

# Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee

Communiqué

August 2019

## Preamble

### Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee

The Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee (Committee) was established to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services on sexual and reproductive health-related matters in the context of the *Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016–2021* and associated action plans. 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 *Queensland Sexual Healthy Strategy 2016–2021*. 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 the eighth Committee meeting held on 22 August 2019, and the Research Sub-Committee meeting held on 21 June 2019.

## Committee Meeting Overview

The Committee received an update on the implementation progress of the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016–2021 and North Queensland HIV Response. An update on Syphilis in Queensland was also received, providing insight on a recent ‘Syphilis in South-East Queensland key stakeholder meeting’ which considered current syphilis epidemiology and opportunities for syphilis prevention and management strategies.

Presentations were received on the National Action Plan for Endometriosis and the development of an app to support those with endometriosis, provided by The Endometriosis Association (Qld) Inc (QENDO), and the Stop the Rise of STIs campaign which focuses on improving knowledge, awareness and testing of young Queenslanders around sexual health, provided by the Department of Health Strategic Communications Branch.

The Committee noted progress of the SHRF, having provided out-of-session endorsement of the four research projects for round two funding recommended by the RSC:

- Precision public health for enhanced syphilis management in Queensland;
- Enhancing pathways, workforce and capacity of HAND (HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorders) assessment for people living with HIV (PLHIV) throughout Queensland – including regional;
- GoLoCypro: Titrating lowest effective dose of cyproterone acetate for treatment of transgender and gender diverse people who request feminising hormones;
- Reducing disparities for Australian culturally and linguistically diverse overseas-born people in relation to sexual health and blood-borne viruses: Queensland sub-study.

Progress on the planning for the Committee's annual forum, being held on 9 October 2019 on the topic of 'Facilitating Primary Care Engagement in the Prevention, Treatment and Management of Blood-Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections', was noted.

Progress was also noted on establishment of a Youth Advisory Group to increase involvement of young people in the work of the Committee, which is a priority identified through the Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Forum held in October 2018.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 14 November 2019.

## Research Sub-Committee Meeting Overview

The RSC met on 21 June 2019 to finalise assessment of round two of the SHRF. The RSC received and assessed 16 applications for round two, with four successful applications recommended to receive funding.

The RSC noted that the call for proposals for round three would occur in early 2020 and agreed to meet in November 2019 to discuss and set the round three research priorities.

More information on the Sexual Health Research Fund can be found at

[www.ashm.org.au/programs/qld](http://www.ashm.org.au/programs/qld) or via email to [SHRF@ashm.org.au](mailto:SHRF@ashm.org.au)

Contact us: [SexualHealthStrategy@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:SexualHealthStrategy@health.qld.gov.au)