

Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee

Communiqué – May 2021

Preamble

The Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee (Committee) was established to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services on sexual and reproductive health-related matters in the context of the *Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016–2021* (Strategy) and associated action plans. The Committee is scheduled to meet quarterly.

This communiqué provides an overview of major items discussed at the thirteenth Committee meeting held on 20 May 2021.

Committee meeting overview

The Committee received an epidemiology presentation on ‘Notifications of bloodborne viruses and sexually transmissible infections (BBVSTI) in Queensland, updated 1 January to 31 March 2021’, which provided updated data on testing and notifications from across the state.

An update was received on the implementation progress of the ‘*North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016–2021*’. It was noted that a changing profile for syphilis and other STIs due to changed behaviours is further contributing to the spread of STIs in the region.

The Committee received a presentation on the North Queensland Bloodborne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Codesign Project. The project will develop a new model to manage the risk of sexually transmissible infections and bloodborne viruses following the completion of the *North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016–2021*.

An update on ‘Syphilis and other STIs in Queensland’ highlighted the current status of a number of Queensland syphilis projects including the Antenatal Sexual health Kit (ASK), Syphilis in Pregnancy (SiP) Guideline Implementation Project, and national activities to address syphilis.

The Committee received a presentation from the Office for Women and Violence Prevention, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, which highlighted the Office’s role, policy environment, priorities and sector profile following recent machinery of government changes.

A presentation on ‘Exploring Models of Publicly Funded Gender Affirming Surgery’ provided an overview of this scoping study supported by the Sexual Health Society of Queensland, noting outcomes of the research are expected in October 2021.

The Committee discussed its annual stakeholder engagement forum, which will focus on North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual health and be held in Mount Isa and Townsville in October 2021.

More information on the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy and Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee can be found at [Queensland Health Sexual Health Strategy](#) or contact us via email: SexualHealthStrategy@health.qld.gov.au