



SUBMISSION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV SERVICES IN QUEENSLAND

Re: ASHA'S response to the closure of Brisbane Sexual Health Service and Reduction in HIV services by Metro North Hospitals and Health Board.

The Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA) is a group of partner organisations established to improve national and local responses to sexual health issues, via a multidisciplinary support network for the sexual health workforce.

It aims to strengthen bonds between specialists, GPs, nurses, researchers and other key contributors to the sexual health sector, through collaboration in sexual health education, training, policy-making and research.

The partner organisations of ASHA include the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM), Society of Australian Sexologists (SAS), Sexual Health Society of Queensland (SHSQ), New Zealand Sexual Health Society (NZSHS), Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia (SH&FPA), Sexual Health Society of Victoria (SHSoV) and Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Association (ASHHNA).

ASHA endorses many of the elements put forward by Dr Theo van Lieshout in his submission of 23 July 2013, including the importance of Brisbane Sexual Health and HIV Service (SHHS) in ensuring positive patient outcomes and SHHS's role as a specialist service with significant expertise necessary both within Queensland and throughout Australia.

ASHA also endorses the recommendations put forth by ASHM in their letter on 31 July, 2013, which include the following requests:

- To act with caution and to thoroughly explore the state-wide implications of the recommendations made within the report provided by Deloitte. The potential for broad implications of these recommendations across both patient and health workforce bodies warrants the engagement of the Queensland State Government, Health Minister and also necessitates consultation with the external health services and health workforce who would be affected by the changes.
- To review the state-wide training and support models needed to appropriately make this transition and if reduction of cost is the primary consideration, costs related to negative patient outcomes both within and outside of sexual health should be taken into account as described above.
- The Queensland Minister for Health and the Brisbane Metro North Hospital and Health Service Board and Chief Executive hold an emergency summit with key professional and collegiate groups, service providers and key affected hospital districts to explore the flow-on implications of the report and its implications for other local health districts and for patient care.



- Any transition to community care be delayed until this summit can occur.

ASHA looks forward to a response and a reasonable solution being implemented. For further discussion, please contact the ASHA Secretariat on 03 9341 5244.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Hillman'.

Associate Professor Richard Hillman
President – ASHA
Associate Professor
Transitional Academic Lead
Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre
University of Sydney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Temple-Smith'.

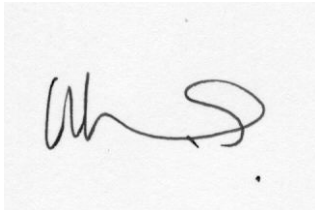
Associate Professor Meredith Temple-Smith
Sexual Health Society of Victoria Representative on ASHA Executive
Director – Research Training, General Practice and Primary Health Care Academic Centre
University of Melbourne

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Redelman'.

Dr Margaret Redelman
Society of Australian Sexologists Representative on the ASHA Executive
MBBS, MPsychotherapy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Dean'.

Judith Dean
Sexual Health Society of Queensland Representative on the ASHA Executive
President Sexual Health Society of Queensland



Dr Nicky Perkins

New Zealand Sexual Health Society is represented on the ASHA Executive
Acting Chair of the New Zealand Sexual Health Society

Dr Louise Owen

ASHM Representative on the ASHA Executive
General Practitioner and Sexual Health Physician, Director of the Statewide Sexual Health Service,
Tasmania

Donna Tilley

ASHHNA Representative on the ASHA Executive
Clinical Nurse Consultant, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sexual Health Clinic.

Wednesday 7th August 2013.

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ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: Australasian Sexual Health & HIV Nurses Association (ASHHNA), Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM), Australian Society Sex Educators, Researchers and Therapists (ASSERT), Family Planning New Zealand (FPNZ), New Zealand Sexual Health Society (NZSHS), Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia (SH&FPA), RACGP special interest group in sexual health, Sexual Health Society of Queensland (SHSQ), Sexual Health Society of Victoria (SHSoV).