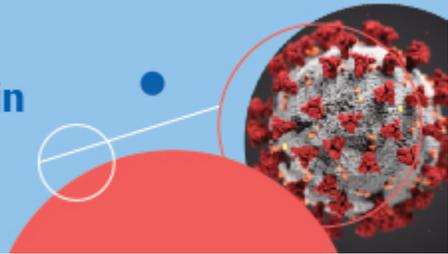


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sexual health workforce bulletin
love in the time of covid-19



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

Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin

Love in the time of COVID-19 #3

18 May 2020

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

This fortnight's bulletin contains feature articles from [The Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association \(ASHHNA\)](#) and [The New Zealand Sexual Health Society](#).

The bulletin also includes a link to [an interesting piece on online sex and technology from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society](#) as well as the International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Consortium's [statement on COVID-19 and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights](#).

Updates from several sexual and reproductive health services operating in different parts of Australia once again highlight our sector's dedication to promoting ongoing equitable access to sexual and reproductive health

services during these unusual times. This edition's contributors include [M Clinic](#), [Gold Coast Sexual Health Service](#), [Sexual Health Counsellors' Association of NSW](#) and [Social Workers in HIV](#).

Other resources include:

- [Information on Queensland Council for LGBTI Health's IDAHOBIT online event](#)
- [Webinar recordings from ASHM's COVID-19 taskforce](#)
- [Several links to relevant news items, recent research, resources and upcoming education](#)

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.

We hope that you are finding this bulletin useful, and are keen to receive your submissions and ideas for future editions (please email these to sexualhealth@ashm.org.au). Please distribute this bulletin through your networks.

Stay safe and well,

Dr Vincent Cornelisse

ASHM Clinical Advisor

Medical Unit Manager and Staff Specialist, Kirketon Road Centre

&

Jessica Michaels

ASHM Sexual Health Program Manager

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



Global voices: How Sexual and Reproductive Health Services have been impacted by COVID-19 in New Zealand

The New Zealand government's introduction of a strict lockdown (national alert level 4) on 25 March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on health service delivery. This week our colleagues at the New Zealand Sexual Health Society have provided an overview of the impacts seen across the sexual health workforce, including:

- a temporary increase in syndromic STI management
- an increase in telehealth for patients with HIV
- discontinuation of routine LARC insertions
- the classification of abortion as an essential service at all alert levels
- a decrease in sexual assault disclosures during initial lockdown (with an expectation that historical disclosures will increase as restrictions ease)

We highly recommend clicking [here to read the full piece from NZSHS](#), which also contemplates how the lessons learned during the pandemic may be used to improve sexual health service delivery long-term.

ISRHR Consortium Statement on COVID-19 and SRHR

ASHM is a proud member of the International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Consortium. [Click here to view the consortium's statement on COVID-19 and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.](#)

Online sex parties and virtual reality porn: can sex in isolation be as fulfilling as real life?

While online sex may not be a substitute for intimacy and touch, research shows there are many benefits. Technology can make sex more creative, for instance, and help people explore fantasies. Learn more in this article from Dr Jennifer Power and Dr Andrea Waling from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) at La Trobe University, [published on the Conversation](#).

ARCSHS is a member of the [Australasian Sexual Health Alliance](#)

Call for papers: sexual and reproductive health and rights in the era of COVID-19

Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters seeks to bring to the fore the best and latest rights-based evidence and

analysis on the implications of COVID-19 on sexual and reproductive health and rights from across the world. SRHM are inviting submissions to the journal in the form of commentaries, perspectives, original research and analytical reviews. They also encourage the submission of narratives from individuals with first-hand experiences and contributions from activists.

Papers will be published on an ongoing basis. [Access the collection here](#), and the [call for papers here](#).

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.



ASHA spotlight: Australasian Sexual Health & HIV Nurses Association

The Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association (ASHHNA) is the peak Australasian sexual, reproductive health and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) nurses' professional organisation. Individual members of ASHHNA work in diverse roles and settings across Australasia and some are currently working at the frontline in various clinical, research, management and educational roles in the response to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

We have

- Provided COVID-19 national and state-based resources to all our members and the general community through our website: <http://ashhna.org.au/covid-19/>
- Encouraged members redeployed, or currently working, in a frontline COVID-19 capacity to ask for assistance from ASHHNA via email.
- Reposted evidence-based and relevant health care research and guidelines through our twitter and Facebook accounts.
- Encouraged conversation, communication and connectiveness through our members-only 'knowledge network'.
- Our latest newsletter can be found here: <http://ashhna.org.au/news/>

ASHHNA was formed in 1991 and exists for and because of our members. Our association is represented on many national working groups including the ASHM COVID-19 Taskforce.

