

Communiqué

March 2023

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 twentieth Committee meeting held on 9 March 2023, and the Research Sub-Committee meetings held on 6 March 2023.

Committee meeting overview

The Committee received a range of presentations discussing sexual health service provision and research for First Nations Queenslanders. The Institute of Urban Indigenous Health briefed the Committee on the breadth of programs offered in relation to sexual and reproductive health. The Institute of Urban Indigenous Health noted the importance of embedding sexual and reproductive health information pathways within their generalist workforce to support the community's awareness of and access to these services.

The University of Queensland's Poche Centre for Indigenous Health briefed the Committee on their health service and promotion research and how it has translated into policy and public health practice. The Poche Centre has undertaken several research projects in regional and remote Australia some of which involve Queensland clinics. The importance of consultation and co-design with First Nations communities of health interventions within effective translational research was highlighted.

The Committee received a presentation on the work of Griffith University's Youth Forensic Service supporting children aged between 10 and 18 years who have been sentenced in the courts in relation to sexual offence matters. Key learnings noted included 96% of children referred to the Griffith Youth Forensic Service have themselves experienced complex trauma, and the majority of children who experience sexual abuse do not sexually abuse others.



The Committee discussed their upcoming stakeholder engagement Forum focusing on syphilis prevention as it relates to the social determinants of health. The Forum aims to help influence change within service providers and between community and healthcare systems, particularly with service providers supporting people experiencing complex social issues. The Forum is scheduled to be held on 18 May 2023 in Brisbane.

The next Committee meeting will be scheduled for late May or June following the 2023 Forum.

Research Sub-Committee Meeting Overview

SHRF Round Five

The RSC met on 6 March 2023 and discussed the need to prioritise strategies to encourage early career researchers and/or service provider-led project teams to apply in future SHRF rounds. During the 9 March 2023 quarterly Committee meeting, a proposal was endorsed to delay Round 5 of the SHRF until later in 2023 to focus on strategic planning to support future SHRF rounds.

More information on the SHRF, including a list of funded projects, 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.