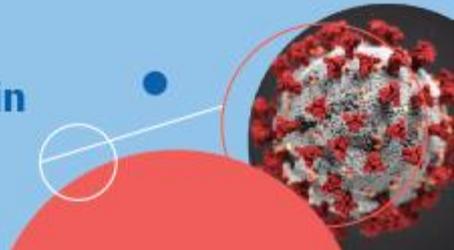




Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message



**sexual health workforce bulletin**  
love in the time of covid-19



*A project of the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19*

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## Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin

*Love in the time of COVID-19 #11*

**9 August 2021**

Was this email forwarded to you? Email [sexualhealth@ashm.org.au](mailto:sexualhealth@ashm.org.au) to sign up.

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**Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin.** These bulletins aim to provide the sexual health workforce with information on changes in clinical practices, health service innovations, medical education, emerging research, and useful resources.

You will also find all of our usual content, including:

- [Sector updates](#)
- [Education on offer from ASHM and other training providers](#)
- [Survey - Transition to self collected cervical screening](#)
- [Conference Announcements](#)
- [News and research](#)
- [Useful resources for the workforce](#)
- [COVID-19 Information](#)

The bulletin has been developed by the ASHM Sexual Health Program with expert input by members of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (AChSHM) and the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19.

As always, please send through your submissions and ideas to [sexualhealth@ashm.org.au](mailto:sexualhealth@ashm.org.au). We would also appreciate you distributing this bulletin through your networks.

Stay safe and well,

**Dr Vincent Cornelisse**

ASHM Clinical Advisor  
Medical Unit Manager and Staff Specialist, Kirketon Road Centre  
&

**Sarah Maunsell**

Acting ASHM Sexual Health Program Manager

[For more information or to subscribe to the bulletin click here.](#)

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## Sector updates

*These updates were graciously supplied by our colleagues in the workforce. For any questions or commentary please reach out to the organisations listed.*



## Announcing the inaugural Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Day

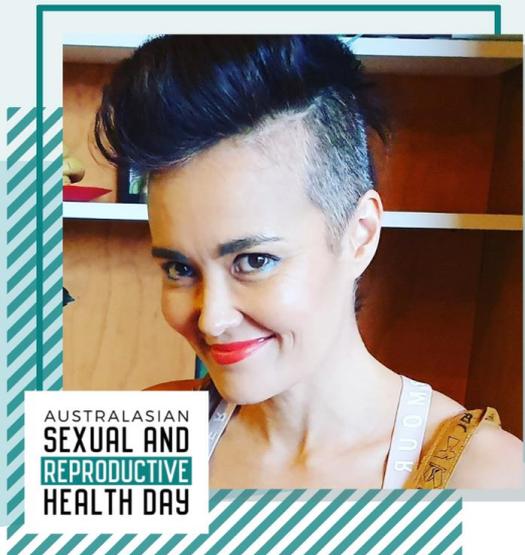
Registrations now open for the inaugural **Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Day: A future fit for reproductive health and rights by 2050, Thursday 9 September 2021.**

The day's program focuses on securing the future of reproductive health and rights, concentrating on leadership, technology, workforce, community and civil society and their role in achieving universal access to contraception, abortion and preventing reproductive coercion. [Read more](#)

[Register HERE](#)

[Access the program HERE](#)

Access is free for those who are registered to attend the [Australasian Sexual Health and HIV&AIDS Conference.](#)



## YUMI STYNES

Announcing Yumi Stynes to open the Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Day.

Welcome address - 9.05am Thurs 9 Sept

**REGISTER NOW!**

PLATINUM SPONSOR  
 **ORGANON**

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### 2021 Joint Australasian Sexual Health and HIV&AIDS conference: Nurse highlights

The Joint Australasian Sexual Health and HIV&AIDS conference 6th-9th September presents a great opportunity for nurses to hear from nursing, other health professional and research colleagues and community members.

