

Communiqué

August 2022

Preamble

Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee

The Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee (Committee) was established to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Minister), when requested by the Minister, on sexual and reproductive health-related matters in the context of the *Queensland Sexual Health Framework* (Framework) and associated action plans. The Committee provides advice based on current available evidence. To remain current with sector issues and emerging areas of potential advice, the Committee receive presentations and briefings on a range of matters. Core to their remit, the Committee is not a lobbyist body or an advocacy group. The Committee is scheduled to meet quarterly.

Sexual Health Research Fund and Research Sub-Committee

The Sexual Health Research Fund (SHRF) was established to provide seed funding for translational research activities to improve the delivery of sexual health services in Queensland and support implementation of the Framework. The Research Sub-Committee (RSC) is a subset of the Committee and was convened to set research priorities and assess and approve research applications.

This Communiqué provides an overview of major items discussed at this eighteenth Committee meeting held on 25 August 2022, and the Research Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 August 2022.

Committee meeting overview

The Committee welcomed Mr Dan Goodman, Assistant Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister for Health to the August 2022 meeting. The Committee received youth-themed presentations which included the outcomes of the Department of Education's sexual consent and reporting curriculum review, briefings on youth gender diversity, and intersex variations, and the co-design process used in the development of youth sexual violence prevention action plans through the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

The Committee were briefed on the recent Cass Review and closure of the Tavistock gender identity clinic in the UK. The Queensland Children's Gender Service welcomes the Cass Review's findings as informative and enriching for gender clinics worldwide. The Queensland Children's Gender Service model of care already aligns with several of the Cass Review's recommendations.

The Committee received an update on the Monkeypox (MPX) epidemic, noting MPX is increasingly evidenced as a sexually transmissible infection (STI) and has been detected in semen. Condom use is emphasised to reduce some risk of transmission but will not remove all risk associated with general skin-to-skin contact.

A national taskforce of key stakeholders has been established to respond to the issues of MPX, including vaccine distribution and community messaging. More information about MPX is available on the [Australian Government Department of Health](#) and [Queensland Health](#) websites.



The Committee discussed the 2022 stakeholder engagement forum which will be held in Mount Isa on 1 November 2022, focusing on sexual health service systems for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers and communities within North-West Queensland.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for **17 November 2022**.

Research Sub-Committee Meeting Overview

SHRF Round Four

The Research Sub-Committee (RSC) met on 5 August 2022 to discuss funding recommendations for SHRF Round Four after making some provisional recommendations in May 2022, pending the RSC's assessment of requested additional information. During the 25 August 2022 meeting, the Committee delegated final decision-making and recommendations for SHRF Round Four applications to the RSC, noting further additional information had been requested against some provisional recommendations.

The RSC finalised Round Four recommendations in September 2022, with four successful applications awarded SHRF grants.

SHRF Round Five

The Committee discussed potential Round Five research priorities at their 25 August 2022 meeting for further consideration by the RSC. The RSC will convene to progress Round Five planning ahead of the Committee's November 2022 meeting.

More information on the SHRF can be found at [Queensland Sexual Health Research Fund](#).

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