

Sexual Health Society of Queensland Clinical Meeting

The Impact of COVID-19 on LGBTIQ+
Communities

Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Chief Executive Officer, Rebecca Reynolds
Deputy CEO, Shaun Staunton

In keeping with the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we exist today, acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within our diverse communities, and acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work and play as the first people of this country.

Summary of services impacted

- Organisation wide impact and new responses.
- Clinical services.
- Counselling and caseworker services.

- Face to face volunteering activities.
- Venue and event based outreach.
- Peer support activities and groups.
- Support to external groups.

- Community Visitors Scheme.
- 2Spirits program.

QC in the time of COVID-19

- Overview of the Queensland Council for LGBTI Health and our response.
- Creating new programs to meet new needs.
- Rebranding in the time of COVID.

Clinical/Counselling Services

- Clinical
 - Reorienting service delivery.
 - Community concerns about access.
 - Regional service impacts.
- Counselling and Case Worker
 - Client concerns.
 - Staff fatigue.

Face to face community activities

- Face to face volunteering activities, Venue and event based outreach, Peer support activities and groups.
 - Venues closed and Community Groups unable to meet.
 - Virtual spaces becoming more common.
 - Online training as only available mode.
 - Volunteer activities.
 - Access to QC Building and spaces.

Priority Communities Programs

- Community Visitors Scheme
 - New ways of volunteering/visits
 - New technologies
 - Impacts for Aged Care Services/spaces
 - Impacts on clients and volunteers
- 2Spirits Program

Challenges and Opportunities

- Challenges
 - Reduced connections.
 - Online activities.
 - Entrenching disadvantage.
 - Service impacts.
- Benefits
 - Reaching new communities.
 - Greater statewide reach.