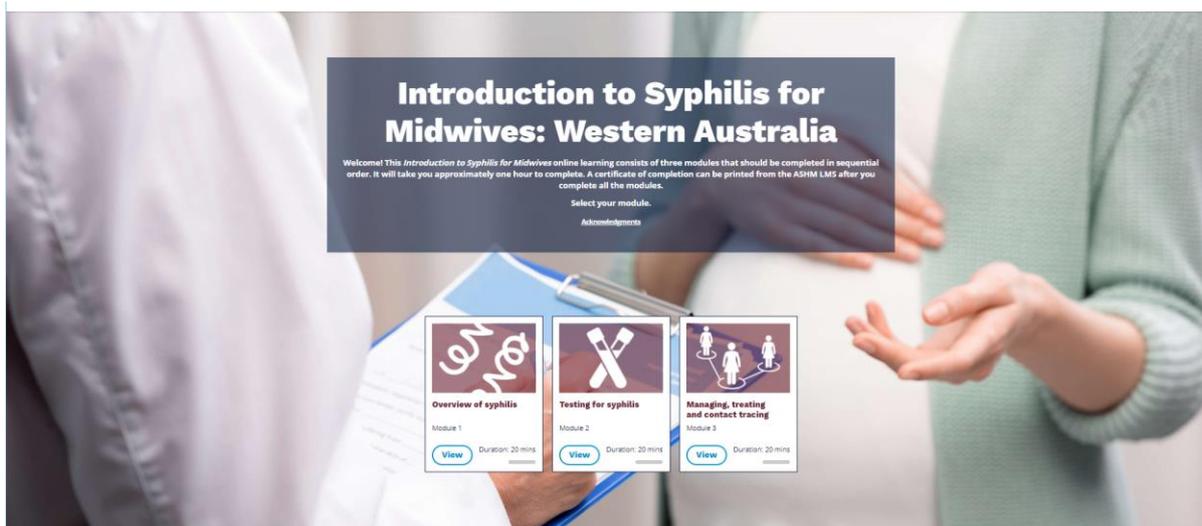
This year's conference streams are Basic Science; Epidemiology, Prevention and Health Promotion; Clinical Management & Therapeutics and Social, Political & Cultural Aspects with a range of live and on demand presentations and interactive panel discussions.

If you haven't already registered to take part in this dynamic conference, you can register [here](#) before Sunday 22nd August. Please check the conference website for regular updates of the [live program](#), [on demand abstract program](#) and [on demand poster program](#).

Please also visit the [ASHHNA website](#) for details about their scholarships for Australasian Sexual Health and HIV&AIDS conference registration. **Scholarship applications close on the 11th of August.**

**Some highlighted sessions are outlined [here](#), including work being shared by nurses in clinical and research roles. Please note session times are AEST.**

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## LAUNCHED! New Online Learning Module – Introduction to Syphilis for Midwives: Western Australia

Infectious syphilis cases have been increasing significantly in the Perth metropolitan area, which led to WA Health declaring an outbreak in 2020.

More cases are being detected in vulnerable populations, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Culturally and linguistically diverse people
- People that are experiencing homelessness
- People who inject drugs.

A population of particular concern is women of reproductive age because of the risk of congenital syphilis.

ASHM is pleased to announce a new 1-hour online learning module, funded by, and developed in collaboration with Western Australia, Department of Health. Through interactive quizzes and case studies, Western Australian midwives can develop their skills to confidently discuss sexual health with patients, conduct guideline-based syphilis screening and testing, health pathway of pregnancy in syphilis, and initiate contact tracing.

The module is an Australian College of Midwives (ACM) endorsed activity.

The learning module can be accessed **free of charge** through the ASHM Learning Management System. Users who do not already have access to the Learning Management system can create a login free of charge.

Participants complete the module first and then given an evaluation survey. Once both have been completed participants are given access to their certificate.

**Start learning today at [lms.ashm.org.au](https://lms.ashm.org.au)**

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# ASHM Education



## **ASHM Sexual and Reproductive Health in Primary Care Course (Development & Delivery)**

In an exciting new milestone for ASHM, the Sexual Health team has developed and delivered its first piece of reproductive health education ***Sexual and Reproductive Health Care in Primary Care*** in collaboration with Iris Education.

The ***Sexual and Reproductive Health Care in Primary Care*** course provides practitioners with an overview of sexual and reproductive health care in general practice. The program covers sexual health communication, sexual history taking, STI screening, contraception and unintended pregnancy and abortion care. It also discusses how STI screening can be integrated into contraception and unintended pregnancy consultations.

