

# Establishment of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance

this document represents an agreement between

August 2011

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Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)

and

Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (AChSHM)

Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association  
(ASHHNA)

Australian Society of Sexuality Educators, Researchers &  
Therapists (ASSERT)

New Zealand Sexual Health Society (NZSHS)

Sexual Health Society of Queensland (SHSQ)

Sexual Health Society of Victoria (SHSV)

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## **1. Purpose of the Agreement**

The purpose of the agreement is to provide transparency and clarity to the formation and subsequent workings of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance, which is formed as a committee under clause 51 of the ASHM constitution. The agreement is designed to be simple and effective and facilitate the collaboration of organisations and individuals from multiple disciplines working together to achieve support of the sexual health workforce whilst relying on the infrastructure of ASHM.

ASHM aims to support the collaborators, not to see them as vehicles for funds generation. For that reason, collaborating organisations established as Sustaining Members under clause 6.5(e) of the Constitution are offered Organisational Membership of ASHM at an organisational fee of \$100 + GST per annum, which will be reviewed annually by the ASHM members at the ASHM Annual General Meeting.

Funds raised from activities conducted under the auspice of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance will be held by ASHM. They will be ring-fenced for allocation to issues relating to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and sexual health which are in support of the objectives of the collaborators.

The above mentioned organisations, as signatories to this document, will comprise the Foundation Collaborators and will form an Executive, overseeing the work of the Alliance and reporting to the ASHM Board through the secretariat (CEO) or a common member to the ASHM Board and ASHA Executive.

The ASHA Executive will invite new organisations with an interest in sexual health to join with it. Organisations will do this by taking out an Organisational Membership of ASHM, and indicating their interest in collaborating with ASHA.

Individuals, whether as members of a collaborating organisation or as unaligned individuals (not affiliated with any other organisation), can seek membership of ASHA by completing the Australian Sexual Health Alliance membership form which will be made available via the ASHM website. There will be no fee associated with individual membership, but the member will be required to complete the membership form and provide a valid email contact address.

## 2. Terms used and definitions

**Affiliate:** an individual who is a member of a collaborator.

**Collaborator:** an organisation that joins the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance. For the purposes of this agreement the Collaborator must also be or become an Organisational Sustaining Member of ASHM.

**Foundation Collaborator:** an organisation which is named as a Foundation Collaborator in this document and signs this agreement to establish the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance. For the purposes of this agreement the Collaborator must also be an Organisational Sustaining Member of ASHM. All of the Foundation Collaborators are organisations with a primary purpose in the area of sexual health and development of the sexual health workforce. The Foundation Collaborators will each select a representative to join the ASHA Executive.

**Organisational Sustaining Member (of ASHM):** a class of membership of ASHM (being a body corporate) which is (i) interested in the objectives; (ii) is able to support the organisation in the pursuit of its objectives and (iii) has its application for membership approved by the ASHM Board.

## 3. Collaborators in the establishment of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA)

**ASHM** is the **Australasian Society for HIV Medicine**, it is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity for health promotion purposes. ASHM works collaboratively and in partnership to prevent HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections (STIs), and to preserve and protect the health of those living with these infections. It aims to function as a cohesive and inclusive group of professionals advancing its vision in a skilled, informed, compassionate and appropriate way.

ASHM's objectives are to:

- provide information, education and training and encourage intellectual enquiry;
- attract new people to the field in research, service delivery and policy development;
- support networking and collaboration between different professional groups and sector partners and partner; and
- promote a policy framework which contributes to an effective public health response in Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

**AChSHM** is the **Sexual Health Chapter of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians**. It is interested in establishing, nurturing and strengthening structural linkages to other related professional groups other than physicians, as increasingly care is provided in teams and generalists, nurses, educators and policy makers all need to collaborate to deliver optimal patient care and prevention.

AChSHM's objectives are to:

- promote the study of and the advancement of knowledge in the field of Sexual Health Medicine;
- promote and encourage high levels of skill and expertise and high ethical standards in the practice of Sexual Health Medicine;
- raise and maintain the educational standards of medical graduates wishing to enter the field of Sexual Health Medicine;
- define standards of knowledge, practice and behaviour for medical practitioners wishing to work as specialists or consultants in the field of Sexual Health Medicine;
- establish and deliver a training program for practitioners wishing to enter the field of Sexual Health Medicine;
- act as an authoritative body for the purpose of consultation in matters of educational or public interest in connection with the field of Sexual Health Medicine;
- foster collaboration with clinicians and other persons and organisations to further or advance knowledge in the field of Sexual Health Medicine; and
- encourage research in matters connected with the field of Sexual Health Medicine.

