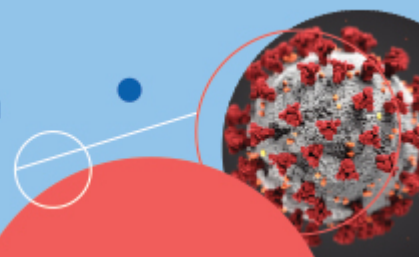




sexual health workforce bulletin
love in the time of covid-19



[A project of the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19](#)

Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin

Love in the time of COVID-19 #5

22 June 2020

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Welcome to the fifth edition of the Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin. These bulletins aim to provide the sexual health workforce with information on changes in clinical practice, health service innovation, medical education, emerging research and useful resources.

As we begin to move toward a COVID-19 and beyond world, we are interested in exploring how our experiences during the pandemic will shape future service provision, and how we will reflect on the immense changes that we undertook, keeping at the forefront of our mind the potential for a second wave or a new pandemic. How will we continue to reflect and prepare for the future based on what we have learnt?

This will be our final fortnightly bulletin before moving to a monthly schedule. This edition includes [SPHERE's Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalitions most recent consensus statement on the provision of long acting reversible contraception during COVID-19](#), as well as [the second survey from the University of Melbourne's Sexual Health Unit on the COVID-19 Impact on Sexual and Reproductive Health Survey](#).

The bulletin also contains guidance from the [ASHM Taskforce on BBV's, Sexual Health and COVID-19 for clinicians and other healthcare workers to support the health and wellbeing of their patients who are having casual sex during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

The bulletin also includes:

- [Links to relevant webinars, podcasts and recordings](#)
- [Education on offer from ASHM and other training providers](#)
- [News and research](#)
- [Useful resources for the workforce](#)

The bulletin has been developed by the ASHM Sexual Health Program with expert input by members of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (AChSHM) and the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19.

We hope that you are finding this bulletin useful, and are keen to receive your submissions and ideas for future editions (please email these to sexualhealth@ashm.org.au). Please distribute this bulletin through your networks.

Stay safe and well,

Dr Vincent Cornelisse

ASHM Clinical Advisor

Medical Unit Manager and Staff Specialist, Kirketon Road Centre

&

Jessica Michaels

ASHM Sexual Health Program Manager

[For more information or to subscribe to the bulletin click here.](#)

Recommendations on harm reduction approaches to casual sex during the COVID-19 pandemic: Guidance for clinicians

Despite social distancing remaining in place, some individuals continue to engage in casual sex. [ASHM recently reported](#) that although both attendance and positivity rates of some sexually transmitted infections have fallen in Sexual Health Clinics around Australia, people continue to present with those. As social distancing restrictions ease it is likely that an increase in casual sex will occur.

Last week the ASHM Taskforce released guidance for clinicians and other healthcare workers to support the health and wellbeing of their patients who are having casual sex during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with its approach to other areas of health, ASHM believes it is crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic to support clinicians and other healthcare workers to promote harm reduction strategies.

These recommendations are designed to support clinicians and other healthcare workers to have those conversations with patients, covering:

- Opportunities for engagement around sexual health during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Harm reduction for the prevention of SARS-COV-2 transmission during casual sex
- BBV prevention and BBV and STI screening during the COVID-19 pandemic

[To read the full guidance, click here.](#)



regional advisory group
bbvs, sexual health and covid-19

Webinar

Sexual and Reproductive Health and COVID-19 in the Pacific

Date: 22nd June 2020

Time: 6pm Suva, 4pm Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane, 2pm Manila, 1pm Bangkok

Speakers:



Prof Aiono Alec Ekeroma

Vice Chancellor and specialist OBGYN,
National University of Samoa



Dr. Pulane Tlebere

Reproductive Health Technical Advisor
UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office, Fiji



Prof Nguyen Toan Tran

Adjunct Professor of Public Health,
University of Technology Sydney and
Geneva University Hospital



Tim Sladden

Technical Advisor, Interagency
Working Groups on SRHR + HIV
Linkages, and HIV and KP, UNFPA

Chairs:



Clinical A/Prof Deborah Bateson

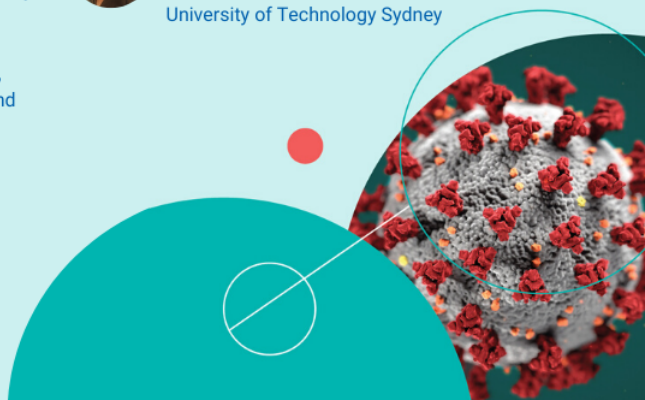
Medical Director, Family Planning NSW



Professor Angela Dawson

Professor Public Health and
Associate Dean International,
University of Technology Sydney