Following strong positive feedback from the pilot sessions, more courses are planned to come. Future session details will be available on ASHM's website soon.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register your expression of interest to the course.

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## **Intersex, Cultural and Social Perspectives: A new resource**

The *Culture, Health and Sexuality* journal has just released a special issue that addresses the large deficit in research about intersex and variations in sex characteristics. The editorial and some of the papers are written as collaborations between intersex people and non-intersex people... [read more here](#)

Further studies will be forthcoming, from the INIA project - please see <https://www.intersexnew.co.uk/>

The special issue of *Culture, Health & Sexuality* is available here <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tchs20/23/4>

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## MS Health publishes updated prescriber and dispenser data

In July MS Health published [updated medical abortion prescriber and dispenser data](#). MS Health mapped the number of prescribers and dispensers by region, and the estimated number of women of childbearing age within those regions. The data highlights particular access gaps in regional and remote areas, which must be interpreted contextually within specific state or territory geography.

Data sets published in July are aligned with those published in the [MS Health 2020 Impact Report](#) earlier this year, making available two comparative sets of data on medical abortion prescriber and dispensers in Australia. MS Health plans to continue publishing this data at six-month intervals, following repeated requests from academics and policy makers to make this data publicly available.

Updated medical abortion prescriber and dispenser data [download here](#)  
MS Health 2020 Impact Report [download here](#)



## Marie Stopes Australia shifts to centralised models of care

While Marie Stopes has made a difficult decision to close its Queensland clinics in Rockhampton, Townsville and Southport, and Newcastle clinic in New South Wales, they remain fiercely committed to providing and supporting abortion care for women and pregnant people across Australia.

Unfortunately, physical day surgeries in regional areas are no longer financially viable due to a number of factors. Costs continue to rise, with regional clinics functioning below the capacity required to sustain their financial outgoings for some time. This decision has been made in the face of changing needs for abortion care, with a shift away from surgical abortion towards medical abortion, and in particular virtual abortion services. As a result, the terms of Marie Stopes' proposed lease conditions, in a large footprint of regional areas, cannot be reasonably committed to in the longer term. [Read more here](#)



Join an online network to engage with peer in the  
area contraception and abortion care?



## Are you a clinician who wants to support women's reproductive choices?

The Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support Network (AusCAPPS) invites any general practitioners, practice nurses, and community pharmacists working in general practice/primary care to participate in the AusCAPPS Network. An online network in which you connect and chat with peers and clinical experts, access our national network of providers and keep up to date with the latest research resources.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about the project.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the project flyer.

Register at [www.medcast.com.au/communities/auscapps](http://www.medcast.com.au/communities/auscapps)

Contact [ausCAPPS.trial@monash.edu](mailto:ausCAPPS.trial@monash.edu) for any questions



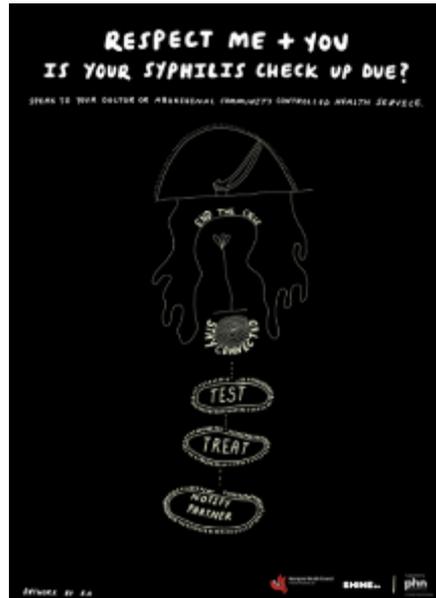
## New national campaign - Don't fool around with syphilis

The Department of Health has just launched a new campaign on syphilis, including fact sheets, posters and a video for priority populations and health professionals.

Further information is available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/dont-fool-around-with-syphilis>

Resources can be downloaded here: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/dont-fool-around-with-syphilis-resources>

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## New syphilis campaign from the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia and SHINE SA

*Respect Me + You, Is Your Syphilis Check Up Due?* is a new campaign developed by the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia and SHINE SA.

