



Workshop 30 Gay men and HIV prevention: current issues and future challenges

Tuesday 26 May, 9.30 am – 3.30 pm

Star Room, Level 6, IMAX Theatre Complex, Cockle Bay Wharf

Introduction to the workshop

This workshop will examine current issues within HIV prevention by reviewing current knowledge about gay men's sexual practices, the nature of 'gay community' and changing perceptions of HIV. Specific attention will be paid to responses to risk reduction strategies (such as the use of viral load test results), the targeting of specific groups of 'at risk' gay men, and the relationship between targeted prevention and ongoing condom reinforcement campaigns. Delegates will be encouraged to consider whether there are conflicts between these parallel approaches to HIV prevention and whether the issues raised arise in their own practice (in education and prevention, health promotion, clinical practice and research).

Aims of the workshop

- ▶ To encourage discussion and debate about contemporary issues in HIV prevention for gay men
- ▶ To describe trends in gay men's sexual practices and the changing importance of gay identity, gay community and HIV
- ▶ To identify sector responses to recent debates about HIV risk reduction strategies, such as the Swiss Statement on undetectable viral load, and the implications of such responses for health promotion interventions aimed at condom reinforcement
- ▶ To discuss recent developments in targeted education and service delivery to men at particular risk of HIV infection (e.g. 'sex pigs' and men in serodiscordant relationships) and the implications of such targeting for the ongoing engagement of the broader population of gay men.

Delegate profile: who should attend

The workshop will be useful to people working with gay men in a range of settings such as HIV education and prevention, health promotion, clinical practice and research. We particularly encourage those working in area health services to attend.

Cost

There is a registration fee of \$55 (including GST) per participant per workshop. Note: You may be eligible for funding to attend from the NSW Health Workforce Development Program (WDP). Check the guidelines for applying for a WDP grant in the *WDP Training Directory* or at www.wdp.nsw.gov.au

Registration

To register, please email Ann Whitelaw at a.whitelaw@unsw.edu.au. Please include in the email your name, job title, the name of your organisation, its postal address and your contact phone numbers.

Please note: There are strictly limited numbers and delegates will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis, given that they meet the requirements of the delegate profile above.

Registrations are now open and close on Tuesday 19 May 2009.

Confirmed guest speakers and panel members

Professor John de Wit is Director of the National Centre of HIV Social Research (NCHSR) at The University of New South Wales. His field of research covers disciplines as diverse as epidemiology, public health, and social psychology. His most recent work focuses on the self-regulation of health and sexual behavior.

Ross Duffin was employed in the HIV community sector from 1987 until 2005. He had many roles in both the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO). Ross's main interests are prevention education for gay men and treatments information for people with HIV.

Phillip Keen is a member of the AFAO/National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA) Education Team at AFAO. His current work includes supporting a policy group that is assessing whether rapid HIV testing has a place in Australia, along with producing resources and campaigns for gay men and people with HIV.

Rob Lake is the CEO of Positive Life NSW (formerly People Living with HIV/AIDS [NSW] – PLWHA NSW). His work in the community sector includes systemic advocacy, disability policy and community development. Through NAPWA and PLWHA NSW, he has been involved in HIV care, support and advocacy issues at a national and state level.

Nicolas Parkhill is the Director of ACON's Community Health Division. He has worked at ACON for three years and manages a number of portfolios including gay men's education, community development projects, ACON's alcohol and other drugs and anti-violence projects, as well as the Sex Worker's Outreach Project.

Dr Garrett Prestage has worked at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research since 1992. He is Chief Investigator for the Gay Community Periodic Surveys and several smaller studies of gay men and risk as well as the Positive Health and Health in Men (HIM) cohort studies, and the Seroconversion Study.

Dr Robert Reynolds is a Senior Research Fellow at the NCHSR and a psychotherapist in private practice. He is the author of *From Camp to Queer: Remaking the Australian Homosexual* (2002) and *What Happened to Gay Life?* (2007) and the co-editor of *Gay Men's Sexual Stories* (2003) and *History on the Couch: Essays in History and Psychoanalysis* (2003).

Kathy Triffitt is a Senior Project Officer in Social Marketing and Education for Positive Life NSW. She has a background in HIV health promotion, social marketing and education and has worked with several HIV community organisations and on various education programs over the past two decades.

Facilitator

Norman Booker currently manages the statewide NSW Health Workforce Development Program in Hepatitis, HIV and Sexual Health.

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