



SEXUAL
HEALTH
SOCIETY
OF QUEENSLAND



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
PO Box 48
Brisbane, QLD 4001
13 November 2020

Dear Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP

On behalf of the membership of the Sexual Health Society of Queensland, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister and the Government of Annastacia Palaszczuk on your recent appointment as Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. The Sexual Health Society of Queensland comprises health practitioners from across the state representing sexual and reproductive health medicine, nursing, public health, general practice, psychiatry, psychology, social work, and primary health care. One of our primary objectives is to advocate for the improvement of all aspects of sexual and reproductive health for all Queenslanders, and in accord with this goal, I and members of the Society remain always available to assist and advise the Minister and the Department on such matters.

In January 2017, the Sexual Health Society of Queensland extended its congratulations and support to the State Government on its visionary announcement of Queensland's new Sexual Health Strategy and the establishment of a Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee to support its implementation in June of the same year. The Society considered the development of a sexual health and reproductive health strategy as a unique opportunity for Queensland to both establish a healthier and safer society for all its people and to assume a national leadership role in sexual and reproductive health policy and action. The Society regarded the Strategy as a clear commitment by the State to the wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

The Strategy will draw to a close in 2021, though we, the Society, note that the underlying, supporting Action Plans for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and STI will extend to 2022. In view of this timeline, the Sexual Health Society of Queensland would like to express its strongest support and hope that a new Strategy will be developed to continue the excellent work of that initial blueprint.

Further, we sincerely ask the Minister that the Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee (SHMAC), established to guide the implementation of the Strategy, be continued into the future. The Committee has been a valuable source of advice, guidance, input, and leadership on all matters relating to sexual and reproductive health.

We also particularly wish to stress the absolute value of the Sexual Health Research Fund as overseen by SHMAC as a driver of innovation and quality improvement for health delivery in Queensland.

Through the life of the Strategy, SHMAC and the Research Fund, there have been a number of significant accomplishments that have placed Queensland at the forefront of sexual health and reproductive research, prevention and care. The Sexual Health Society of Queensland, on behalf of its membership, reaches out to you and the Government with the hope that this momentum is not lost. Our Society offers its full support, encouragement, assistance, and expertise.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further any plans, issues, or strategies for the implementation of a renewed Strategy and advisory committee and hope that an ongoing relationship will be forged between the Society and the state government.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Judith Dean
President, Sexual Health Society of Queensland



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