The campaign encourages people to follow the hashtag #RespectMeAndYou and share the message of staying connected and getting tested.

To download social media graphics and order posters, please visit <https://shinesa.org.au/syphilis-campaign/>



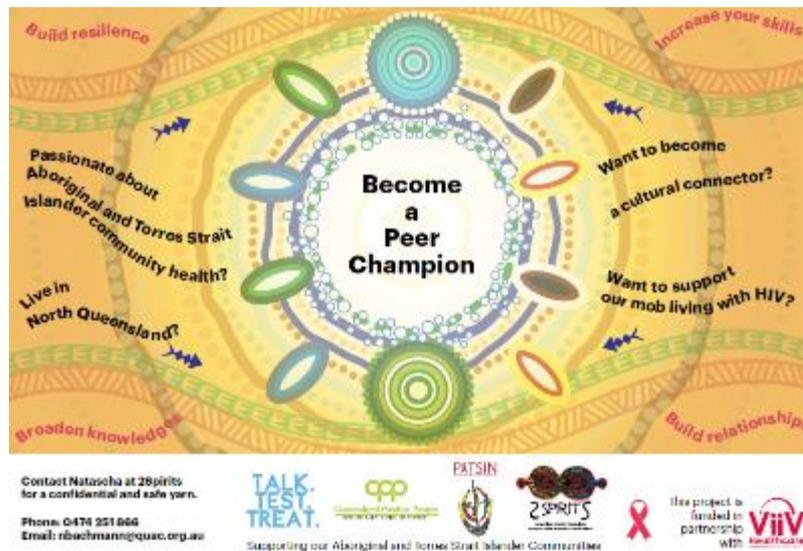
## The GoGoVax study is now ready to start recruitment

The GoGoVax trial is a double-blinded randomised-placebo controlled trial will assess whether gay and bisexual men, who are at high risk of getting gonorrhoea, will have fewer new gonorrhoea infections if they receive a licensed meningococcal B vaccine called 4CMenB (marketed as Bexsero®), compared to those who receive a placebo.

[Click here to download](#) A Patient Information and Consent Form

[Click here to download](#) The GoGoVax study poster

Study participants will be required to attend up to 10 visits to the Gold Coast Sexual Health Service during the 2 years on the study.



## HIV PEER CHAMPION PROJECT

“Supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities”

Are you passionate about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community health?

- Do you live in North Queensland?
- Do you want to become a cultural connector?
- Do you want to support our mob living with HIV?
- Do you want to create community awareness in HIV prevention?

Become a HIV Peer Champion today. Build your resilience, increase your skills, broaden your knowledges and build relationships.

Please contact Natascha at 2Spirits for a confidential and safe yarn, on phone 0474 251 866 or email [nbachmann@quac.org.au](mailto:nbachmann@quac.org.au)

## Important Update – NCSP communication and impact on testing

The Department of Health has commenced a project which will pilot alternative forms of communications for people identified as very under-screened or never-screened (over one million people).

The newly designed correspondence will be tested against its current correspondence, to identify the best way to encourage participation in this group of Australians. [Read more here](#)

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## Talking about sexual health may lead to earlier diagnosis or prevent chronic disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men

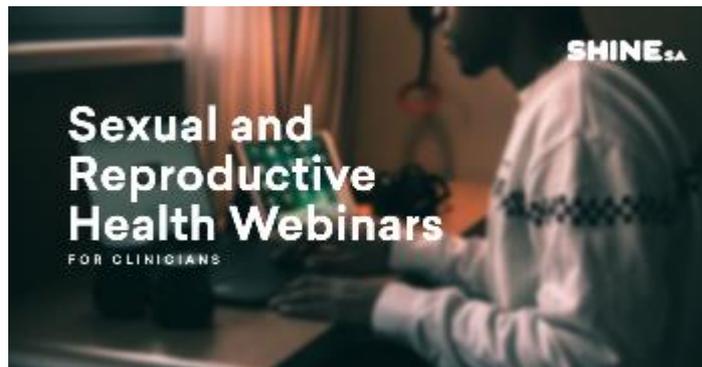
*Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet* have recently released a review of sexual health issues linked with cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes mellitus in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males co-authored with Healthy Male.

