

# Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee

Communiqué

November 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* (Strategy) 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 Strategy. 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 ninth Committee meeting held on 14 November 2019, and the Research Sub-Committee meeting held on 1 November 2019.

## Committee Meeting Overview

The Committee received a number of presentations on sexual health in Queensland, including a presentation on proposed strategies within Queensland correctional settings to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections and another on current research monitoring progress to improve care for Queenslanders newly diagnosed with HIV. This research was designed to assess a new outcome-based data indicator measuring the proportion of people who achieve viral suppression soon after diagnosis of HIV, and identify risk factors for not achieving viral suppression.

An update was received and noted on the implementation progress of the *North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016–2021*, and epidemiological data on Queensland notifiable blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections.

The Committee considered the upcoming third round of the SHRF, endorsing research priorities aligned to the Strategy and the 2020 timeline for opening and closing of applications and assessment and selection of research proposals.

The Committee discussed its second annual stakeholder engagement forum held on 9 October 2019 on the topic of 'Facilitating Primary Care in the Prevention, Treatment and Management of Blood-Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections', noting the diversity of presentations and subsequent discussions held throughout the Forum program and the strong participation by a broad range of sexual health service providers and stakeholders. A report on the Forum is being produced and made available to stakeholders.

Activities for the Committee's Youth Advisory Group to undertake were also discussed, with a focus on progressing a number of key issues identified in the *Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Forum* report, which resulted from the Committee's inaugural stakeholder engagement forum held in October 2018.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 13 February 2020.

## Research Sub-Committee Meeting Overview

The RSC met on 1 November 2019 and received an update on Round Two of the SHRF, and discussed and recommended priorities and timing for Round Three.

Four research priorities which align to the Strategy were discussed and agreed to by the RSC for Round Three. Applications are scheduled to open on 2 March 2020 and close on 17 April 2020, with agreement reached to release the research priorities in late 2019 to enable the research community to establish collaborative research arrangements for proposals in this round.

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 [Queensland Health Sexual Health Strategy](#) webpage 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)