



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

Department  
of Rural Health

Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health

# Annual Report 22/23



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## Purpose of the annual report:

This annual report has been prepared by the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) to inform our supporters, partners, collaborators, and other interested parties of the activities undertaken from July 2022 to June 2023.

This report is also a requirement as stipulated in the service agreement between the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and The University of Melbourne.



Health  
and Human  
Services

# Executive Summary

**The Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) has had another successful year in ensuring the improvement of rural Victorian's access to quality sexual and reproductive healthcare, information and support. This report provides an overview of various projects, initiatives and partnerships led and supported by CERSH from July 2022 to June 2023, all with a shared purpose to provide practical solutions to improve sexual health in both the Department of Health designated Hume and Loddon Mallee regions of rural Victoria.**

One of our notable initiatives was the highly anticipated SexRurality Conference hosted in May 2023. The two-day event brought together more than 150 sexual health professionals, sector leaders and students to discuss and innovate on the improvement of regional and rural sexual and reproductive health. The conference tickets were highly sought after and we reached our capacity well before May. We apologize to those colleagues who remained on the long waiting list and were unable to attend due to number restrictions of the venue but be reassured we will keep this in mind when planning the next conference in 2025. SexRurality 2023 was a resounding success, which fostered a genuine sense of camaraderie and enthusiasm amongst attendees.

CERSH is committed to taking a systematic approach to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes and experiences in rural and regional areas. We work alongside our communities through initiatives such as our Sexual Wellness Action Plans and Communities of Practice to identify and prioritise sexual and reproductive health, ensuring activities respond to the needs of the community whilst aiming to transform attitudes and cultural norms.

In February 2023, CERSH achieved a significant milestone launching both the Mildura and Swan Hill/Buloke Sexual Wellness Action Plans (SWAPS). The SWAPS were a result of collaborative efforts between local sexual and reproductive health leaders and CERSH. These action plans were developed through an inclusive process and provide a framework for addressing sexual and reproductive health needs of the local community. To ensure the plans accurately reflected the communities' priorities, a diverse range of sectors, including education, health, and the broader community, were involved in the process, recognising their influence in shaping the landscape of sexual and reproductive health.

Over the past 12 months, CERSH has made a deliberate and dedicated effort to recognise and address the critical importance of intersectionality in shaping sexual and reproductive health outcomes. We understand that elements of an individual's identity, such as gender, race, age, and socioeconomic status, impact overall well-being and access to sexual and reproductive health resources. As demonstrated through initiatives such as the People Experiencing Homelessness Achieving Sexual Wellness (PHASE) pilot project and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (CALD) project CERSH has consciously integrated intersectionality as a foundational principle in our work.

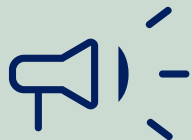
By ensuring consideration for the unique challenges and needs individuals face due to the intersections of their identities, CERSH are committed to championing a more inclusive, equitable, and responsive approach in all our efforts to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

CERSH is also proud to highlight in this report the development and trial of Australia's first multi-STI test vending machine in a pilot initiative titled STI-X. This pilot was introduced by CERSH as a response to highly disadvantaged rural people who can't or won't access the health system for STI testing, for various reasons. Two prototype vending machines will aim to increase access to STI testing in rural and regional areas.

Equally important is our dedication to nurturing a future workforce of healthcare professionals who are not only confident but also experienced in providing high quality, safe and inclusive sexual and reproductive health care. The Doctor of Medicine Discovery Elective Subject highlights the efforts to build a future skilled and knowledgeable medical sexual health workforce and therefore providing a healthier, more informed, and sex-positive future for our communities.

As we reflect on our successes, CERSH are energised to continue pushing the boundaries, striving to lead the way in enhancing rural and regional sexual and reproductive health, and making a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve. The need is ongoing, and the team look forward to new challenges, opportunities, and collaborations as we continue to collectively work towards a healthier and more informed future for all.

# Key Achievements



## Hosted over 150

Sexual and reproductive health workers, students and sector professionals at the 2023 SexRurality Conference to discuss and innovate on regional and rural sexual health.



## Reached over 1300

Recipients through our bi-monthly newsletter



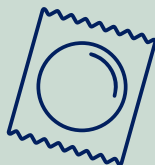
## Continued the successful delivery of

Our online education modules, attracting over 400 participants and issuing more than 270 completion certificates



## Delivered a total of 14

Impactful Communities of Practice (CoP) meetings, each tailored to address local needs and content requests across Bendigo, Swan Hill, Mildura, Northeast Victoria, and Goulburn Valley



## Delivered 18,000

Free condoms across 36 locations, addressing rural young people's limited access to sexual and reproductive health services.



## 492 registrations

Across eight impactful Sexual Wellness Professional Development Series webinars



## Engaged with 250

University of Melbourne Master of Education students.



## Advanced research

and evidence through participation in 9 research activities.



## Shared insights

With the sector through 6 conference presentations.

# CERSH

## Vision and Priorities

### Vision

The vision of the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) is *that all rural Victorians have access to quality sexual and reproductive health care, information and support that is tailored to their individual needs*. CERSH continues to develop sustainable strategies by building collaborations and partnerships between agencies, services and individuals to achieve our vision.

### Purpose and Priorities

The purpose of the Centre is to design, implement and evaluate programs that provide practical solutions for the improvement of sexual and reproductive health in both the Hume and Loddon Mallee Department of Health regions in rural Victoria. In achieving this, the Centre's priority areas are focused on:

#### Rural workforce

Support workforce (health, education, youth, local council, pharmacy, university medical students) capacity to promote 'respectful, safe sexual relationships and reproductive choices'

Support clinical workforce and interagency capacity to focus on and deliver STI/BBV prevention, testing, management and care to priority populations.

Build knowledge dissemination strategies using information and communications technology to ensure rural workers access to resources.

#### Affordable Reproductive Health

Continue partnership work with a range of organisations and practitioners, (both local and statewide), to improve:

access to contraception and early medical abortion (EMA) services,

quality of support (empathy, privacy, discretion) for women in Hume and Loddon Mallee regions

Collaborate with statewide services and Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to provide locally based training for health practitioners, health and community workers.

Provide practical follow up support and advocacy to establish local EMA service models.

Support the rural workforce to promote community awareness of EMA availability.

#### Leadership, Research, Evaluation and Knowledge Sharing

Provide rural and regional sexual health leadership through participation in state-wide, National and International collaborations.

Provide consultation and support to other rural regions wanting to replicate successful CERSH initiatives.

Research to understand the systems, stakeholders and contexts that play a role in contributing to the sexual health of rural Victorians, with particular focus on priority groups.

Evaluate / review sexual health promotion strategies in rural Victoria.

Provide systems that promote efforts to collect and share data, knowledge and resources to maximise collective impact.

# Report from the Director



**It is my pleasure to present this 2022 - 2023 Annual Report of CERSH on behalf of our team.**

Our work takes us across many geographies and sectors and focuses on health promotion, STI and BBV prevention, reproductive health, research, clinical teaching and strengthening the rural workforce and health systems. In 2022/ 2023 our team continued to maintain our existing partnerships, both with rural and statewide organisations and individuals, whilst also building new partnerships in an ever-changing dynamic rural workforce. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all of our partners and collaborators, without whom none of our work would be possible. Their contribution is also highlighted in this report and the successes reported here are attributable to a large number of people and organisations throughout regional Victoria and Melbourne.