 **zoom** <https://bit.ly/SRHPacific>



[Register now for this afternoon's webinar](#) on challenges for the delivery of sexual and reproductive health care in Pacific Island countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. The panelists will explore the responses that are occurring with a focus on contraception, the management of unintended pregnancies and gender-based violence.

[Register now to join live: Monday June 22 2020, 4:00PM AEST](#)

[A recording will be available here in the coming days.](#)

Sector updates

These updates were graciously supplied by our colleagues in the workforce. For any questions or commentary please reach out to the organisations listed.



SPHERE

NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and
Reproductive Health for Women in Primary Care

SPHERE's Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition: Consensus statement on the provision of long acting reversible contraception during COVID-19

The statement includes recommendations concerning the continuation of LARC services, timely access to insertion and replacement of LARC methods, advice for situations during the pandemic where access may

be limited due to higher rates of community transmission of COVID-19, and the use of personal protective equipment in relation to LARC insertion.

[Access the statement and find out more about the Coalition here](#)



Marie Stopes Australia Situational Report: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Australia during COVID-19

This updated report includes observations and projections about later gestation terminations, increasingly complex cases and increasing complexities to do with violence and coercion.

[View the report here](#)

[Click here to read MSA's recent article on sexual and reproductive health, coercion and violence.](#)



COVID-19 Impact on Sexual and Reproductive Health Survey

We previously shared this survey from the University of Melbourne's Sexual Health Unit. The second survey in the project is now open for completion. Please complete [the survey](#) and circulate [the link](#) through your networks.



Pre-conception health online learning: opportunity for primary care nurses and midwives to learn and earn!

Are you a registered nurse or a registered midwife working in primary care? Researchers at Monash University are looking for nurses and midwives to evaluate an online learning module to help discuss preconception health with patients. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Subscribe to this podcast:

- **HIV and COVID-19 - what do we know so far?**

BMJ talk medicine

The Sexually Transmitted Infections podcast is back with relevant advice for both clinicians and patients about HIV and COVID-19. STI podcast editor Dr Fabiola Martin talks to Associate Professor Dr Edwina Wright, who's leading ASHM's COVID-19 Taskforce, and Mr Adam Ehm, President of Living Positive Victoria and is a member of the COVID-19 ASHM Taskforce. They discuss the recent statements released by the British HIV Association and ASHM to assist health care providers and people living with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Listen here.](#)

- **What's social distancing done for sexually transmitted infections?**

ABC- Coronacast

When Australia went into lockdown, it helped more than just coronavirus from spiralling out of control. Infections of influenza are massively down on average, thanks to social distancing and people staying home. So what about other illnesses like sexually transmitted infections? Has staying apart helped drive down those cases too? [Listen here.](#)

Access these recordings:

- **Relationships – Emotional Proximity in Times of Social Distancing**

University of New South Wales

The social distancing measures introduced to combat COVID-19 have affected relationships within Australian families and communities enormously, yet there are many insights that we can learn from the lived experience of isolation and infectious disease. Join Associate Professor Christy Newman as she explores some of the many ways in which social distancing has impacted on different household and relationship structures, reflecting on the strengths and resources we draw on to remain connected through times of crisis, and providing practical tips for maintaining our own relationships during this time. [Watch here.](#)

- **Health and human rights for sex workers in Asia and the Pacific in the time of COVID-19**

ASHM's Regional Advisory Group on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19

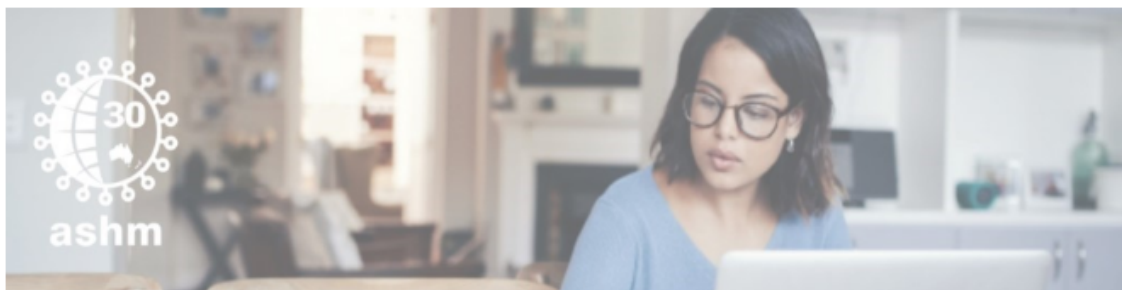
Invited experts will discuss issues on health and human rights for sex workers across the Asia Pacific region in the time of COVID-19. The webinar will address key topics, such as: community responses, issues for transgender sex workers and what normalcy might look like as lockdowns lift. Access the recording here. [Access the recording here.](#)

