



Sexual and Reproductive Health

Population Health Services works at a strategic and systems level to improve health outcomes for people in Tasmania and particularly those at risk of poorer sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

These include young people; people who have experienced sexual violence; people with mental health issues; people with disabilities; people who are incarcerated; older people; Tasmanian Aboriginal people; refugee and migrant populations and people living in rural areas.

Key partners

- Sexual Health Services.
- Community sector organisations in the sexual and reproductive health sector.
- Tasmanian Health Organisations.

Key projects

- Tasmanian Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategic Framework.
- Sexual and reproductive health policy and planning.
- Legislative reforms.

Need or why we do this work

- Sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing affects all Tasmanians across their life span
- Tasmania is experiencing high rates of chlamydia transmission ⁱ
- Tasmania has one of the highest rates of unplanned teenage pregnancy resulting in births in Australia ⁱⁱ
- Relationships and sexuality education in Tasmanian schools is a jurisdictional issue and delivered in an uneven, inequitable and piecemeal fashion. ⁱⁱⁱ

Outcomes of the work we do

- A sexual and reproductive health strategic framework is building greater collaboration and

communication within the community sector and between the sector and the Department of Health and Human Services.

- The goal of the 2nd National STIs Strategy is to reduce the transmission of, and morbidity and mortality caused by STIs, and to minimise the personal and social impact of the infections. As we progress this goal in Tasmania the outcomes included will be a drop in STI transmission rates, a rise in preventative programs and a rise in screening and treatment programs.
- Policy, service delivery and planning will become more coordinated, efficient and cohesive under a collaborative strategic framework.
- A public health and social determinants perspective is maintained when contributing to legislative reform regarding sexual and reproductive health, resulting in improved health policy and planning.

Key resources

- Second National Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2010 – 2013 DOHA.
- Third National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Blood Borne Viruses & Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2010 – 2013 DOHA.
- National Women's Health Policy 2010 DOHA.
- National Male Health Policy DOHA.
- Our Children Our Young People Our Future – Agenda for Children and Young People Office for Children.
- Hepatitis and HIV – An Agenda For Action DHHS.
- A Healthy Tasmania DHHS.
- Health Promotion Action Guide – Promoting Sexual Health and Wellbeing DHHS.

Key contact details

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i National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System; the Kirby Institute, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia, Annual Surveillance Report 2011; ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, September 2011 (cat. no. 3101.0)

ii Australian Bureau of Statistics 33010DO001_2010 Births, Australia, 2010

iii Mitchell A, Smith A, Carman M, Schlichthorst, M, Walsh J and Pitts M. 2011. Sexuality Education in Australia in 2011, Monograph Series No. 81, Melbourne: La Trobe University, the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society