**ASSERT** is the **Australian Society of Sexuality Educators, Researchers and Therapists**, it is an Incorporated Association. The primary objectives of ASSERT National are to:

- promote professional development and education in the areas of human sexuality;
- recognise and accredit professionals working or otherwise contributing to the area of sexuality as ASSERT National members in one or more of the categories of educator, researcher or therapist; and
- maintain professional standards.

The secondary objectives of ASSERT National are to:

- advance the scientific study of sexuality;

- promote both Nationally and Internationally the exchange of ideas, information and resources about sexuality;
- arrange, provide for or participate in conferences, seminars, workshops, public or professional meetings, lectures and classes or scientific research on human sexuality;
- initiate and/or support the publication of professional or educational material on human sexuality;
- promote community knowledge and acceptance of human sexual behaviour and attitudes;
- promote and/or provide information and services available in human sexuality;
- promote the concept of equality and the right of the individual to make choices about his/her sexuality without infringing the rights of others;
- promote philosophical and political debate in the area of human sexuality;
- be active in promoting legislative changes where appropriate;
- initiate or sponsor any other activities which relate to the object of the Society;
- work with state and federal governments and other key organisations, to accredit quality training in sexology;
- develop strategies for the national registration of the specialist titles 'sexuality therapist', 'sexuality educator' and 'sexuality researcher';
- support and promote the membership of relevant regional organisations which specialise in the field of sexology; and
- add or modify the list of specialist titles as may be appropriate from time to time.

**ASHHNA** is the **Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association**. The expressed aims of ASHHNA are to:

- promote sexual and reproductive health and HIV nursing as a professional specialty;
- advance the standards and scope of sexual and reproductive health and HIV nursing practice;
- facilitate the exchange of professional information to ensure effective communication and networking;
- act as the representatives of the Australasian sexual and reproductive health and HIV nurses in discussions with government and non government bodies at the State, Territory and federal level;
- support the standard and scope of evidence based professional development of nurses in the specialty; and
- promote collaborative research in sexual and reproductive health and HIV nursing.

**NZSHS** is the **New Zealand Sexual Health Society**. The objectives of the society are to:

- advocate for and promote Sexual Health for all in New Zealand;
- promote high standards of clinical practice within Sexual Health in New Zealand;
- promote the speciality of Sexual Health amongst colleagues and peers; and
- encourage research within New Zealand with regard to Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs).

**SHSQ** is the **Sexual Health Society of Queensland**. The objectives of the Society are to:

- provide a forum to exchange knowledge and ideas regarding sexual health;
- provide an advisory function on all aspects of sexual health;
- advance scientific and medical knowledge in the area of sexual health;
- disseminate authoritative and current sexual health information;
- advocate for the inclusion of sexual health issues and expertise in relevant policy development and decision making processes; and
- maintain liaisons with relevant professional groups both nationally and internationally.

**SHSV** is the **Sexual Health Society of Victoria**. The Society was established as the Venereology Society of Victoria in the early 1980s. It aims to provide:

- interdisciplinary networking;
- professional education; and
- sexual health advocacy for people with a special interest in sexual health.

## **4. Establishment of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance**

**ASHM invites the above mentioned stakeholder organisations** to join with it in the establishment of a multidisciplinary Australasian Sexual Health Alliance; the purpose of which is to provide support to the sexual health workforce. Such collaboration is seen as fulfilling the objectives of each of our organisations in providing authoritative consultation in educational and public interest matters in the field of sexual health; fostering collaborations with other clinicians and organisations, and encouraging research.

### **4.1 Executive**

It is the intention of the foundation collaborators that each of the organisations named in this establishment document nominate a representative to an Executive Group which will provide advice and direction to the Alliance. The Executive will particularly provide advice on the strategic directions of the Alliance.

### **4.2 Membership arrangements**

Membership of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance will be managed through the ASHM secretariat. Each foundation collaborator will be required to be or become an Organisational Sustaining Member of ASHM at the cost of \$100 + GST (at the point of signing). This fee will be payable annually. Affiliates of the collaborators will then be eligible to become members of Australasian Sexual Health Alliance. There will be no individual fee levied against individuals, but individuals will be required to complete the membership application and provide a current email address. Affiliates will also be

required to indicate their specific areas of interest, about which they wish to receive email alerts.

ASHM will also offer affiliate status of ASHM to the members of some Sustaining Organisational Members. As affiliates of ASHM they will receive many of the benefits of membership, including email alerts in their designated interest areas and member registration rate at the Australasian HIV/AIDS Conference. Affiliates are not members and can not vote, nominate or stand for office, move or second motions, nor participate in the governance of ASHM.