To the CERSH team, I would like to say a huge congratulations for your combined efforts and offer my sincerest thanks for your continued professionalism and dedication to our work. This Annual Report contains an overview of the work we have achieved together with our partners and collaborators and is a credit to you all. Some readers may not realise by the volume and breadth of achievements showcased in this report, we have a very small, exceptionally hard-working team that is geographically dispersed across more than 600 kilometres throughout Victoria. Our monthly, in person staff meetings, require at least seven members of the team to travel approximately 400 kilometres for the day, and that's before and after attending the meeting! So, my thanks for the team's efforts and enthusiasm, is as sincere as it could possibly be.

A highlight in this report is our biannual SexRurality conference that we were able to hold in person in 2023 for the first time since the COVID pandemic and the flooding in regional Victoria. Whilst the conference was deferred on two previous occasions, the third attempt and planning work paid dividends and more than 150 people came together to enjoy a successful two days in Creswick with high quality presentations throughout both days and a fantastic performance by Ilbjerri Theatre Company in the evening.

Other highlights in this report include the launch of STI-X, our leadership in the development of Sexual Wellness Action Plans (SWAPs), the teaching of University of Melbourne medical students, and our rural communities of practice, just to name a few. You will see that our team, like others in our sector, were responsive to the needs of our communities and colleagues and we were able to make a meaningful contribution to the delivery of services, the development of policy, teaching of students and health professionals and contemporary research in sexual and reproductive health throughout regional Victoria and beyond.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our funders, the Victorian Department of Health. Our colleagues working in this department have created relationships, partnerships and networks across our sector and continue to strive for improvement in the sexual and reproductive health service sector for all Victorians. The support from our funders allows CERSH to continue our work to support the rural workforce and strengthen the rural service system. Our funding was renewed in 2023 and will continue until at least 2027.

Enjoy reading about the fabulous work of CERSH in this report!

**Professor Jane Tomnay**

Director

Centre of Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH)

# Governance and Regions

CERSH is funded by the Department of Health Victoria through a service agreement with the University of Melbourne. CERSH is situated at the Department of Rural Health, in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at Shepparton, Parkville and Wangaratta campuses.

CERSH has also established a location of activity within the Loddon Mallee region based at the School of Rural Health, La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus.

CERSH continues to maintain strong day to day partnerships and collaborations with key agencies, networks and individuals within the Hume and Loddon Mallee regions and commits to meeting the reporting responsibilities and requirements set out by the Department of Health Victoria and The University of Melbourne. Standard financial reporting processes of the University of Melbourne are adhered to and reports are provided to the Department of Health in line with the service agreement.





# CERSH Staff in 2022/2023

Director: **Professor Jane Tomnay**

Sexual Health Physician/Senior Lecturer: **Associate Professor Siobhan Bourke**

Sexual Health MD Discovery Coordinator / CERSH Centre Coordinator (Shared Position): **Sophie Stuart**

CERSH Centre Coordinator (Shared Position): **Johanna Kyriakou**

Senior Health Promotion Manager – Hume Region: **Dr Dave Evans**

Senior Health Promotion Manager – Loddon Mallee region: **Anne-Marie Kelly**

Rural Services Development Coordinator: **Karli March**

Sexual Health and Wellbeing Project Officer – Loddon Mallee region: **Ashleigh Colquhoun**

Sexual Health and Wellbeing Project Officer – Loddon Mallee region: **Dr Sourav Jain**

Sexual Health and Wellbeing Project Officer – Hume region: **Ben Corio**

Sexual Health and Wellbeing Project Officer – Hume region: **Kim Cowen**

*CERSH would like to acknowledge the retirement of Kylie Stephens who worked with the team for more than 10 years.*





# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## Melbourne Medical School: Doctor of Medicine (MD) Discovery Elective Subject

### Sexual Health Across Clinical Contexts – future workforce training and strengthening inter-professional partnerships

The past twelve months has seen the conclusion of the pilot year for the *Sexual Health Across Clinical Contexts* Discovery subject developed as part of the new MD course at University of Melbourne. In providing this elective, CERSH hopes to address gaps in general sexual and reproductive health education experienced by many current and future medical practitioners. Emphasis is given to provision of face-to-face classes on both metropolitan and rural campuses, to align with CERSH's strategic focus of upskilling the future rural medical workforce. Communication skills and positioning sexual and reproductive health and effective history taking as a fundamental building block to supporting overall medical care is one of the objectives of the subject as it is, a role many rural practitioners are expected to fulfill. The course was a popular choice for 2022 first-year students with 18% of the cohort electing to do the 12-week course, with a third of those students based at rural clinical schools. Post-course feedback resulted in 46% increase in student confidence in talking about sexual and reproductive health, and a 75% increase in confidence to take a patient's sexual history from the beginning of the course.

2023 saw the launch of the second-year topic, with classes focusing on continuing to build and improve sexual and reproductive health consultation skills through practical investigation and treatment tutorials; panel discussions on engaging inter-professional colleagues across multiple disciplines and supporting the complex care of patients with drug & alcohol dependence or undergoing gender affirming treatments.

Advocacy is a leading theme in the second-year subject, with emphasis on the medical practitioner as advocate across all aspects of sexual and reproductive health. Classes explore the legal ramifications of capacity and consent for patients of varying age or with additional medical diagnoses. The relevance and reach of health promotion activities also highlighted the benefits of targeted and considered prevention approaches and allowed the student cohort to engage with the broader activities of the CERSH team.

While this involvement will broaden student knowledge of the breadth of presentations of sexual and reproductive health issues in medicine in general, the practical engagement of allied health professionals in delivering course content is bringing a sexual health focus to a wider professional audience and has initiated ongoing professional partnerships for later year placements for students choosing our subject in later years of their MD course.

A new examination of the vulva has been developed as part of our second-year subject, with supporting tutorials devoted to genital anatomy and sexual arousal, and vulval dermatology and pain syndromes. The development of this exam and teaching content has required extensive consultation with practicing sexual health physicians, an Occupational Therapist, and Genital Anatomists. Subsequently, we also needed to train the team of clinical teaching assistants (CTAs) who act as *professional patients* when teaching medical students in the core component of the medical student curriculum. The CTAs were also engaged to develop a Vulval Examination video and consent training material that forms part of the CERSH MD discovery second-year topic.

Like its first-year counterpart, the second-year course has proven to be highly popular. Upcoming enrolled student numbers will see the topic running across two consecutive terms and engaging with 15% of the second-year medical students.

The next twelve months will see the course broaden again, to cover three years of the MD elective subjects. Work is well underway to engage the students in more complex aspects of sexual and reproductive health care including practical training in contraception and abortion treatments, exploring the impacts of disability or aging on sexual health, sexuality education and supporting patients involved in commercial sex work. Leveraging the professional partnerships initiated in earlier course levels, we will create opportunities for clinical placements that are also a major component of the course in the third year of the MD training in 2024.

# Our Work in 2022/2023

Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development



## D1 Student Feedback

Such interesting topics, valuable no matter what you want to do after this in your career. This should be a core subject that everyone should take.

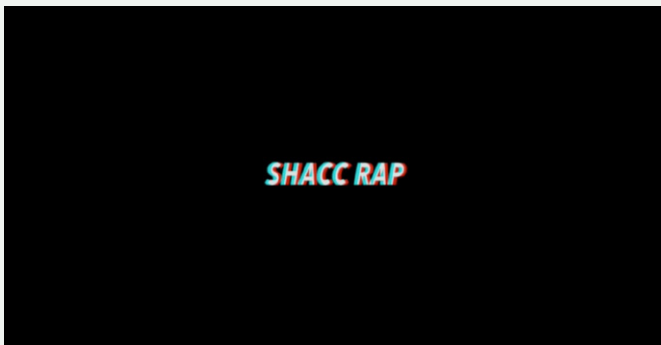
I really enjoyed the topic and believe that it will provide additional exposure that the mainstream course does not.