[Access the summary report here](#)

[Access the factsheet here](#)

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## Education



### SHINE SA's Webinars

Throughout 2020/21 SHINE SA have created a range of webinars to improve education accessibility for regional/rural health professionals.

These webinars have also proven important amidst the COVID-19 context. Our range of recorded sexual and reproductive health webinars are now available to access for free.

Topics covered include:

- Managing STIs in Pregnancy – presented by Dr Carole Khaw, Senior Consultant Sexual Health Physician.
- Introduction To Working With Trans and Gender Diverse Persons (for Allied Health Professionals) – presented by Gender Connect Country SA.
- Understanding PrEP & PEP – presented by Dr Carole Khaw, Senior Consultant Sexual Health Physician.
- What's New In STIs – presented by Dr Carole Khaw, Senior Consultant Sexual Health Physician.

These webinars can be viewed here: <http://shinesa.org.au/webinars-podcasts/>



providers delivering maternity services in public hospitals and clinics, including midwives, practice nurses, GPs, PHU staff, and ACCHSs are encouraged to complete the course. The online ASK course is multifaceted and consists of:

- A 45-minute presentation
- Online learning modules
- Podcast series
- Online resource hub
- Online anonymous forum

This course is free to access. Register at: <https://www.true.org.au/course?eventtemplate=62-antenatal-sexual-health-kit-ask-selfpaced> [www.true.org.au/ask](http://www.true.org.au/ask)

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### Women's health and infectious disease, Online webinar

This webinar will explore women's health and infectious diseases and will cover vulval and vaginal issues, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). General Practitioners are ideally placed to provide high quality patient-centred care in this vital area of the health landscape.

**Presenters:** Professor Gayle Fischer (University of Sydney/Royal North Shore Hospital), Dr YenLi Lim (RPA Sexual Health Clinic) and Dr Jane Goller and Helen Bittleston (University of Melbourne).

**When:** Monday 20 September 2021, 7-8:30pm.

**Where:** Online via Zoom

**Target Audience:** GPs and Nurses

[CLICK HERE for more information and registration.](#)

For more information, please contact Zoe Richards , Program Officer, Research and Sexual Health - 1300 986 991 or [z.richards@cesphn.com.au](mailto:z.richards@cesphn.com.au)

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#### Access ASHM education:

- [ASHM upcoming training](#)
- [ASHM online learning](#)

#### Other training providers:

- [Children by Choice](#)
  - [Family Planning NSW](#)
  - [Sexual Health Quarters](#)
  - [ShineSA](#)
  - [The Albion Centre](#)
  - [True Relationships & Reproductive Health](#)
-

## Transition to self- collected cervical screening - survey

*Please share the below surveys to your networks as appropriate.*

### Survey: Implementation plan for transition to open access self-collection cervical screening pathway

In May 2021, the Medical Services Advisory Committee recommended to government that self-collection be expanded to be offered as a choice to all people eligible for cervical screening. [Read more here](#)  
A government decision on this recommendation is awaited, but the change could potentially be introduced sometime in 2022. At present, the self-collection pathway is available to under and never screened people aged 30 and over who meet strict eligibility criteria with the test being offered in a consultation by a cervical screening provider.

The implementation of the current self-collection cervical screening pathway has not come without its challenges, with primary care and cervical screening providers being pivotal in the delivery of self-collection. Recognising this, the University of Melbourne (led by A/Prof Julia Brotherton and Dr Claire Nightingale), has been commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health to conduct a consultation and develop an implementation plan to guide the roll out of proposed policy changes. We recognise the critical role that primary care and cervical screening providers play and want to capture your opinion about these changes.

We invite **all primary care and cervical screening providers** to complete [a short online survey](#) using the below link. Completion of the survey should take about 5 minutes. It doesn't matter whether you have previously provided self-collection or not. If you participate in the survey, you will have the choice to go into the draw to win 1 of 2 \$200 Red Balloon Gift Vouchers.

Complete the survey via this link:

[https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1TFtMJwsBHlbAZa](https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1TFtMJwsBHlbAZa)

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### Conference announcements



**Joint Australasian HIV&AIDS and Sexual Health Conferences** will once again be hosted in a virtual format between **6 to 9 September 2021**, following the success of last year's inaugural virtual conferences. To register visit <https://shhivconferences2021.com.au/>

Scholarships are also available to attend. For further information visit <https://www.ashm.org.au/Conferences/scholarships-and-awards/>

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## News and research

Articles and studies included in this section have not been reviewed by the Taskforce, however we endeavour to only include content from reputable sources.

