Health program, leading interdisciplinary adolescent SRH research projects in Asia and the Pacific.

Elissa is a member of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, where she tirelessly advocates for evidence informed policy with policymakers and development partners.

We would like to congratulate Elissa and thank her for her dedication to the sexual and reproductive health sector, in particular the SRH and well-being of our young people.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Eric Chow, winner of the Levinia Crooks Emerging Leaders Award



As the recipient of this year's award, Eric has been formally recognised as an emerging leader and star within the BBV and STI sector.

This important award for the sector, honors the legacy of the late Levinia Crooks, a pioneer and leader within public health and the ASHM CEO from 1999-2017.

For over 30 years Levinia took an active role in recognising emerging leaders within the BBV/STI and viral hepatitis field, and had personally mentored many talented individuals, researchers and practitioners.

Associate Professor Eric Chow is an STI epidemiologist and biostatistician based at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre.

He completed his PhD at the Kirby Institute in 2014. He is currently the Head of the Health Data Management and Biostatistics Unit at MSHC and is an Associate Professor at Central Clinical School, Monash University. He is also an Honorary Principal Fellow at the Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, The University of Melbourne. His research interests focus on STI epidemiology and prevention, with a particular interest in kissing, exploring mouthwash as a novel intervention for gonorrhoea and HPV vaccination.

Congratulations Eric on this significant achievement.

Webinars

Register for these upcoming webinars:

Ahead of the Curve: Sex Work and COVID-19 (Scarlett Alliance)

10 December 2020, 1:00 - 2:00pm (AEDT)

[Register here](#)

Are we there yet? The road ahead to vaccinate Australia against COVID-19

(Global Health Alliance Australia)

10 December 2020, 5:30 - 6:30pm (AEDT)

[Register here](#)

Access these recordings:

Telehealth for Sexual Health in South Eastern Sydney (ASHM)

David Baker, Ciara McDonald and Caran Cheung, three GPs from South Eastern Sydney, shared their experiences and discussed challenges and opportunities for providing sexual health care over telehealth.

[Watch here](#)

Sexual and Reproductive Health and COVID-19 (ASHM and Iris Education)

Last week, a panel of experts including Fiona Mack and Caroline Harvey (Iris Education), Catriona Melville (Marie Stopes Australia), Michelle Reynolds (Children by Choice) and Jacqualine McLellan (Brisbane Sexual Health and HIV Service) met to discuss service changes to sexual and reproductive health during COVID-19. While the discussion focused on Queensland, there are useful lessons here for all of Australia.

[Watch here](#)

Watch other recorded webinars in ASHM's **Providing Care during COVID-19 in QLD** webinar series:

- [**HIV and COVID-19: Watch here**](#)
 - [**Hepatitis B and COVID-19: Watch here**](#)
 - [**Hepatitis C and COVID-19: Watch here**](#)
-

Education

Albion Education and Development – Sexual Health History Taking for Nurses

[**Sexual Health History Taking for Nurses**](#) is a new facilitated online course from Albion Education and Development.

The course was initially scheduled for May 2020, but launched in July 2020 due to a short COVID-related secondment of the facilitator and course creator. Since then, two instances of the course have been run. All places in this course have been offered free of charge by Albion Education and Development in recognition of International Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

Applications were received from nurses across Australia in a variety of metropolitan and regional settings. Many participants assessed sexual health within their current roles but their roles were in areas such as: Justice Health, women's health, sexual assault services, general practice, drug and alcohol services and Aboriginal medical services. Participants were looking for new ways to integrate sexual health screening and promotion into their consultations and services, to develop their communication skill sets and to better understand the key issues for priority populations accessing their services.

At the time of writing, 32 nurses have received a certificate of course completion- which, given the demands 2020 has placed on nursing staff in Australia, should be viewed as a very positive outcome. Evaluation responses commented on a general lack of diversity in current training modes and the fact that this course could be accessed over a number of weeks and at a time that suited learners was well-received. Participants also commented on the limited free Australian based nursing education available on reproductive and sexual health. This course was able to meet that need and connect nurses from across Australia during the pandemic.

A more throughout examination of the evaluations will commence soon, lending further insight into improving training and education opportunities in sexual health in 2021

Access ASHM education:

- [ASHM upcoming training](#)
- [ASHM online learning](#)

Other training providers:

- [Children by Choice](#)
- [Family Planning NSW](#)
- [Sexual Health Quarters](#)
- [ShineSA](#)
- [The Albion Centre](#)
- [True Relationships & Reproductive Health](#)

Opportunities for sector input

Please share the below to your networks as appropriate.