I enjoyed my time hearing from leading experts in a way that was easy to understand and well received. I felt at ease engaging in webinars and tutorials online despite being in a small group.

I felt acknowledged and engaged in this subject and was pleasantly surprised by the frequent visit of our academic team. I also particularly loved my time with our tutor [name redacted], she was a wealth of knowledge & expertise and loved hearing all the stories and experiences she had.

## SHACC Rap

Click below to view the SHACC Rap music video



## Student Assignment Examples

**Credit:** KCastaldi, Reflective Assignment, Sexual Health Across Clinical Contexts D1 Student.



# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## **CERSH are committed to providing professional development for the sexual health workforce.**

### **Facets of Rural Sexual Health – Online Education Modules**

2022/2023 saw a continuation of the CERSH online modules success with over 400 participants enrolling throughout the year, effectively doubling the subscriber base. Participants can develop their knowledge and skill base regarding sexual and reproductive health in a rural setting, with over 270 completion certificates issued for the individual modules throughout the year. Participant professional affiliations varied from General Practitioners to sexual and reproductive health workers and medical students.

CERSH also includes a section in their monthly newsletter dedicated to marketing the modules. Each month a new module was highlighted and explained, and participant feedback was provided to entice enrolment. In addition to the CERSH monthly newsletter, team members marketed the modules within their sexual health networks and to numerous medical and nursing students, with major recruitment drives as part of the headspace National project and ORIENT Study through the University of Melbourne and Monash respectively.

Our modules evaluation reports from July 2022 – June 2023, show that over 85% of survey respondents stated after working through the modules, they were able to entirely explain areas of sexual health care that need special consideration in a rural community. 97% of survey respondents stated that they now have an increased knowledge of recommended treatment management plans for STIs in a rural community from completing the module on STIs. In the Partner Notification module, 94% of participants indicated that they could now explain the concept of partner notification and its role in the control of Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs). The consensus throughout the evaluation reports, was that participants most enjoyed the interactive learning videos to help assess case studies in a real-life setting.

The CERSH online module content has also been adapted for use as part of our *Sexual Health Across Clinical Contexts* Discovery subject with the University of Melbourne. Students undertake revised versions of modules as asynchronous learning activities, or as pre-requisite study if accessing the second-year topic without having undertaken it in first year. We have found this to be a great way to use our resources efficiently.

In addition, current medical MD3 students complete a Principles of Clinical Practice (PCP) subject including a term on Women's Health. The CERSH online modules are suggested to all the students to upskill on sexual and reproductive health in areas that PCP may not cover. They are used as supplement for the subject by interested students.

In the coming year, we plan to develop research projects for medical students continuing with study in *Sexual Health Across Clinical Contexts* to review and update references and resources in the modules, to ensure each module maintains current clinical relevance.

All the CERSH online modules have all been accredited by the RACGP and ACRRM.

To gain access to the modules, use:

[medicine.unimelb.edu.au/cersh/education/online-learning](https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/cersh/education/online-learning)



**Free and  
accredited online  
health professional  
education**

**Online learning modules for rural  
health professionals**

**Rural sexual health care**



# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## CERSH Online Module Feedback

Check out what some of the participants of our online modules had to say about their online experience...

*It was excellent. Seeing the full sexual health history taking, and the case study about Mary/Joanne was also very helpful. I have heard of HEADS assessments but haven't received education about it before, the video was very helpful.*

*I liked the topic on sexual health screening and ideas on how to broach the subject with clients in a non-judgemental way, this has already started working for me as I had not been routinely offering screens to clients. The offer to screen has been taken up by most of my clients in the past week.*

*More in depth symptoms and diagnosis of BBV/STI and treatment options. Liked how we touch more on education as this seems to fall by the wayside a lot once diagnosis and treatment is completed.*

*Very practical and succinct regarding the specific concerns/challenges around delivering quality care in the sexual health sector.*

*Highlighting the differences in the delivery of care within a rural setting vs urban setting. I enjoyed watching the video discussion between the Professors*

*It is relevant to my work and gives me strategies to ask the questions I need to ask to conduct an appropriate and thorough sexual health assessment.*

*Delivered [b]y industry professionals, relevant and focused. The information was able to be delivered in a clear manner that is easy to use in practice.*

*The examples of how not to approach taking someone's sexual history and the epidemiology background information on STIs in Victoria.*

## CERSH 2023 SexRurality Conference

CERSH were pleased to host another successful SexRurality Conference in May 2023 for over 150 attendees. The event was a resounding success which brought together a diverse array of students and professionals from various disciplines, converging to address the pressing concerns and pave a path forward in the domain of regional and rural sexual and reproductive health.

Hosted in the beautiful town of Creswick, the conference prioritised knowledge sharing and networking, fostering an environment conducive to collaboration and growth. Across two days, participants enjoyed an impressive line-up of plenary speakers covering topics from disability to inclusion, emerging technologies and Indigenous initiatives with each session igniting insightful discussions.

The event featured four distinct streams dedicated to showcasing the achievements of the sexual and reproductive health workforce. Adding to the excitement, participants were also treated to a fantastic performance by ILBIJERRI Theatre Company to round out the first day of the conference. On the beginning of the second day, participants were welcomed to join a non-gendered fitness session hosted by plenary speaker Bowie Stover. Displayed throughout the conference was artist Marcie King's F-Stop exhibition, which highlighted how each member of the LGBTQIA+ community undertakes their own journey to understand their sexuality, gender, and identity.

At the conclusion of the final day, it was clear that a great time was had by everyone in attendance. It is undeniable that SexRurality 2023 fostered a genuine sense of camaraderie and enthusiasm, propelling the passion for rural and regional sexual and reproductive health to new heights in the post-COVID era. The CERSH team are looking forward to hosting their next SexRurality Conference.



[Click here to view the Conference Summary](#)



## Priority Area: Rural Workforce Capacity and Development

## May 2023

May's CoPs were held online, with 62 attendees. Time was allocated to the Loddon Mallee and LPHUs to facilitate an activity exploring pathways to healthcare in a regional setting. The PHU was able to identify key contacts for further discussion. In Hume updates were provided by the LPHU and Department of Health. Body Safety Australia promoted their upcoming work in early learning centres in Bendigo, and their Sexual Wellness Professional Development Series webinar later in 2023. Body Safety Australia received many questions from attendees and there was interest in receiving further information on preventing child sexual abuse training.

## Feedback

See some feedback below from attendees of our CoPs.

*'It was lovely meeting you today and fantastic to be a part of such an exciting collaboration.'*

*'Thanks again for making the time to come to Mildura in person,  
I really enjoyed today's meeting.'*

*'Great day. Great meeting. Great work!'*

The February 2023 CoPs were the most well attended since pre-COVID, with 75 in-person attendees. The Mildura and Swan Hill Sexual Wellness Action Plans were launched during these meetings, and the implementation plans were shared. Since the launch of the SWAPs, the CoPs have acted as the mechanism for enacting the plan. CoPs allow communication between stakeholders and the SWAP governance group, and planning time for SWAP aligned activities. February CoPs centred discussions on condom access, funding streams, and barriers and enablers to use of condoms. Local solutions to increased condom use were shared. Feedback from the Mildura and Swan Hill workforce highlighted the value of face-to-face meetings.



# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## Sexual Wellness Action Plans

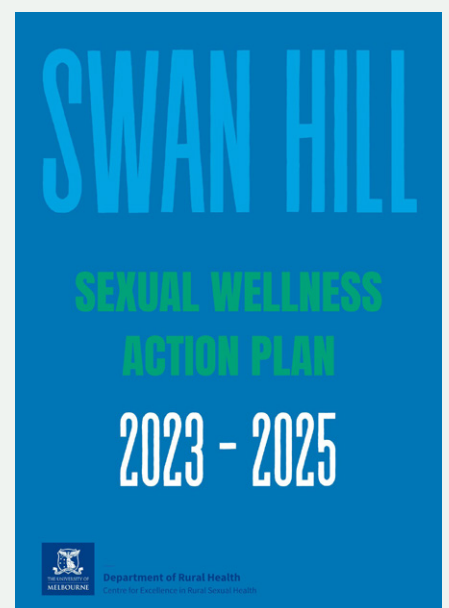
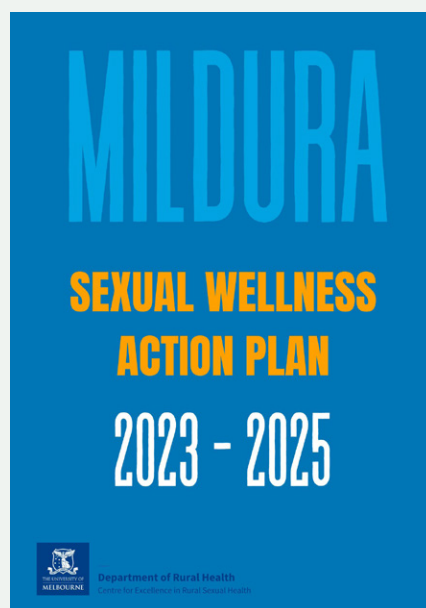
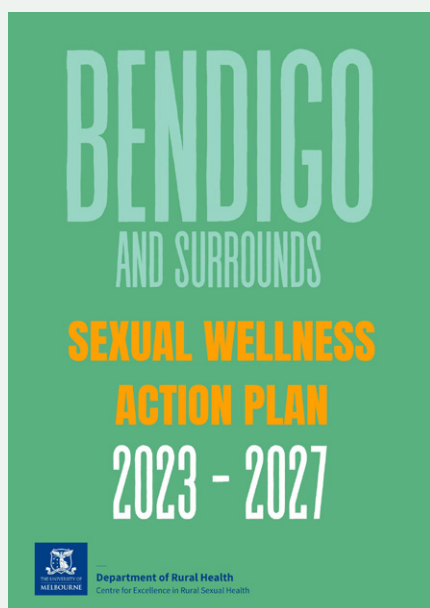
In February 2023, CERSH proudly launched both the Mildura and Swan Hill/Buloke Local Sexual Wellness Action Plans (SWAPS), marking a significant milestone in the collaborative effort between local sexual health leaders and CERSH. Consultations for Bendigo and Goulburn North East plans were also completed in this reporting period and will be launched in the next reporting year. These plans represent a true partnership dedicated to the improvement of sexual and reproductive health outcomes in the region.

The development of these plans was a dynamic process led by CERSH, utilising the appreciative inquiry method. In this inclusive approach, stakeholders from various backgrounds came together to reflect on past successes and ongoing challenges while strategically planning how to address local health issues and enhance sexual and reproductive health outcomes for the community. The workshops provided a platform for participants to identify their greatest strengths, determine potential opportunities, share aspirations, and collectively envision a future for sexual and reproductive health in rural communities. The insights gathered during these sessions served as the evidence base for developing the action plans.

These action plans act as catalysts for change, laying the groundwork for ongoing improvements. Notably, they offer key stakeholders from various sectors a strategic platform to address the specific sexual and reproductive health needs of their communities.

The benefits to partners in this collaborative effort include strengthened collaboration, informed decision-making, and increased engagement, which results in a more coordinated and effective approach to addressing sexual and reproductive health issues. Ongoing actions highlighted in these plans encompass crucial areas such as bolstering workforce capacity, particularly concerning young people, multicultural and LGBTQIA+ communities.

Furthermore, there's an emphasis on knowledge sharing, enhanced sexual and reproductive education, and ensuring accessibility to sexual and reproductive health services. These combined efforts ensure stakeholders are equipped to address sexual health and reproductive issues effectively, champion sexual and reproductive health initiatives, and advocate for supportive policy changes. The sharing of best practices further enhances the overall landscape, while maintaining sexual and reproductive health services that are both accessible and affordable for every community member.





# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## Rural Services Development project

In mid-June 2023, CERSH commenced work on the 2-year Rural Services Development project which aims to significantly enhance sexual and reproductive health service delivery in rural and regional communities by creating sustainable sexual and reproductive health service deliver model prototypes. These prototypes will improve employment opportunities, providing a financially viable model for services and enhance access to affordable and timely services.

In addition to the service delivery models, the project will develop a comprehensive training and education pathway for healthcare professionals interested in pursuing a career in sexual and reproductive healthcare. This pathway will guide aspiring professionals, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in this field.

To complement the training pathway, the project will collaborate with leading sexual and reproductive health providers to establish a placement program. This program will offer participants the valuable opportunity to receive supervision and mentoring from experienced healthcare providers. Through this mentorship, participants will gain practical experience, build confidence, and ultimately be job ready.

It is envisioned that by integrating innovative sustainable service delivery models, comprehensive training pathways, and supportive mentorship programs, the Rural Services Development project will make significant strides in ensuring rural and regional communities have access to high-quality sexual and reproductive healthcare.

## Monthly Newsletter

The CERSH monthly newsletter continued to be a successful mode of communication through 2022 and 2023, with currently over 1300 participants receiving a bi-monthly update.

Following on from database updates in late 2021, CERSH has continued to seek engagement opportunities with professionals who are avid readers of the newsletter, but whose sexual and reproductive health network involvement or training needs were not being met or easily accessed. This focus on strengthening our database and analytics throughout the past year is supporting a drive to highlight places in our geographical area where there was limited engagement with any of our activities.

The CERSH newsletter continues to compete with updates from various providers but peaked at 43% of our subscribers regularly opening and engaging with newsletter content. Layout changes in 2022 have seen easier pathways for professionals to access the information that was most relevant or of most interest to them, particularly with limited time to engage. We will continue to evaluate and grow this engagement to strengthen this communication avenue into the future.



**Sign up to our CERSH newsletter here**

# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## Sexual Wellness Professional Development Series

The Sexual Wellness Professional Development Series had another successful year with over 492 registrations for a total of eight webinars over this reporting period. Our primary aim is to enhance skills and confidence in adopting best-practice approaches to address sexual and reproductive health and wellness concerns.

During these webinars, diverse topics were covered including adolescent health, sex and disability, partner notification, pornography, international students, older Australians and sex, sexual abuse prevention, and termination of pregnancy.

After the conclusion of these webinars, attendees were given an opportunity to provide feedback. Of this evaluation, 87% of attendees said they would implement something they learned from the sessions into their everyday practice and 75% gave the session a five-star review.

All the webinars were recorded and hosted live on our CERSH YouTube Channel for post viewing. The current view numbers on these videos are approximately 200.