- A rise in a sexually transmissible infection (STI) that had become rare is now putting syphilis screening on the national agenda ([Jean Hailes](#))
  - New review says greater awareness of sexual health may help to reduce rates of chronic disease among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males ([Australian Indigenous HealthInfonet](#))
  - Community-based sexual and reproductive health promotion and services for First Nations people in urban Australia ([International Journal of Women's Health](#))
  - Using social networking sites to recruit participants: methods of an online survey of sexual health, knowledge and behaviour of young South Australians ([Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health](#))
  - Experiences and Perspectives of Transgender Youths in Accessing Health Care ([JAMA Pediatrics](#))
  - As Regional Abortion Clinics Close, Is It Time To Make The Abortion Pill More Accessible? ([JUNKEE.](#))
- 

## Resources

- **STI World Hepatitis Day Podcast.** [Listen here.](#)
  - **Australia's abortion postcode lottery.** [Listen here.](#)
  - **Sexual health links with chronic disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male's factsheet.** This fact sheet provides a number of key facts about male sexual health, with a focus on erectile dysfunction (ED) and low testosterone (LT). [Read more here.](#) Download the [fact sheet here.](#) For more information please contact, Australian Indigenous Health *InfoNet* , Ph: (08) 9370 6336, Email: [healthinfonet@ecu.edu.au](mailto:healthinfonet@ecu.edu.au)
  - **Transgender healthcare Fact Sheet** This factsheet includes information on healthcare for people who are transgender and was designed to assist health professionals in the management of their patients. For more information, please visit <https://www.healthymale.org.au/> Download the Fact Sheet [here](#)
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## COVID-19 information

- ASHM Prescriber Contact Listing. [Access here.](#)
- ASHM S100 providers against the list of GP practices able to offer COVID-19 vaccinations which GPs and their patients may find useful. [Access here.](#) If you are an S100 prescriber and a COVID-19 vaccination centre but do not show on the listing, please contact ASHM and let us know.
- AHPRA: Telehealth guidance for health practitioners. [Access here.](#)
- ASHM: Taskforce on BBVs, sexual health and COVID-19. [Access here.](#)
- CERSH: April 2020 News Update. [Access here.](#) Subscribe to future editions [here](#)
- Marie Stopes Australia: Sexual and reproductive health rights in Australia situational report. [Access here.](#) Service updates [accessible here.](#)
- Positive Life NSW: Getting practical about COVID-19 and HIV. [Access here.](#)
- RACGP: Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for GPs. [Access here.](#)
- RANZCOG: COVID-19 information hub. [Access here.](#)

- Scarlet Alliance: COVID-19 impact and response for sex. [Access here](#).
- SRHM: Collection of papers on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the era of COVID-19. [Access here](#).

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## Call for contributions to the bulletin

**We are calling for submissions for the next edition of the Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin.**

Our next theme of the Sexual Health Bulletin will be "**Hero Stories**". We are seeking submissions from individuals and organisations on any achievements or innovations in sexual and reproductive health that you and your team are proud of.

Please send any contributions for the next edition **by 10 September 2021**. Submissions after 10 September 2021 will be added to subsequent editions.

Please forward this bulletin to your networks. We welcome submissions for future editions of this bulletin from any individuals or organisations working in sexual and reproductive health. Please email [sexualhealth@ashm.org.au](mailto:sexualhealth@ashm.org.au)



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[ashm.org.au](http://ashm.org.au)

ABN 48 264 545 457 CFN 17788



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### CIRCULATION INFORMATION

ASHM is a peak professional society representing a multidisciplinary health workforce in HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexual and reproductive health. We have a membership of over 5000 individual members and over 60 organisational members, providing reach to a large majority of health care worker activity involved in the sector.

You can change the kinds of email alerts you receive at any time by logging in to [my.ashm.org.au](http://my.ashm.org.au) and re-selecting your interest preferences. Alternatively, change your general subscription [here](#).