



Kyle Fogarty
Principal Program Officer, Sexual Health Strategy
Secretariat, Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee
Communicable Diseases Branch
Queensland Health

29 January 2018

Dear Mr Fogarty

RE: Inclusion on SHMAC agenda re Establishment of Clinicians' Forum

Please find attached a proposal prepared by the Executive Committee of the Sexual Health Society of Queensland on behalf of its members seeking to re-establish a Clinicians' Forum. We sincerely request that consideration be given to this proposal by the Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee.

The proposal developed by the Society recommends the re-establishment of the Clinicians' Forum, a 2 day annual event that was previously coordinated by Communicable Diseases Branch prior to 2013. These meetings were very well received by clinicians across the state, and were regarded as integral to the development of a coordinated, consistent and collegial response to emerging issues, trends and practice. They formed an important mechanism for clinicians from across the state to input directly into strategic planning, provide advice to the Department, and ensure that clinical practice is consistent across the state, evidence based and is responsive to epidemiological and service needs.

To better inform this submission, the Society recently conducted a survey of sexual health clinicians (medical, nursing and allied) across the state and has found overwhelming support for these gatherings. The feedback from 30 respondents highlighted the following:

- 100% agreed that re-establishing the meetings was worthwhile with a two day format as the most preferred option.
- Respondents represented a range of health disciplines from urban to regional and rural areas and all supported the concept as a valuable adjunct to their work.
- An overall consensus amongst the respondents was that such a forum would be important for networking across the state, strategic planning, development of consistent protocols and policies, information sharing about current trends and challenges, implementation of best practice, and input into state planning.
- Respondents from rural/regional areas, and from private practice, were particularly enthusiastic about the potential for such a forum to promote collegiality and common vision.
- Respondents expressed a strong desire that the needs of regional, rural and remote communities be well considered and that participation should be open to representatives of all disciplines within the sexual health field.



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Based on these findings, we believe that a commitment to re-commencing these annual events would be highly welcomed by the clinical workforce of this state, would increase the sense of collegiality, coordination and consistency of practice, and would enhance the capacity of services and individuals to meet the objectives of the state strategy:

Continue to ensure sexual and reproductive health services are collaborative, available, accessible, flexible, non-judgemental and customised to local need.

On behalf of the Sexual Health Society of Queensland, I would like to sincerely thank you and the members of the SHMAC for your time and consideration of our proposal. We look forward to ongoing collaboration.

Yours Sincerely

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