Clinicians wanted for online (Zoom) interviews about the development of a diagnostic test for pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)

To be eligible for this study you must:

- Be currently living and working in Australia
- Work in one or more of the following settings:
 - General Practice
 - Sexual Health Clinic
 - Family Planning Clinic

Participation will involve a 30-45 minute Zoom interview.

Participants will be reimbursed with a \$100 Coles/Myer voucher.

Interviews will discuss the useability of a simple diagnostic test to detect PID, and how you might use such a test in your practice.

Findings from this study will be used to guide development of a diagnostic test for PID.

**For more information and to express interest in participating in this study, please contact:
Helen Bittleston at Helen.Bittleston@uts.edu.au**

This study has been approved by UTS HREC (Approval number: ETH20-5231). Please contact Research.Ethics@uts.edu.au for more information

[Download the participant information sheet-clinician here](#)

Syphilis in Pregnant Women Project QLD

A new project is exploring the screening and treatment of syphilis in pregnancy and congenital syphilis and is being led by the Children's Health Queensland. Phase two of the project involves interviews with healthcare professionals involved with screening, diagnosis and/or management of syphilis in pregnancy and or care of neonates born to women diagnosed with syphilis in pregnancy. Participation will involve a 30-minute interview.

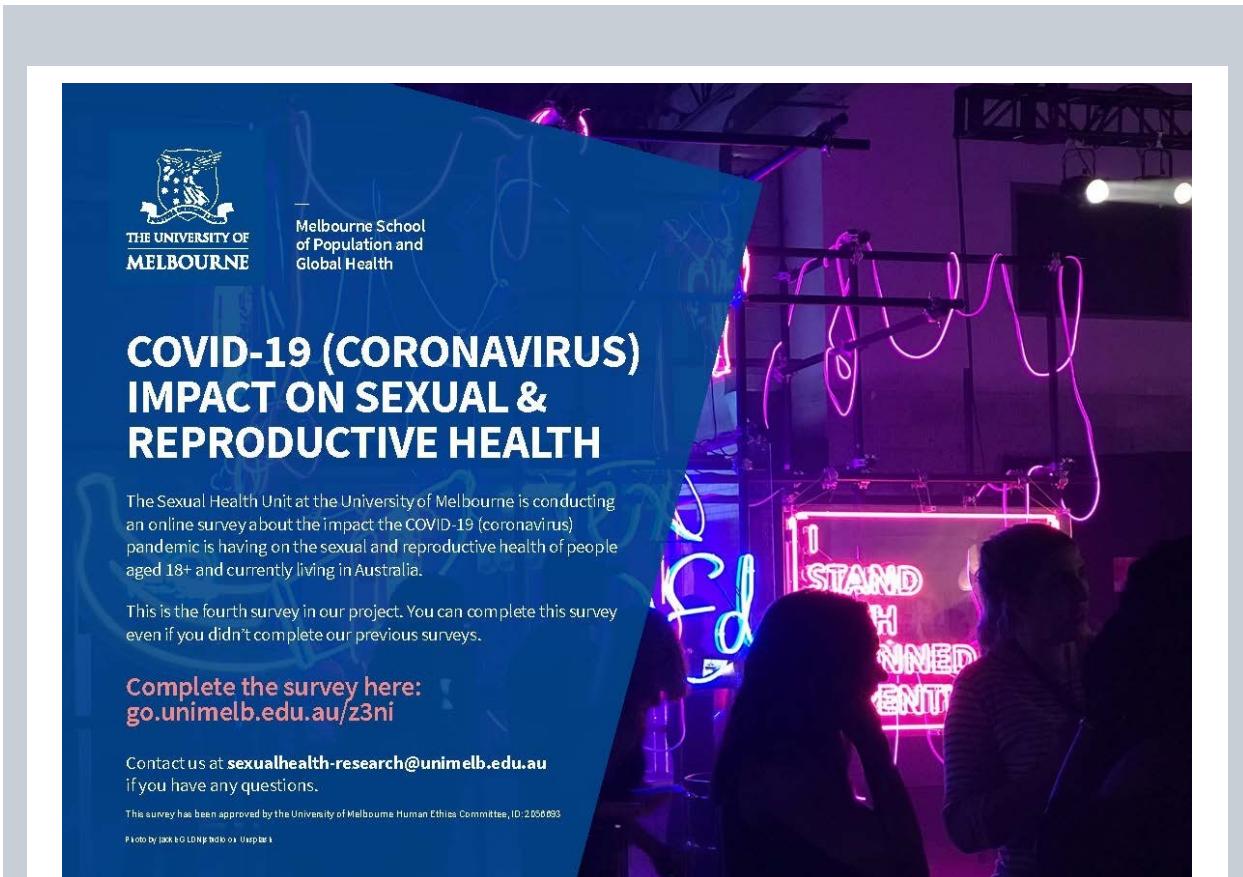
For more information contact Mattea Lazarou via m.lazarou@uq.edu.au.