[Click here to view the Sexual Wellness Professional Development Series](#)

## PHASE Project

CERSH led the development of a pilot project PHASE – People Experiencing Homelessness Achieving Sexual Wellness. The project was developed in response to an identified need to increase the capacity of specialist homelessness service staff to engage clients in sexual and reproductive health conversations and referral.

As a pilot project, two specialist homelessness services in Bendigo were invited to participate in a workshop and the development of a workforce resource. The 2.5-hour workshop covered information on sexually transmissible infections (STIs), blood borne viruses (BBVs), trauma informed care, and the social determinants of health. The workshop was designed to compel staff and volunteers to view sexual and reproductive health as relevant to their sector and their roles.

Evaluation data indicated an increase in participants knowledge of STIs and BBVs, increased confidence in talking about sexual and reproductive health, and increased understanding of sexual and reproductive health relative to homelessness. Participants believed the workshop was informative, relevant, and of a high quality. Participants also informed the development of a resource, a referral guide for local sexual and reproductive health care.

Prior to the workshop, 28% of participants strongly agreed and 71% somewhat agreed that they knew what STIs and BBVs were. Post workshop, 100% of participants strongly agreed that they knew what STIs and BBVs were and how they were transmitted.

In addition to this, following the workshop 100% of participants strongly agreed that they understood the intersections of homelessness and sexual and reproductive health. This understanding was an objective of the pilot, which has been achieved.



# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## GP's and Priority Populations Webinar Series

For many people living in rural and regional Victoria, GPs are the only practical option for sexual and reproductive health care. This can pose a challenge for patients with specific sexual health needs and concerns.

This series of three webinars aimed to build GPs capacity and confidence to deliver high quality sexual and reproductive health care to Aboriginal patients, trans and gender diverse patients and young people. Each of these populations experience specific challenges when it comes to engaging with mainstream services for sexual and reproductive health care.

Each webinar focused on a specific population and was co-hosted by a GP with experience and/or expertise relating to the population and a 'lived experience' advocate with relevant experience and/or expertise.

Webinar content developed by CERSH covered

- Background information
- Patient experience and perspective
- Specific needs and considerations in regards to sexual and reproductive health history taking.
- Population specific considerations.

These webinars were free and open to all health professionals working in rural Victoria and GPs were also able to claim 1.5 hours of education from the RACGP continuing professional development program.

Special thanks go to our webinar co hosts, Aylwyn Brown Trout, Tayla Wakley, Vic Harden, Dr. Melissa Kang, Dr. Karishma Kaur and Dr. Natasha McLellan.

## CALD Project

CERSH in collaboration with the Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council, headspace Mildura, Sunraysia Community Health Services, Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health, and Spiritual Health Association – implemented the CALD project in 2022. CALD represents communities who are culturally or linguistically diverse. The aim of the project was to improve sexual and reproductive health literacy within these communities in Mildura by increasing knowledge about sexual health practices and improving access to current and relevant sexual and reproductive health information.

The scope of the project allowed two health promotion sessions to be delivered. These included presentations on mental health and spiritual health, presentation and discussions on sexual and reproductive health and an additional informative video on the Australian Healthcare system. At the end of each topic, attendees were asked to provide their feedback with the help of a survey. The survey results showed that most of the attendees had benefitted from the session and now have a better understanding of healthy relationships.

Other key findings include preferable times and locations for these sessions, an understanding of the services offered by headspace, and better knowledge about referral pathways for local health services. Further discussion with partner organisations has revealed the need to organise similar sessions for Pacific Islander and PALM scheme workers and engage 12-25-year-olds from the CALD community.

This pilot initiative has helped all participating organisations understand the importance of such sessions for the CALD communities of Mildura and the vital role they play in portraying the pressing concerns and needs of the communities.





# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## STI Test Vending Machine (STI-X)

Since early 2022, CERSH has been working to develop and trial Australia's first multi-STI test vending machine in a pilot titled STI-X. Over the last 12 months, a significant amount of work has been done to design two prototype vending machines that will be placed in public settings with an aim of increasing access to STI testing in rural and regional areas.

Prior to any design work on the vending machines, it was essential to ensure there was support and processes that could be leveraged to ensure a successful pilot. We collaborated with several prominent sexual health experts in Victoria to discuss potential barriers to design and roll out, policy limitations and testing requirements. Once we confirmed widespread support and that we could use an existing testing pathway to base our laboratory protocol, we proceeded with investigating how to build a machine for regional and rural Victorians.

Since STI test vending machines have been deployed in metropolitan areas overseas with public acceptance in those communities, we were able to leverage the learnings of one of the most successful programs run in Brighton, UK to begin the design of our machines. The vending machine distributor that successfully deployed the UK based machines, as well as the one used in the Queensland Atomo rapid HIV tests pilot, was selected based on their understanding of the requirements with a tried and tested design.

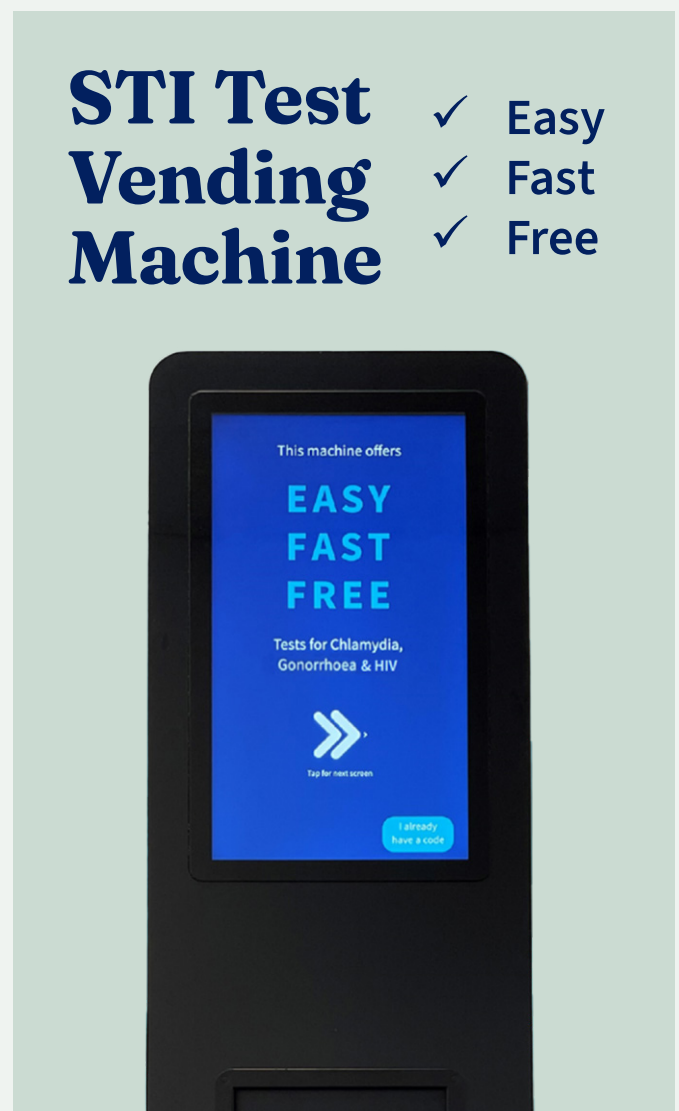
The user interface was designed by the CERSH team utilising an interface that first screens users based on our testing criteria of being either; 1) 16-25 years of age, 2) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or 3) a man who has sex with men. It must be noted this is a self-assessment. Users then enter confidential demographic data. Following this, they select whether they require a penis test kit or vaginal test kit, which will then be dispensed.

