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JUNE 2016: A look at ASHM News, Sector News, Research, Resources, Courses, Conferences, and more

ASHM NEWS

Queensland Gets Prescriber Programs

Since opening our Queensland office in March, five new staff has joined the ASHM team in Brisbane. They recently held the very productive first meeting of the HIV, viral hepatitis, sexual health and harm reduction workforce development expert reference committee. Going forward, ASHM will be delivering the **HIV S100 prescriber program** in Queensland and implementing the **Hepatitis B S100 prescriber program** for the first time.



Clinical Support for Queensland Viral Hepatitis Workforce

Further to education delivery, ASHM is running a **Clinical Hepatitis Workforce Development Project**, which Clinical Nurses Melinda Hassall and Ally Kerr will be coordinating. This project focuses on building the capacity of Primary Health Care services to manage and treat viral hepatitis within their practices. Activities will include access to education sessions (video case conference discussions, access to advanced education & training courses), in-services, and assistance refining referral pathways with tertiary care providers.

If you would like to participate in any of our upcoming training or the Clinical Hepatitis Workforce Development Project, please get in touch with one of our Queensland staff members:

Michelle Rosenthal

Senior Project Officer

E michelle.rosenthal@ashm.org.au T 0421 285 479

Ally Kerr

Clinical Nurse, Viral Hepatitis

E ally.kerr@ashm.org.au T 0403 502 407

Melinda Hassall

Clinical Nurse, Viral Hepatitis

E melinda.hassall@ashm.org.au T 0422 596 701

Emily Buster

Project Officer, HIV and Sexual Health

E emily.buster@ashm.org.au T 0413 471 937

Katelin Haynes

Project Officer, Viral Hepatitis

E katelin.haynes@ashm.org.au T 0423 058 692

ASHM Queensland

Level 1, 725 Ann St

Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006

Regional Network Website

We are excited to announce the official launch of the [Regional Network website](#). The website has been developed based on the needs identified by Regional Network members at the 1st Assembly, Bangkok January 2016. The Regional Network website is designed to be driven by user-generated content and to be a useful tool for Regional Network members and other interested parties. Among the features of the website are: continuously updated library of guidelines, strategies and fact sheets; an Events calendar; Skills Marketplace; Activities and Projects occurring around the region; and a blog. Please share details of the website with any interested parties and subscribe to the mailing list on the homepage.

SECTOR NEWS

Kirby Releases Chronic Hepatitis C Treatment Uptake in March

The Kirby Institute has released a newsletter with data compiled from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme on the initiation of hepatitis C treatment since new direct acting antiviral medications became publicly listed. A total of 1,811 individuals initiated chronic hepatitis C therapy. The data is broken down by each state and territory, as well as regimen and course duration. [Read more and download](#)

NSW HIV Testing Week 2016 1-7 June 2016

The NSW HIV Testing Week campaign will again use the theme 'Ending HIV', leveraging the visibility and recognisability of previous campaigns. A media agency is working to raise awareness and increase rates of testing during the Testing Week. Content will be produced for promotion across social media sites, email campaigns, posters, engaging ambassadors such as GPs. The NSW Health website will showcase a slider promoting HIV testing that will link traffic to a testing page. GPs with private websites and social channels are also encouraged to [link to this page](#)

RESOURCES

PrEP Online Learning

**'PrEP in practice: Guidance for GPs' Online Learning
S100 HIV Prescriber Updates have rolled into a new online learning module (OLM)**

As HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) access continues to be expanded nationally in 2016, and with milestone change to recent TGA license approval of Truvada, ASHM continues to work with clinical, community and other stakeholders to ensure that HIV treatment guidance remains up-to-date.

Two evening updates were held for S100 HIV Prescribers: 'PrEP in Practice – Case Discussions' on 31 March; and 'EPIC-NSW Practical Issues in Implementation' on 12 May, hosted as a dinner forum by NSW Health. The new OLM 'PrEP in practice: Guidance for GPs' is now publicly available on ASHM's [Learning Management System](#) (LMS). The ASHM PrEP working group is currently developing Australian National PrEP Guidance, which will be launched at the Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference in November.

Hep C Consensus Statement has App and Website

The Australian recommendations for the management of hepatitis C virus infection: a consensus statement 2016 now is available as an app and a website.

Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a major public health challenge for Australia, affecting approximately 230,000 people. Untreated, those with HCV are at risk of progressive liver fibrosis leading to cirrhosis, liver failure and hepatocellular carcinoma. The burden of liver disease due to HCV

is projected to triple by 2030.

The introduction of direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapies for hepatitis C that are highly effective and well tolerated is a major medical advance. All Australians living with HCV should now be considered for antiviral therapy.

