

Media statement

12 February 2018

Share the love not the STI this Valentine's Day

This Valentine's Day, locals are being urged to share nothing but love.

Dr Kuong Taing, Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's (SCHHS) Director of Sexual Health and HIV Service, said only one in four Australians used a condom for sex with casual partners.

"Falling on one of the most romantic days of the year, Valentine's Day, National Condom Day reminds us of the realities of sexually transmitted infection (STI) and the simple message of *'say it with a condom'*, Dr Taing said.

"Sexually transmitted infections are on the rise, but the rate of testing has also increased dramatically.

"Increased awareness has highlighted the importance of regular checks for those who may have put themselves at risk; so many more people are attending GPs and sexual health clinics for testing.

"Consequently we are seeing more infections particularly chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis."

Dr Taing said most people were aware that if condoms were not used there was a risk of infection.

"Despite this, it is well documented that condom use is often neglected," he said.

"Our comprehensive service provides treatment at no cost and appointments will include discussions about the risks clients may be taking and encourage safe sex, highlighting the importance of telling their partners to ensure reinfection does not occur.

"We're here to not only help patients, but we also encourage GPs to call us to discuss complex cases."

Appointments can be made directly via phone; referrals are not required but are preferable if your GP has suggested a visit to the clinic. Please visit for a check-up and pick up some condoms while you are there. Appointments are required, please phone the clinic directly to organise this.

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