The test kits combine pathology-based testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea via oropharyngeal, vaginal, and anorectal swabs and urine collection for urethral infections with the Atomo rapid HIV test. The included testing equipment was evaluated alongside other available options to ensure that the selected equipment was practical, met the requirements of the testing laboratory, but was also compact to ensure that the machine's capacity was maximised.

Concurrently with the design phase, CERSH recognised the necessity of community support, thus we convened local community reference groups (CRG). Each CRG is comprised of four to six local professionals who understand the needs of their communities and support this initiative.

The CRG also supports with identifying potential vending machine placement locations within their communities as well as local marketing strategies best aimed at targeting the identified populations within those communities. At present, five CRGs have been assembled, with the Echuca and Shepparton CRGs being actively engaged due to the upcoming launches planned for July and August respectively.

Finally, we have collaborated with Professor Jane Hocking and her team to support setting up the evaluation which will occur at the conclusion of the pilot. The evaluation will measure user acceptance, frequency of test requests, percentage of specimen kits obtained where specimens are posted for testing, the number of infections detected, and local community acceptability with data captured via two short rating scales on the vending machines as well as via a survey which is included via QR code in the boxes of each test kit.



# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## The Gist

In 2022 and 2023 CERSH worked in close partnership with the Burnett Institute to develop The Gist, [a comprehensive online guide to sexual health and wellbeing for young people](#) with an accompanying suite of 5 lesson plans for use in alternative education settings.

The Gist focuses on 5 key topics;

- The wide world of sex and intimacy
- Enthusiastic consent and communicating boundaries
- Sex, porn, media and Culture
- Sex, sexuality and gender diversity
- Contraception and STI prevention

CERSH provided expert insight and contributed to the writing of website content and design, as well as lesson plan structure and content.

CERSH was also part of a small team of youth workers and health promotion professionals from partner organisations who piloted the lesson plans in 10 sites including Rural/Regional Victoria and Metropolitan locations.

The Burnett team has begun the collation of data and evaluation of the pilot phase, additional funding for a follow up randomized control trial has been sought.



## Local Public Health Unit Training

Safe and sensitive partner notification and case interviewing is paramount, as it ensures the protection of individuals' privacy and dignity while facilitating the effective management of sexually transmitted infections, contributing to the overall well-being of communities.

In the transition to regional STI case interviewing responsibilities by Local Public Health Units (PHUs), CERSH has played a vital role in supporting LPHU teams with essential training to empower them for this sensitive task. The training focused on boosting the teams' confidence in addressing challenging conversations and underscored the significance of safe and considerate approaches. Training opportunities on offer included a webinar with Professor Jane Tomnay, considerations on safe and respectful case interviewing sessions, and an opportunity to practice the case interview script with a simulation patient.

CERSH's commitment to supporting LPHUs in enhancing their capacity for STI partner notification and case interviewing ensures that these activities are carried out professionally, empathetically, and with a strong emphasis on safeguarding individuals' privacy and dignity. This collaborative effort is instrumental in promoting effective public health outcomes and responsible STI management in the region.

# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## Partnerships

### Melbourne Graduate School of Education Presentation

In February 2023, CERSH provided 250 Master of Education students from the University of Melbourne, with a presentation on teaching sexual and reproductive health covering attitudes, values and competence vs confidence.

As a result of this presentation, an opportunity arose to work more closely with the students to facilitate workshops later in 2023.

The presentation gave CERSH the opportunity to create connections with future teachers to inform their practice regarding relationships and sexuality education.

### Sexual Health Victoria Partnership

In mid-2022 CERSH partnered with Sexual Health Victoria to provide expanded training to regional and rural teachers/educators. Through this collaboration, CERSH sponsored self-directed online modules aimed at equipping educators with the essential tools to enhance the delivery of comprehensive relationships and sexuality education in regional Northeast Victoria.

The program, initially planned for a six-month trial, was designed to bridge the gap in offering high-quality, free education for teachers, empowering them to support relationships and sexuality education in schools. In early 2023, upon reviewing the data it was decided this program should be extended to offering this opportunity in the year ahead, with the knowledge that schools may be seeking these resources earlier in the calendar year.

Additionally, this then led to the development of the Professional Mentorship Program (PMP) for professionals working in youth focused community services. The PMP is a two-stage training program, starting with participants' completion of the SHV self-directed online module and a facilitated online session covering core concepts and information. Participants then attend a face-to-face session facilitated by CERSH covering communication and engagement strategies. Ongoing support is a central component provided by CERSH to empower participants in delivering sexual health promotion activities and education sessions with confidence. Since July 2022, a total of 28 individuals representing 17 different organisations participated in one of two SHV facilitated online workshops. Among the 28 attendees, 26 successfully completed the associated online modules. Subsequent face-to-face sessions in Mildura, Bendigo, and Wangaratta were attended by 19 people, representing 10 organisations. Notably, Mildura and Wangaratta had the highest attendance, with 8 and 7 participants, respectively.

In 2023, a single session was offered in each of the locations, including Mildura, Wangaratta, Shepparton, Bendigo, and Swan Hill. Additionally, the PMP program seamlessly integrated with a CERSH subsidized Implanon online training opportunity. This opportunity was offered as an additional activity in order to capitalise on the SHV/CERSH partnership and was completed by 4 nurses; who now offer Implanon insertion as part of their service delivery model.



# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## Sexual Health Out and About (SHOUT) Project

The SHOUT Working Party is a joint project between CERSH and the Youth Affairs Council Victoria. The Working Party develops projects and campaigns for SHOUT with input from rural workers, community-based organizations and young people. The Working Party focuses on projects and initiatives to engage with young people to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

In the 2022-23 financial year the SHOUT Executive Committee was established to help share the administrative load, build the self-reliance of the network and ensure that SHOUT working group meetings featured relevant and useful case studies and provided professional development (PD) presentations. At present the executive committee includes representatives from Hume, Grampians, Loddon Mallee and Gippsland.

Case study and PD presentation highlights from 2022-23 working group meetings included a focus on podcasts as a sexual and reproductive health communication tool, a review of the new state sexual health strategy, and a review of how the School Achievement Program can be leveraged to engage schools in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

The SHOUT Working group also provided vital support to the Be Proud of Your Choices 2023 Campaign, helping to recruit participants for online and face to face focus groups.

**SHOUT!**  
**SEXUAL HEALTH OUT AND ABOUT**

## Condom Distribution Program & Access to Condoms in Regional Victoria

Since 2011, CERSH has been working with local councils across Hume and Loddon Mallee regions to advocate for and assist in the installation of condom vending machines (CVMs). In 2022, the CERSH team transitioned from installing CVMs to providing free condoms and condom dispensers to hospitals, healthcare practitioners, community organisations and youth centres due to their relatively low cost, practicality, no maintenance requirements and ease of use. Since May 2022, 18,000 condoms have been distributed across 36 locations in Loddon Mallee.