### **4.3 Inviting new collaborators**

Following the initial establishment of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance, additional member organisations will be invited and may apply to become collaborators of the Alliance. Membership will be by Organisational Sustaining Membership of ASHM and Affiliate status will be extended to members as per the above arrangements.

### **4.4 Unaligned individuals**

ASHM recognises that there are many general practitioners and other health professionals who have an interest in sexual health may want to align themselves with the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance, but may not want to become members of ASHM or one of the other Alliance Members.

These individuals will be invited to apply for individual membership of the Alliance. They will be required to provide a current email address and other contact and professional details, as well as a list of areas of interest. There will be no cost to the individual for this affiliation. All current members of ASHM and other collaborating organisations will be invited to update their areas of interest and to affiliate with the Alliance at no additional cost.

## **5. Objectives and scope of the Australian Sexual Health Alliance**

The purpose of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance is to acknowledge and build on the specific expertise of sector partners in our common aims of improving national and local responses to sexual health in Australasia, in supporting and collaborating with close neighbouring countries to achieve these objectives.

ASHM has gained expertise over many years in developing and implementing educational curricula for health care professionals in the area of HIV in the Asia Pacific Region. The organisation seeks to broaden these curricula offerings domestically and in the region with a focus on sexual health, particularly for non-medical staff and medical practitioners who are involved in general medicine.

The Society recognises, respects and admires the key role the AChSHM has in training sexual health specialists through its program with the RACP. The aim of this alliance is to extend initiatives to non-specialist and non-physicians working in the sexual health arena, not to function in competition with the AChSHM.

### **The nature of the collaboration**

ASHM is an established multidisciplinary organisation supporting the workforce in HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health. Through collaboration with sister organisations, ASHM seeks to develop the national responses to sexually transmissible infections as they impact upon all health professionals. The organisations recognise that by working together they can facilitate the translation of sexual health expertise held by member organisations to the broader health workforce. The Alliance can also play a role in ensuring that clinical practice nationally and in the region is consistent, effective and well-informed so as to lead to better sexual health outcomes for all people.

This Agreement provides for the further development of the relationship between the collaborators with an aim of supporting the work of the collaborators as it relates to supporting the health workforce in Australasia and the Asia and Pacific regions and to reducing the burden of sexually transmitted infections.

### **The Australasian Sexual Health Alliance will:**

- identify opportunities for implementing educational curricular for health professional working in sexual health including through liaison between ASHM and Alliance collaborators
- oversee, promote, support and facilitate the development of collaborative efforts (at all levels) between the respective stakeholders
- support collaborators and affiliates to participate or otherwise support the implementation of educational curricula
- identify opportunities for advocacy with National, State and Territory governments to develop healthy public policy to reduce the burden of sexually transmissible infections
- deliver the annual multidisciplinary Australasian Sexual Health Conference and facilitate any scholarship program associated with this
- ASHM will underwrite the Australasian Sexual Health Conference and deliver the conference through its secretariat
- ASHM will direct any funds generated by the Australasian Sexual Health Conference to issues of importance for sexual health and sexual health workforce training, based on advice provided by the Alliance Executive.

## **The terms of the agreement**

This Agreement covers the period from the date of signing until 30 December 2015, at which time it will be reviewed with the possibility of extension and/or modification and extension.

## **6. Organisation and management of the agreement**

**Each of the member organisations will nominate a member to the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance Executive Committee.**

This group will take predominant responsibility for the development of the multidisciplinary Sexual Health Conference and the development of an annual work plan.

Membership of the Executive will be via representation of a Foundation Collaborator (parties to this agreement). Each signatory will be responsible for the process it invokes to determine its representative to the Executive.

The member organisations recognise that a number of practitioners may not be in a position to be members of a sexual health society as they do not come from a jurisdiction with an independent sexual health society, or they may be general practitioners with an emerging interest in the area, but who have not developed that interest sufficiently for them to join ASHM or a specific sexual health society. There may likewise be nurses, educators and others in that position. They will be able to join up to the Alliance by completing an application via the internet.

The Executive should take advice from unaligned members and other organisations and collaborators in the conduct of its work. The Executive will strive to reflect the interests of the breadth of professionals involved in sexual health and the geographical reach of the Alliance as Australasian. It may do this through a variety of mechanisms including co-opting members, communicating with individuals from states or territories not otherwise represented and taking specific advice.

### ***Governance:***

The Australasian Sexual Health Alliance Executive will comprise a nominee of each of the foundation collaborators and the Manager of the ASHM HIV/STI Program. The Executive will select and appoint a chair.

The Executive will be responsible for the Sexual Health Conference Program and will discharge this responsibility directly or through the development of a specific Conference Committee developed to assist in the delivery of the Sexual Health Conference program.