Consultation: Endometriosis Guideline

The Australian Government has commissioned the development the draft Guideline to support the highest quality care for people with endometriosis in a variety of Australian health care settings. RANZCOG has administered the development of the Guideline as a deliverable under the National Action Plan for Endometriosis, published in 2018.

The draft Guideline is **now open** for public consultation, closing on **24 December 2020**.

Please visit: <https://ranz cog.edu.au/endometriosis-guideline-consultation>



The 4th Sexual and Reproductive Health impact of COVID19 survey is live

This is the fourth and final survey for 2020 on the sexual and reproductive health impact of COVID-19 conducted by the University of Melbourne.

The survey will be open for completion until the **12th December**.

The link to the survey is: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/z3ni>

News and research

Articles and studies included in this section have not been reviewed by the Taskforce, however we endeavour to only include content from reputable sources.

- When accountability meets power: realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights ([International Journal for Equity in Health](#))
- People Are Still Having Sex. So Why Are S.T.D. Rates Dropping? ([The New York Times](#))

- Trans and gender diverse people health and social needs assessment: A community survey ([Positive Life NSW](#))
 - Caution needed on clot risk with 'long COVID': RACGP ([Australian Doctor News](#))
 - Pregnant or taking the pill? Here's what to know about COVID-19, blood clots and hormones ([ABC](#))
 - Unintended pregnancy prevention and care education: Are we adequately preparing entry to practice nursing and midwifery students' ([Australian Nursing and Midwifery Journal Oct-Dec edition, p32](#))
 - Under Trump, New Anti-Abortion Rules Shook Fragile Health Systems Around the World ([NPR](#))
 - Medicare Ineligibles' Gain Access to Subsidised HIV Treatment and Care ([NAPWHA/AFAO](#))
 - Reboot contraceptives research - it has been stuck for decades ([Nature](#))
 - Ruling on puberty blockers sets dangerous precedent – LGBT campaigners ([Glasgow Times](#))
-

Resources

A guide to working with interpreters in virtual communication (Clinical Excellence QLD)

Important conversations with patients and their families are increasingly being conducted virtually. These conversations can be more complex when an interpreter is required. [This guide](#) was developed to provide tips for conducting compassionate conversations via virtual mediums with the aid of an interpreter.

More useful information for health care providers in preparing for difficult conversation virtually can be found in the [compassionate conversations guide](#).

AHPRA: [Telehealth guidance for health practitioners](#)

ASHM: [Taskforce on BBVs, sexual health and COVID-19](#)

CERSH: [April 2020 News Update \(subscribe to future editions here\)](#)

Marie Stopes Australia:

[Service delivery updates / Sexual and reproductive health rights in Australia situational report](#)

PositiveLifeNSW: [Getting practical about COVID-19 and HIV](#)

RACGP: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information for GPs](#)

RACP: [How the college is supporting you](#)

RANZCOG: [COVID-19 information hub](#)

Scarlet Alliance: [COVID-19 impact and response for sex workers](#)

SPHERE: [SRH and COVID-19 Coalition](#)

SRHM: [Collection of papers on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the era of COVID-19](#)



Call for contributions for 2021

We are now **calling for submissions** for the first 2021 edition of the bulletin. Below are some examples of the type of content we would like to include in the bulletin, relating to sexual, reproductive and transgender health:

- Practice changes as a result of COVID-19
- Implications for care and communities
- Innovative responses and adaptations
- Telehealth challenges and successes

- Education opportunities (e.g. online training and conferences)
- Emerging research
- Useful resources

However all contributions are welcomed. Please send any contributions for the next edition by **1 March 2021, with the bulletin to be published the following week.** Submissions after 1 March will go toward subsequent editions.

Please forward this bulletin to your networks. We welcome submissions for future editions of this bulletin from any individuals or organisations working in sexual health.

Please email sexualhealth@ashm.org.au.



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CIRCULATION INFORMATION

ASHM is a peak professional society representing a multidisciplinary health workforce in HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health. We have a membership of over 3500 and almost 60 organisational members providing reach to a large majority of health care worker activity involved in the sector.

You are receiving this email because you are an ASHM member or an affiliate through the organisational member program who has indicated an interest in further education. This is our principal way to keep you informed about matters in which you indicate an interest. This email was sent to a targeted group.

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