[Click here to view our  
Loddon Mallee Condom  
Distribution Map](#)

# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Rural Workforce  
Capacity and  
Development**

## C-CARD Scheme Trial

Initiated and led by Castlemaine Secondary College and Dhelkaya Health (formerly CHIRP) the C-CARD Scheme plays a pivotal role in empowering students with the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health. CERSH was engaged as a collaborative partner to provide knowledge in sexual and reproductive health education and to support access to critical resources, such as condoms, dams, and lubrication, which form integral elements of the program. This collaboration ensures that the program is not only educational but also financially accessible, making it more inclusive and effective. The program involves students meeting with trained nurses for an educational session on topics such as consent, healthy relationships, STI prevention, and safe sex practices, including the correct way to use a condom. Following this session, students receive their first C-Pack, which includes condoms, lubricant, and educational materials, along with a C-Card. Subsequent C-Packs can be obtained from various community service providers. For students under 16, accessing these resources involves a review session after five accesses to assess their sexual and reproductive health and provide additional support. For students aged 16 and over, accessing condoms is more straightforward, as they can do so without the need for a follow-up session with a healthcare practitioner.

## Let's Talk About Sex

On October 19, 2022, headspace Bendigo and Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) hosted a sexual health information night. The session provided up to date, accurate and sex-positive information about sexual health including pleasure, diversity, safe sex, consent and online safety.

CERSH was one of the key speakers providing information on local STI epidemiology and trends to the 30 young people and 8 parents in attendance.

The event provided a great opportunity for sex-positive conversations about sexual health including pleasure, diversity, safe sex, consent and online safety.



# Our Work in 2022/2023

Priority Area:  
Affordable  
Reproductive  
Health

## Victorian Clinical Network for Abortion and Contraception Care (VCNACC)

The Victorian Clinical Network for Abortion and Contraception Care (VCNACC) continued to meet quarterly online throughout 2022/2023, maintaining the drive to support and resource clinicians across regional Victoria in their work in abortion and contraception care.

The content of these meetings is guided by clinical lead, Dr Paddy Moore, Head of Unit the Abortion and Contraception Service, The Royal Women's Hospital. The agenda is set by the Clinical Champion Project in consultation with other key stakeholders. CERSH play an important role to administer the network. RACGP continuing professional development points are allocated for GPs for each meeting attended.

Four virtual meetings were held from July 2022 through June 2023. Agenda items ranged from clinical case study discussions, guest presentations and sharing of information about the current provision of early medical abortion in each locality, to professional development opportunities, rural perspectives, and emerging issues. Video recordings of each meeting, and any relevant presentations or meeting notes are then made available on the CERSH website. Download meeting materials [here](#).

**Check out the recordings of each meeting in 2022 and up to June 2023, at the links below:**



September 20, 2022



November 29, 2022



March 7, 2023



June 20, 2023

## Health Practitioner Resource Hub for Abortion and Contraception Care

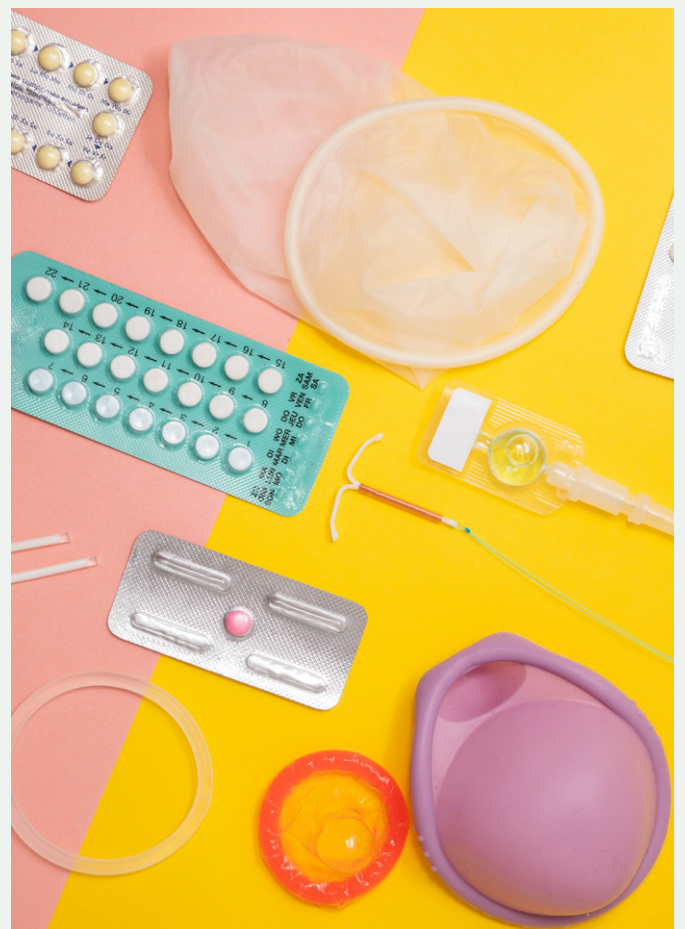
ERSH continued to utilise our website on the University of Melbourne platform to provide a Resource Hub to support health practitioners working in the domain of unintended pregnancy and abortion.

There are over 100 free resources, tools and materials available on the website, including:

- Establishing medical abortion in your clinic
- Protocol and referral templates
- Information to provide to patients
- Clinical practice resources and case studies
- Policy papers and published research

Access the online Resource Hub here:

[medicine.unimelb.edu.au/cersh/learn/health-practitioner-resource-hub](https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/cersh/learn/health-practitioner-resource-hub)



# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Leadership,  
research and  
knowledge  
sharing**

## Research

Active contribution to research projects and steering committees has ensured that CERSH represents the sexual and reproductive health needs of rural communities on large national projects, as well as contributing to building an evidence base in rural sexual and reproductive health.

### **CERSH staff were involved in the following research activity:**

1. The Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women: Achieving Better Outcomes through Primary Care (SPHERE) Advisory Group. Monash University, NH&MRC funded. (Professor Jane Tomnay, Associate Investigator).

Including membership on the following sub-committees:

- The Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women: Achieving Better Outcomes through Primary Care (SPHERE) Abortion working group. Monash (Professor Jane Tomnay, Associate Investigator).
  - The Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women: Achieving Better Outcomes through Primary Care (SPHERE) contraception working group. Monash (Professor Jane Tomnay, Associate Investigator).
  - The Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women: Achieving Better Outcomes through Primary Care (SPHERE) pre-conception working group. Monash (Professor Jane Tomnay, Associate Investigator).
2. The Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support (AusCAPPS) Network, NH&MRC funded; Monash. (Professor Jane Tomnay, Associate Investigator).

3. The ORIENT study: imprOving Rural and regional accEss to long acting reversible contraception and medical abortion through tasksharing and Telehealth. MRFF funded; Monash (Professor Jane Tomnay, one of the Chief Investigators).
4. The ALLIANCE (Quality Family Planning Services and Referrals in Community Pharmacy: Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice) Trial. MRFF funded; Monash (Professor Jane Tomnay, one of the Chief Investigators).
5. Management of Chlamydia Cases in Australia (MoCCA project) Advisory Group. NH&MRC funded; University of Melbourne. (Professor Jane Tomnay, Associate Investigator).
6. A digital sexual health hub: Co-design, development and evaluation of an online sexual health clinic. NHMRC funded. (Professor Jane Tomnay, one of the Chief Investigators).
7. Novel strategies for improving syphilis testing and control. NHMRC funded (Professor Jane Tomnay, one of the Chief Investigators).
8. Exploring the barriers and enablers for teachers and schools in providing Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) for Muslim young people: A case of one regional Victorian Islamic School. (Professor Jane Tomnay Chief Investigator, Dr. Dave Evans Investigator)
9. The Gist: A comprehensive approach to porn education. (Dr. Dave Evans Investigator)