Prepared by an expert panel, the consensus statement provides guidance on epidemiology, models of care, diagnosis, pre-treatment assessment, monitoring and treatment. Visit the [HCV Consensus Statement website](#). You can download the app from [Google Play](#). Apple iTunes store availability is coming soon. [Read more](#)

Updated Australasian Contact Tracing Website

Contact tracing, also known as 'partner notification', is an essential step in the primary care practitioner's diagnosis and management of sexually transmissible infections. The [Australasian Contact Tracing Guidelines](#) produced by ASHM aims to provide primary care providers with practical support and guidance with contact tracing. These guidelines have been fully reviewed for this fourth edition and are now available in a mobile-friendly [website](#) [Read more](#)

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Hull, P., Mao, L., De Wit, J., Prestage, G., Zablotska, I., & Holt, M. (2016). **The use of mobile phone apps to meet sex partners by Australian gay and bisexual men: an analysis of sex-seeking repertoires and risks for HIV and STIs using behavioural surveillance data.** *Sexually Transmitted Infections*. Advance online publication. doi: [10.1136/sextrans-2015-052325](https://doi.org/10.1136/sextrans-2015-052325)

Holt, M., Lea, T., Kippax, S., Kolstee, J., Ellard, J., Velecky, M., ... De Wit, J. (2016). **Awareness and knowledge of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis among Australian gay and bisexual men: results of a national, online survey.** *Sexual Health*. Advance online publication. doi: [10.1071/SH15243](https://doi.org/10.1071/SH15243)

Holt, M., Lea, T., Schmidt, H. M., Murphy, D., Rosengarten, M., Crawford, D., ... De Wit, J. (2016). **Increasing belief in the effectiveness of HIV treatment as prevention: results of repeated, national surveys of Australian gay and bisexual men, 2013-15.** *AIDS and Behavior*. Advance online publication. doi: [10.1007/s10461-016-1306-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-016-1306-0)

Lea, T., Mao, L., Hopwood, M., Prestage, G., Zablotska, I., De Wit, J., & Holt, M. (2016). **Methamphetamine use among gay and bisexual men in Australia: trends in recent and regular use from the Gay Community Periodic Surveys.** *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 29, 66-72.

CONFERENCES

2016 Australasian Sexual Health Conference and 2016 Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED: SUNDAY 5 JUNE

With so much interest in abstract submissions the committees have decided to extend the deadline to Sunday 5 June. There will be no further extensions, so be quick and don't miss out. You can submit your application via the [abstract submission site](#).

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Online registrations are now open. Book early to make great savings on your registration. The Conference is a great opportunity for you to connect, make important collaborations, and increase overall sector knowledge.

Early Bird Registration Deadline: Sunday 11 September 2016. For more [information on registration types](#) and rates, as well as how to register, please visit the [website](#).

2016 Global Indigenous Men's Conference

12-14 September 2016

Adelaide, SA

[Visit the website](#)

2016 World Indigenous Women's Conference

12-14 September 2016

Adelaide, SA

[Visit the website](#)

Global Indigenous SAY NO to Family & Domestic Violence Conference

12-14 September 2016

Adelaide, SA

[Visit the website](#)

COURSES

Viral Hepatitis Mentoring Program Launch Event

01 June 2016
SYDNEY, NSW
[Info & Register](#)

Short Course in HIV and STI Testing: Breaking down the Barriers

02 June 2016
LIDCOME, NSW
[Info & Register](#)

HIV Testing, Treatment and PrEP

07 June 2016
SURRY HILLS, NSW
LIVE Webinar
[Info & Register](#)

Expanding your Scope - HIV & STI Case Discussion for Primary Health Care Nurses

07 June 2016
CAMPERDOWN, NSW
[Info & Register](#)

NSW HIV Support Program (HSP) Workshop

08 June 2016
SYDNEY, NSW
[Info & Register](#)

Hepatitis C Nursing: Treatment and Management

10 June 2016
BRISBANE, QLD
[Info & Register](#)

Hepatitis C New Treatments Course

11 June 2016
SYDNEY, NSW
[Info & Register](#)

Chronic Hepatitis C: Curing Hep C in 2016

14 June 2016
GOLD COAST, QLD

[Info & Register](#)

Hepatitis C Webinar: Engaging People who Inject Drugs

14 June 2016

WEBINAR

[Info & Register](#)

Hepatitis B and C Update: Prevent Chronic Liver Disease and Liver Cancer through Shared Care

15 June 2016

LIVERPOOL, NSW

[Info & Register](#)

ASHM HIV S100 Prescriber Training

18-19 June 2016

CAIRNS, QLD

[Info & Register](#)

Chronic Hepatitis C: Curing Hepatitis C in 2016

20 June 2016

MARYBOROUGH, QLD

[Info & Register](#)

Chronic Hepatitis C: How to Cure Hepatitis C in your Clinic

21 June 2016

WEBINAR

[Info & Register](#)

Chronic Hepatitis C: Curing Hepatitis C in your Clinic

22 June 2016

WERRIBEE, VIC

[Info & Register](#)

Sex in Other Cities: HIV, STIs and Travelling Home

29 June 2016

FAIRFIELD, NSW

[Info & Register](#)

You can watch a selection of ASHM's conference and course presentations, and related educational videos, free on [VIMEO](#).



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Supporting the HIV, Viral Hepatitis
and Sexual Health Workforce

**Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis
and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)**

Locked Bag 5057 | Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Level 7, 46-56 Kippax Street Surry Hills NSW 2010

T: +61 2 8204 0700 F: +61 2 9212 2382

E: ashm@ashm.org.au W: www.ashm.org.au

ABN 48 264 545 457 CFN 17788

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