The Executive will have oversight of the Sexual Health Workforce Development activities developed and delivered as a function of this agreement.

ASHM will provide secretariat support to the Alliance, funded from any income derived from the Sexual Health Conference or other activities conducted by the Alliance.

***Financial arrangements:***

This agreement provides for the regular communication and implementation of the aims of the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance. ASHM will hold any funds generated from the Australasian Sexual Health Conference and any other activities generated as a function of this agreement.

ASHM will establish an account, within its general ledger for activities overseen by the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance Executive. The ASHM CEO (or delegate) will be a signatory to the account, along with the Chair of the Executive.

All practices will be in line with standard accounting standards.

In the event that any foundation collaborating organisation ceases to exist or wishes to withdraw from the National Sexual Health Alliance, it must do so in writing to the Executive. The retiring foundation collaborator will have no claim on funds held by ASHM.

***Intellectual property:***

This agreement makes no claims in relation to intellectual property. Further agreements will be made between collaborating organisations should there be activities which required the allocation or management of intellectual property.

***Marketing and publicity:***

All parties to this agreement will promote their collaboration to members, through regular and other communication and through website and annual reports. All parties will be bound by the rules for promotion of the other partner, including maintaining the quality of any logo.

***Effective dates and signatures:***

This agreement has been developed in consultation with members of the Foundation Collaborators. Each of the individuals involved in these discussions is aware that the decision to enter the Alliance will rest with their organisation and be determined by their organisations sovereign processes.

It is further recognised that not all foundation collaborators have the same structural arrangements and it may take some foundation members longer than others to decide to take up the offer to become a foundation collaborator.

Accordingly, the agreement will come into effect from the date that it is signed by at least 4 foundation collaborators. The remaining 3 foundation collaborators would have a further 6 months to go through their due diligence processes, after which time the offer to become a foundation member could be withdrawn.

The agreement will extend for a period of five years and be subject to review and extension.

**SIGNED** on behalf of the  
**AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR HIV  
MEDICINE**

By

Levinia Crooks

CEO of ASHM

(print full name and office)

In the presence of: Nathelwe  
Rasko

Witness sign:



(sign)

22/11/11

(date)



**SIGNED** on behalf of the )  
**AUSTRALASIAN SEXUAL HEALTH** )  
**AND HIV NURSES ASSOCIATION** )

By )

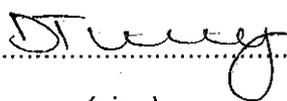
..... DONNA TILLEY ..... )

..... PRESIDENT ..... )

(print full name and office) )

In the presence of: )

Witness sign:..... N.C. Kemp ..... )

.....  ..... )

(sign)

..... 25/10/11 ..... )

(date)

SIGNED on behalf of the AUSTRALIAN )  
SOCIETY OF SEXUALITY )  
EDUCATORS, RESEARCHERS AND )  
THERAPISTS )

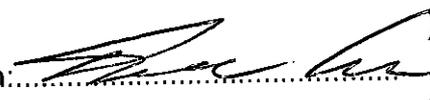
By )

..... LYNDA CARLYLE )

..... PRESIDENT )

(print full name and office) )

In the presence of: )

Witness sign:  )

.....  )  
(sign)

..... 17.10.2011 )  
(date)

SIGNED on behalf of the NEW  
ZEALAND SEXUAL HEALTH SOCIETY  
INC. )

By )

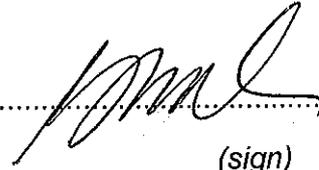
SUNITA AZARITH )  
PRESIDENT )

(print full name and office) )

In the presence of: )

Witness sign: )

ASTANKAS )



(sign)

3/11/14

(date)

SIGNED on behalf of the SEXUAL  
HEALTH SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND )

By )

KAY HAIG )

PRESIDENT )

(print full name and office) )

In the presence of: )

Witness sign: )

*K O'Neal* )

*Kay Haig* )

(sign) )

*29-11-11* )

(date) )

SIGNED on behalf of the SEXUAL  
HEALTH SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

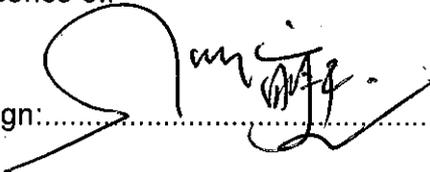
By

.....MEREDITH TEMPLE-SMITH.....  
.....PRESIDENT.....

(print full name and office)

In the presence of:

Witness sign:.....



.....M. Temple-Smith.....

(sign)

.....28/10/11.....

(date)