# Our Work in 2022/2023

Priority Area:  
Leadership,  
research and  
knowledge  
sharing

## CERSH staff were authors in the following publications July 2022 – June 2023:

Mazza M, Rojanapenkul A, Assifi S, Hussainy Y, Bateson D, Johnston S, Tomnay J, Kasza J, Church J, Grzeskowiak L, Nissen L et al. Expanding community pharmacists' scope of practice in relation to contraceptive counselling and referral: a protocol for a pragmatic, stepped-wedge, cluster randomised trial (ALLIANCE) *BMJ Open* 2023-08. DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-073154

James, S, Kunnel, A, Tomnay J, Mazza D, Grzeskowiak L. Long-acting reversible contraception prescribing coverage by nurse practitioners and midwives in Australia, *Collegian*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.colegn.2023.04.004i>

Mazza D, Shankar M, Botfield JR, Moulton JE, Paubrey Chakraborty S, Black K, Tomnay J, Bateson D, Church J, Laba T, Kasza J, Norman WV. Improving rural and regional access to long-acting reversible contraception and medical abortion through nurse-led models of care, task-sharing and telehealth (ORIENT): a protocol for a stepped-wedge pragmatic cluster-randomised controlled trial in Australian general practice *BMJ Open* 2023;0:e065137. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2022-065137

Goller J, Coombe J, Temple-Smith M, Bittleston H, Sanci L, Guy R, Fairley C, Regan D, Carvalho N, Simpson J, Donovan B, Tomnay J, Chen MY, Estcourt C, Roeske L, Hawkes D, Hocking J. Management of Chlamydia Cases in Australia (MoCCA): protocol for a non-randomised implementation and feasibility trial. *BMJ Open* 2022;12:e067488. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-067488

Noonan A, Black K.I., Luscombe G.M., Tomnay J. What women want from local primary care services for unintended pregnancy in rural Australia: a qualitative study from rural New South Wales. *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1071/PY22134> Oct 2022.

Moulton JE, Mazza D, Tomnay J, Bateson D, Norman WV, Black KI, et al. Co- design of a nurse- led model of care to increase access to medical abortion and contraception in rural and regional general practice: A protocol. *Aust J Rural Health*. 2022;30:876–883. doi: 10.1111/ajr.12937

## CERSH Staff were presenters/authors in the following conference presentations July 2022 – June 2023:

Mazza D, Shankar M, Subasinghe AK, Botfield JR, Chakraborty S, Moulton JE, Hamill K, Black K, Tomnay J, Bateson D, McGeechan K, Laba T, Norman WV 2022, 'The ORIENT Trial: protocol for evaluating the effect of a nurse-led model on contraception & medical abortion access in Australian rural and regional general practice' Children By Choice 2022 Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference: Towards Universal Access, Brisbane, Australia, 3-5 August 2022.

Mazza D, Shankar M, Subasinghe AK, Botfield JR, Moulton JE, Hamill K, Black K, Tomnay J, Bateson D, McGeechan K, Laba T, Norman WV. ORIENT: protocol for evaluating effect of a nurse-led model on contraception & medical abortion access in Australian rural general practice. National Rural Health Conference, Perth Australia; August 2022.

Moulton JE, Subasinghe AK, Shankar M, Botfield JR, Bateson D, Tomnay J, Norman WV, Black K, Mazza D 2022, 'A nurse-led model of care for long-acting reversible contraception and early medical abortion provision in rural and regional general practice: Outcomes of a codesign process', Children By Choice 2022 Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference: Towards Universal Access, Brisbane, Australia, 3-5 August 2022.

Noonan A, Black KI, Luscombe GM, Tomnay J. What women want from primary care services for unintended pregnancy in rural Australia: A qualitative study from rural New South Wales. Children By Choice 2022 Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference: Towards Universal Access, Brisbane, Australia, 3-5 August 2022

Noonan A, Black KI, Luscombe GM, Tomnay J. What women want from primary care services for unintended pregnancy in rural Australia : A qualitative study from rural New South Wales. 16th National Rural Health Conference 2-4 August 2022 Brisbane.

# Our Work in 2022/2023

**Priority Area:  
Leadership,  
research and  
knowledge  
sharing**

## **Professor Jane Tomnay contributed to the following groups in 2022 – 2023**

World Health Organisation Consolidated Guidelines on STI prevention and care;  
STI Guideline Development Group 2023.

Member of the Victorian Department of Health Departmental Advisory Committee for BBV and STIs.

Chair, Victorian Department of Health Sexual Health sub-committee of the Departmental Advisory Committee for BBV and STIs.

Member of the University of Melbourne Department of Rural Health Executive Committee.

## **Associate Professor Siobhan Bourke contributed to the following groups in 2022 – 2023**

Member of the Victorian Department of Health Departmental Women's SRH Working Group

Member of the Department of Medical Education Working Group for Practitioners Discovery Subjects, University of Melbourne

Member of the Department of Medical Education Working Group for Clinical Scholar Discovery Subject, University of Melbourne

## **Student Supervision**

### **Young Hyun Seo**

Honors. Supervisor Professor Jane Tomnay

### **Eun Seo Ha**

Honors. Supervisor Associate Professor Siobhan Bourke

### **Anna Noonan**

PhD 2020 – 2023 (University of Sydney; in progress)

Co-Supervisor Professor Jane Tomnay.

# CERSH Partners and Collaborators

## CERSH would like to thank their partners and collaborators.

CERSH would like to thank all of our partners for providing ongoing support in our efforts to improving rural sexual health.



# Collaborators 2022/2023

Access Australia Bendigo	Griggmedia	North East Support & Action for Youth
Alpine Shire	Haven Home Safe	Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
Anglicare Victoria	headspace Albury Wodonga	Northern District Community Health
Benalla Rural City Council	headspace Bendigo	Resourcing Health and Education (RhED)
Bendigo Community Health Services	headspace Diversity Group Bendigo	Robinvale District Health Services
Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC)	headspace Echuca	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative
Bendigo Health	headspace Mildura	Shepparton Medical Centre
Bendigo Pride	headspace Swan Hill	Spiritual Health Association
Body Safety Australia	Heathcote Health	SPHERE Monash University
Buloke Shire Council	ILBIJERRI Theatre Company	Strathbogie Shire Council
Burnet Institute	Indigo Shire Council	Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health
Campaspe Shire Council	La Trobe University Bendigo – Rural Health School	Sunraysia Community Health Services
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Loddon Shire Council	Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council
Centre Against Sexual Assault	Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit	SUNI Tafe
Chaffey Secondary School	Loddon Mallee Multicultural Services	Swan Hill District Health
Delkaya Health	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Swan Hill Rural City Council
Department of Education and Training	Mallee Children and Youth Area Partnership	The Royal Women's Hospital
Doctors in Secondary Schools	Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS)	Thorne Harbour Health
Echuca Regional Hospital	Mallee Family Care	Women's Health Grampians
Gannawarra Shire Council	Mallee Sexual Assault Unit – Mallee Domestic Violence Services	Women's Health Goulburn NorthEast (WHGNE)
Gateway Health	Mansfield Shire Council	Women's Health Loddon Mallee
Gippsland Women's Health	Mildura Base Public Hospital	YO Bendigo
Glyde Health	Mildura Rural City Council	Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)
Goulburn Valley Health	Mount Alexander Shire Council	1800 My Options, Women's Health Victoria
GOTAFE	Murray City Country Coast GP Training	
GV Pride	Murray Primary Health Network	
City of Greater Bendigo	Sea Lake Neighborhood House	
City of Greater Shepparton		





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Get in touch with us



Get to know us better  
in your own time

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➤ [www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/cersh](http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/cersh)

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