ASHHNA is a member of the [Australasian Sexual Health Alliance](#)



Gold Coast Sexual Health Service & Staff Deployments during COVID-19

Karen Biggs, Nurse Practitioner at Gold Coast Sexual Health Service, provides an update on the service's response to COVID-19, which has included modifying service delivery, as well as allowing temporary deployment of five of the eight nursing staff to COVID-19 related services. [Read the update here.](#)

M Clinic

M Clinic, an arm of the Western Australian AIDS Council, is a thriving Perth peer-based and nurse-led STI, HIV, and BBV testing & treatment clinic providing confidential and non-judgemental services for men, trans-men, trans-women and non-binary people who have sex with each other. They also offer one of the few PrEP clinics in Perth, called LinQ Medical, which is GP-led. This week they have provided an update on the innovative practice changes they have seen due to COVID-19, which included splitting staff into two teams and offering telehealth to clients stuck in the regions due to WA's intrastate travel bans. [Read the update here.](#)



Sexual Health Counsellors' Association of NSW (SCAN) and Social Workers in HIV (SWHIV)

SCAN and SWIV are the two peak associations for psychosocial issues in sexual health and HIV in NSW. Whilst many services have seen a decrease in presentations for sexual health testing, SCAN and SWHIV workers have noticed that demand for psychosocial assistance has increased as a result of COVID-19. They are adapting to this upheaval by drawing together their resources and pooling combined knowledge to support the vulnerable individuals most impacted by the pandemic.

[Read about their work here.](#)

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia

IDAHOBIT is on Sunday the 17th of May this year, and QC is hosting a free online event.

[View on Facebook](#)

[View on Eventbrite](#)

Please feel free to share with your contacts, communities and folks who may be interested.

Webinars and recordings

Adapting HIV and Sexual Health Services in the time of COVID-19 – Experiences from Malaysia, Singapore and Timor-Leste

In this webinar from the ASHM Taskforce Regional Advisory Group, speakers from Malaysia, Singapore and Timor-Leste discussed the impact that the redeployment of infectious disease specialists is having on the provision of HIV services in each of their countries. [Watch the recording.](#)

Upcoming education

ASHM education:

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

Other training providers:

[True Relationships & Reproductive Health](#): During the COVID-19 pandemic, True is now offering many of its courses at a discounted rate of 50%. True is a leading provider of clinical education in reproductive and sexual health. Many of our courses are ACRRM or RACGP accredited. [Click here to view the course catalogue.](#)

And more from:

- [Family Planning NSW](#)
- [Children by Choice](#)
- [Sexual Health Quarters](#)
- [ShineSA](#)

News and research

Mount Isa clinician warns a rise in STIs could be on the cards if locals continue to ignore sexual health issues ([ABC](#))

Abortion in the context of COVID-19: a human rights imperative ([SRHM](#))

STIs: Lockdown 'once in a lifetime opportunity' for sexual health ([BBC](#))

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

Resources

eTG complete complimentary access

Therapeutic Guidelines, a not-for-profit organisation that is funded by subscribers to publish independent therapeutic advice, has announced complimentary access to eTG complete is now available for a limited time. Complimentary access for those without a current subscription will extend until 31 July 2020, and includes access to eTG complete online and the eTG complete app for Apple and Android devices. For more information or to register for complimentary access, visit tg.org.au

Other excellent resources:

AHPRA: [Telehealth guidance for health practitioners](#)

ASHM: [Taskforce on BBVs, sexual health and COVID-19](#)

CERSH: [April 2020 News Update \(subscribe to future editions here\)](#)

Marie Stopes Australia:

[Sexual and reproductive health rights in Australia situational report](#) / [Service delivery updates](#)

RACGP: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information for GPs](#)

RACP: [How the college is supporting you](#)

RANZCOG: [COVID-19 information hub](#)

Scarlet Alliance: [COVID-19 impact and response for sex workers](#)

SPHERE: [SRH and COVID-19 Coalition](#)

SRHM: [Collection of papers on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the era of COVID-19](#)

Please forward this bulletin to your networks. We welcome submissions for future editions of this bulletin from any individuals or organisations working in sexual health. Please email sexualhealth@ashm.org.au.



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Developing a sustainable HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health workforce for 30 years.

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CIRCULATION INFORMATION

ASHM is a peak professional society representing a multidisciplinary health workforce in HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health. We have a membership of over 3500 and almost 60 organisational members providing reach to a large majority of health care worker activity involved in the sector.

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