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**18 December 2015**

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

On behalf of the Board and all staff of ASHM, we sincerely thank you for your support this year and wish you a rewarding holiday season. Our office will be closed from 5pm 18 December 2015 and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2016.

# ASHM NEWS

## Regional Network Assembly – Bangkok 15-17 January 2016

This assembly of regional professional societies will be run back to back with HIV-NAT Symposium.

The agencies working in HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health will show case what is working well and how this has been achieved, and review country priorities for professional development.

These discussions will open a dialogue between regional organisations and explore how they can work together to share and exchange ideas, and collaborate in the future.

[Read More about the Regional Assembly](#)

View the latest [Regional Societies New sletter](#)

The Regional Network Assembly is the result of funds donated to the International Gift Fund. [Please Donate](#)

## Queensland Workforce Development

ASHM is pleased to announce that we have secured a contract to support health professionals deliver new programs in Queensland.

The workforce development programs will seek to provide HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health and harm reduction training programs. These programs will be appropriate for clinicians, health service providers, NGO staff, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals throughout Queensland.

ASHM will continue to work in close collaboration with Hepatitis Queensland and other sector partners throughout Queensland in order to deliver these programs.



## Opportunity to Participate in Innovative Program

ASHM is submitting a tender to the Commonwealth Department of Health to do a two-year project aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination toward people living with or affected by HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C in health care settings. We will be working with sector partners and a large part of the project is aimed at putting in place structural changes to cause, support and sustain changes. I am interested in hearing from any clinical services which might be interested in participating in a pilot, audit or in sharing approaches which work. Please call me on 0411 249 891 or email [Levinia.crooks@ashm.org.au](mailto:Levinia.crooks@ashm.org.au) The tender must be submitted by 19 January, so it would be great to hear your ideas before Christmas so they can be included.

## RESEARCH SURVEYS

### HIV Prescriber Attitudes toward HIV treatment

ASHM is again collaborating with the Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH) at UNSW on the survey of HIV prescribers' attitudes toward HIV treatment. Many of you will have responded in our previous two rounds (2012 & 2013).

This is a very important and simple survey. It's the third round of what is a repeated, cross-sectional survey. It has been and will continue to be very useful in helping our discussions and negotiations with funders and in developing our collective responses to the changing HIV treatment landscape. It is important that we also get responses from hospital-based specialists, sexual health physicians and all sections of primary care providers who are prescribing antiretroviral therapy, regardless of HIV caseload. We are interested in every Australian HIV prescriber's response.

[Complete the survey here](#)

### Smoking in Routine Health Care for PLHIV in Australia

Targeted at hospital clinicians, this University of Queensland study aims to identify practitioner needs in order to improve smoking cessation services for people living with HIV (PLHIV). Smoking rates are 2-3 times higher in PLHIV than the general population and they lose more years of life to smoking than to HIV itself.

This is a quick, anonymous online survey. Respondents can enter a draw to win a \$2,000 Flight Centre gift card.

[Complete the survey here](#)

## RESOURCE

### Positive Caring Handbook

Positive Caring was written to provide information and resources for older people living with HIV (PLHIV) and their care team. This may include carers, care workers, health professionals, and family and friends. The handbook was developed to be comprehensive with information applicable in any setting where older PLHIV require care — from their home to residential care facilities. The Positive Caring Handbook is a resource developed under the Senior Voices Project of Living Positive Victoria (LPV), with significant contributions provided by the Royal District Nursing Service. [Read more and download](#)

## CONFERENCES & SCHOLARSHIPS

### ASID Annual Scientific Meeting

Deadlines approaching – for more information please see the [website](#)

Abstract deadline: Friday 29 January

Early bird Registration deadline: Friday 29 January

### CROI 2015 Scholarships

The ASHM Scholarship Program funded by ViiV is now accepting scholarship applications for HIV s100 prescribers who have been accepted by CROI to attend CROI 2016. If your scholarship application is successful, ASHM will cover the cost for CROI registration, return flights and accommodation (where required). Please submit your [scholarship application](#) by Tuesday 5 January 2016. Outcomes will be emailed in the week commencing 11 January 2016.



**ashm**

Supporting the HIV, Viral Hepatitis  
and Sexual Health Workforce

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