- **Universal Health Coverage and SRHR during COVID-19 and beyond**

Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters

Invited experts will discuss the new reality of achieving universal health coverage for sexual and reproductive health and rights during COVID-19 and beyond. [Access the recording here](#)

Education and Conference



Sexual Health Update for Primary Care

This free two-part workshop will provide primary care providers with the information and tools required to improve STI screening and care for at-risk and key affected populations. The update will also cover strategies available for the prevention of HIV transmission, and highlight the importance of contact tracing and partner notification.

Workshop 1: Wednesday 24 June 7:30PM - 9:00PM (AEST)

Workshop 2: Wednesday 1 July 7:30PM - 9:00PM (AEST)

[Register here](#)



Save the date! The 2020 Joint HIV&AIDS and Sexual Health Virtual Conferences will take place from Monday 16 to Friday 20 November. For more information visit hivshconferences2020.com.au

Other ASHM education:

- [ASHM upcoming training](#)
- [ASHM online learning](#)

Other training providers:

True Relationship & Reproductive health launch **Antenatal Syphilis training for clinicians**. The Antenatal Sexual health Kit – or “ASK” offers healthcare providers across Qld free training in sexual health assessments during pregnancy. The tools and information within the kit includes a webinar, an online resource hub and anonymous online forum.

[Click here to read the full article about Antenatal Syphilis training, and webinar dates](#)
[Click here for webinar registration](#)

And more from:

- [Children by Choice](#)
- [Family Planning NSW](#)
- [Sexual Health Quarters](#)
- [ShineSA](#)
- [The Albion Centre](#)

News and research

- The Sexual-Health Supply Chain Is Broken ([The Atlantic](#))
- Experts foresee spike in pregnancies, call for accessible birth control means ([The Jakarta Post](#))
- Can sex ed and needle exchanges teach us how to live with a pandemic? ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

Articles and studies included in this section have not been reviewed by the Taskforce, however we endeavour to only include content from reputable sources.

Resources

AHPRA: [Telehealth guidance for health practitioners](#)

ASHM: [Taskforce on BBVs, sexual health and COVID-19](#)

CERSH: [April 2020 News Update \(subscribe to future editions here\)](#)

Marie Stopes Australia:

[Sexual and reproductive health rights in Australia situational report](#) / [Service delivery updates](#)

PositiveLifeNSW: [Getting practical about COVID-19 and HIV](#)

RACGP: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information for GPs](#)

RACP: [How the college is supporting you](#)

RANZCOG: [COVID-19 information hub](#)

Scarlet Alliance: [COVID-19 impact and response for sex workers](#)

SPHERE: [SRH and COVID-19 Coalition](#)

SRHM: [Collection of papers on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the era of COVID-19](#)

Call for contributions

We are now calling for submissions for the next edition of this bulletin. Below are some examples of the type of content we would like to include in the bulletin, relating to sexual, reproductive and transgender health:

- Practice changes as a result of COVID-19
- Implications for care and communities
- Innovative responses and adaptations
- Telehealth challenges and successes
- Education opportunities (e.g. online training and conferences)
- Emerging research
- Useful resources

However all contributions are welcomed. Please send any contributions to sexualhealth@ashm.org.au. Submissions for the next edition close on **Monday 17 July**, with the bulletin to be published the following week. Submissions after **Monday 17 July** will go toward subsequent editions.

Please forward this email to your networks.

Please forward this bulletin to your networks. We welcome submissions for future editions of this bulletin from any individuals or organisations working in sexual health. Please email sexualhealth@ashm.org.au.



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Developing a sustainable HIV,
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and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)

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CIRCULATION INFORMATION

ASHM is a peak professional society representing a multidisciplinary health workforce in HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health. We have a membership of over 3500 and almost 60 organisational members providing reach to a large majority of health care worker activity involved in the sector.

You are receiving this email because you are an ASHM member or an affiliate through the organisational member program who has indicated an interest in further education. This is our principal way to keep you informed about matters in which you indicate an interest. This email was sent to a targeted group.

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