

Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee

Communiqué

May 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 (a subset of the Committee) was convened to set research priorities and assess and approve research applications.

This communiqué provides an overview of major items discussed at the seventh Committee meeting held on 16 May 2019, and the Research Sub-Committee meeting held on 1 March 2019.

Committee Meeting Overview

The Committee received a presentation Epidemiology update on Notifications of blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections in Queensland for the period 1 January to 31 March 2019. This led to discussion around country of birth for reported conditions, congenital syphilis, and infectious syphilis in pregnant women and women of child bearing age. A report on the Notifications will be made available on the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au.

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 was presented to the Committee.

A presentation on Human T Leukaemia/ Lymphotropic Virus-1 (HTLV-1) by Dr Fabiola Martin provided the Committee with a background on the virus and up to date knowledge of the current landscape of the virus internationally, nationally and in Queensland. This included characteristics of HTLV-1, routes of transmission, testing, linked diseases, prevention of transmission, research and service provision needs.

The Committee noted progress of the Sexual Health Research Fund with round one funding being allocated to successful applicants, and round two applications for funding due to close on 17 May 2019.

Progress on the Committee's annual forum being held on 9 October 2019 on the topic of 'Primary Care Engagement in the Prevention, Treatment and Management of Blood-Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections' was noted. Progress of Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Forum reporting and establishment of a Youth Advisory Group to increase involvement of young people in the work of the Committee was also noted.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 22 August 2019.

Research Sub-Committee Meeting Overview

The Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee, Research Sub-Committee met on 1 March 2019 to finalise administration of round one for the Sexual Health Research Fund. It noted 16 applications were received in round one, with three successful applications endorsed as best aligning with the identified research priorities and recommended to receive funding, however one of the successful applications required resolution of intellectual property matters.

The Research Sub-Committee discussed additional details to be included in the research priorities for the 2018-2019 Round two funding and agreed that round two funding would open on 1 April 2019.

The next meeting of the Research Sub-Committee is scheduled for June 2019.

More information on the Sexual Health Research Fund can be found at www.ashm.org.au/programs/qld/ or via email to SHRF@ashm.org.au

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